



# DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

## **New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### ***Abuse and Neglect of Prisoners with Serious Mental Illness at Attica Prison***

Albany, NY - September 12, 2017 — Disability Rights New York (DRNY) issued a report highly critical of how the State operates a mental health program at Attica Correctional Facility. DRNY found that the State has abused and neglected prisoners in Attica's Residential Mental Health Unit (RMHU). The State's operation of the program violates the "SHU Exclusion Law," a law intended to protect individuals with serious mental illness from the harmful effects of solitary confinement. The RMHU is jointly operated by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and Office of Mental Health (OMH).

DRNY calls for immediate action to ensure that people with mental illness are no longer abused and neglected. "The conditions in Attica fail to meet even a minimum human rights standard," said Timothy A. Clune, DRNY Executive Director. "DOCCS and OMH must take immediate remedial steps to address this abuse and neglect."

Full Report: <http://bit.ly/2vScvCw>

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