

3-23-22

My name is Danny Gutierrez, I am serving LWOP for murder/robbery. I was 22 yrs. old when I committed this crime, today I am 48. The scope and magnitude of my crime has made countless victims. The most powerful, the life of a man that did not deserve to die. I will not say that my sentence was unfair, I understand today there is no amount of time that can undue the pain I have caused.

When I came to prison I actually did not have any hope of ever getting out and became very self destructive. I gave up, I lost all contact with the outside world. I destroyed all my family relations. In 2016 I began to hear about youth offenders and the science behind it. For once, I seen some light at the end of the tunnel. I knew that if there was a chance for me, I could not get out the same person that had committed these crimes.

That light, that hope alone has changed me. Today I love any self help groups, I am 4 credits away from getting my college degree - AA. I've rebuilt family connections, I married the love of my life. That hope saved my life, saved me from myself. I'm truly ready to come home, but none of the laws allow me to go to the parole board. The science says my brain was not fully developed, in California I should qualify as a youth offender but because I am sentenced to LWOP I am discriminated against. Statistics show I would not ever repeat an offense. The recidivism rate for me is 1%. I've served 26 years, yet I don't have the opportunity to go to

the parole board.

What's the difference between my sentence and death row? I have a family that needs me, today I am a husband, I have 3 children, 1 grandchild, I have family support and resources to find work I would love to help others like myself to find their light and change their lives. I'm passionate about change. I know that if I can change, any one can. Please help our voice reach those that can help change this death sentence called LWOP. Give us a chance to show that we have done the work to go home. How could society have no compassion or empathy for an ignorant 22 yrs. old young adult that ^{had} emotional and mental trauma his whole life. Why are these crimes committed? How come my story isn't taken under consideration? How come society doesn't care about LWOP's? The humanity, where has it gone? Imagine you were defined by society for the worst mistake of your life? Our Father God sent His son Jesus to this earth. As Jesus was nailed to that cross and hung there, He asked His Father to please forgive man for they know not what they do. He bled on the cross and His only worry was for us to be forgiven. That my fellow man is what this day and age has lost. Compassion and humanity. I advocate for those who truly have changed and can make a difference. This is truly God's work... I love you all. I believe God will touch our lives. Please stand with us today. Thank you for your time. Peace be with you!