

**In the Footsteps of the Crucified:
Torture is Never Justified**



In the Footsteps of the Crucified: Torture is Never Justified was written by Scott Wright and represents the work of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), Pax Christi USA, and the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC). The module focuses on the reality of torture and on inspiring examples of faithful and prophetic witness against torture by survivors, human rights groups, and concerned citizens. The themes of this eight session module are: Building a Culture of Life, Bringing Hope into a Society of Fear, Becoming a People of the Beatitudes, and Overcoming Evil with Good.

According to the International Human Rights Conventions, torture is considered a crime against humanity; and according to Christian social teachings, torture is held to be intrinsically evil. Under no circumstances is torture ever justified. While the module focuses quite heavily on Catholic social teaching, it encourages all Christians and people of good will to offer a response based on human dignity and the teachings of our Judeo-Christian traditions.

A special note: This is not an easy topic to discuss. A group considering this module should be aware that module explores the stories of those tortured and the motivations of those who torture and that the materials include graphic descriptions and images of torture. The materials also include a critical look at the countries (over 138 as estimated by Amnesty International and the U.S. Department of State) that currently practice torture openly or by proxy. At the same time, this module offers a way to engage the horror and complexity of torture through direct, honest dialogue in the context of a trusted and supportive small group.

Why consider participating in such a difficult and daunting subject? While the module does not flinch from the reality of torture, it is very much about healing, reconciliation based on revealing the truth and doing justice, and hope for the elimination of torture in our world!

Registration for the module is \$150; additional costs include a per person cost of \$15 for a book and a per group cost \$85.00 for DVDs. For more information, contact David Horvath (david@justfaith.org) or Mary Wright (mary@justfaith.org).