

# MICHIGAN WOMEN'S JUSTICE & CLEMENCY PROJECT

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## *Endorsements:*

Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, Amnesty International USA, American Friends Service Committee, Michigan CURE, Ann Arbor, CURE Life-Long, AAUW, Michigan Lifers Association, Team for Justice, Michigan Women Lawyers Association, Safe House, Jean Ledwith King, Esq., Sen. Elizabeth Brater, Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith, Sen. Michael Switalski, Rep. Frank Accavitti, Jr., Dr. Chandra Mudaliar, Dawn Van Hoek, Esq., Sen. John Conyers, Jr., Lynn Rivers, Mary Schroer, Lynn Martinez, James Neuhard, Esq., Governor William Milliken, Helen Milliken, Eve Ensler, William Edwards Foundation, Dr. Rosemary Saari, Jeanice Dagher-Margosian, Esq., Evanne Dietz, Esq., Human Rights Watch, National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, Free Battered Women, American Civil Liberties Union, University of Michigan, Michigan Women's Foundation, Michigan NOW, First Step, Dr. Angela Y. Davis, New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian/Asian American Communities

## *Please contact Governor Whitmer and ask for clemency for these women:*

1. **DELORES KAPUSCINSKI #191704, Kent County, Murder I, Life, 1988.** She shot her husband after severe sexual and other ongoing abuse and fear for her children. She has been supported by UM Law School.
2. **LUANNE SZENAY #214992 Bay County, Murder I, Conspiracy, Life, 1990.** She was beaten, threatened with death and her daughter was kidnapped by her violent, drug addicted husband. Police did nothing to intervene when called. Out of fear and desperation, she conspired with a coworker who killed her husband.
3. **NANCY SEAMAN #520695, Oakland County, Murder I, Life, 2004.** She killed her husband in a classic, self-defense struggle while he was attacking her because she was leaving him. Her judge changed the jury conviction from first to second-degree because the jury did not properly consider the evidence. A federal judge also tried to overturn the unjust conviction, but the prosecutor appealed and the unjust verdict was upheld. Her trial judge and the federal judge both continue to fight for her release.
3. **MELISSA SWINEY #285346 Oakland County, Murder I, Life, 1988.** Abused, incested and suffering from mental illness, she became pregnant at 20, gave birth and left the newborn in a field. Her "confession" was coerced by police despite the fact she was in the hospital under heavy sedation after the birth and refused to talk. She was the only woman in Michigan to receive a life sentence for neonaticide in 28 years.
4. **SHARLEEN WABINDATO #150340 Muskegon County, Murder I, Life, 1977.** Her violent boyfriend shot and killed an elderly man during a robbery in which Sharleen participated under duress and threat to her life.
5. **TOWANDA EPPENGER #251338 Wayne County, Murder I, Assault, Life, 1994.** A veteran of Desert Storm, she was suffering from PTSD when her ex-boyfriend attacked her friend. Towanda shot him in defense of her friend, as she was taught in the military.

These women have served many years, worked hard, educated themselves and earned their freedom. They were not given fair trials based on the facts of their cases. They have served longer sentences than most who are convicted of murder, yet they were defending their lives. They pose no threat and deserve a second chance. Every one of them will make us proud. They have families to go home to and contributions to make to their communities.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
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