



Distinguished members of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee;

As an organization, End Witch Hunts is dedicated to eliminating witch-hunting in the present day. We are committed to raising awareness of what are known as Harmful Practices Related to Accusations of Witchcraft and Ritual Attacks, in which individuals or groups affected by witchcraft fear attack and often kill innocent persons they believe to be witches.

Advocates in many nations are working to address the injustice of witch trials. The following are a few examples:

- In 2022, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon apologized for the witch trials which killed thousands of innocents, mostly women.
- In 2022, the Scottish Kirk also apologized for its prominent role in those witch trials.
- In 2022, in Massachusetts, the final person convicted of witchcraft in the Salem Witch Trials had her name cleared.
- In 2022, the government of Catalonia formally pardoned over 1,000 people who had been executed for alleged witchcraft.
- In 2023, the Connecticut General Assembly voted to absolve 33 individuals who had been accused of witchcraft, including 11 who were executed.
- In 2025, legislation to exonerate 8 individuals accused of witchcraft in Boston was introduced in the Massachusetts General Court. This bill currently awaits a committee hearing.
- Currently, campaigns to pardon thousands of accused witches are underway in Scotland, England, and Wales.

End Witch Hunts calls upon the Maryland General Assembly to clear the names of Rebecca Fowler, Elizabeth Bennett, Hannah Edwards, John Cowman, Mary Lee, Moll Dyer, and Virtue Violl, who are known to have been accused of witchcraft in Maryland. Acknowledging the injustice of the witch trials helps to inform people about the dangers of allowing fear to override reason in moments of panic and sends a clear message to people around the world that witch hunts are no longer tolerated. We recognize that these values are important to Maryland, and we appreciate your support. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jack, President

Mary Bingham, Director

Joshua Hutchinson, Treasurer

Beth Caruso, Director

Jen Stevenson, Secretary