WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN DRUG-RELATED POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES
A GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM
2009 POLITICAL DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

OP 9 Acknowledge the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem….ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions take into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems.

2016 UNGASS OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Standalone Chapter - Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities.

2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

GOAL 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
TARGETED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS - FOCUSING ON:

- promoting international cooperation in addressing the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking, especially as couriers;
- taking into account specific needs of women in the prevention, early detection and intervention, treatment and care of drug dependence and drug-related diseases;
- underlining that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made a crucial contribution to progress across all the SDGs;
- calling upon Member States to develop and implement national drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs of women and girls.
2016 WORLD DRUG REPORT

- Number of women imprisoned for drug-related offenses is on the rise and the participation of women in drug trade worldwide is increasing;

- Female offenders and prisoners, especially with drug use disorders, face particular hardship \(\Rightarrow\) many criminal justice systems are not yet equipped for the special needs of women;
at least twice as many men suffer from drug use disorders. However, women tend to increase their rate of consumption more rapidly and may progress more quickly to the development of drug use disorders;

- men are three times more likely to use cannabis, cocaine or amphetamines - women are more likely than men to misuse prescription drugs;
UNGASS 2016 – CHAPTER IV
GENDER-RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS
FOCUS ON:

- mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug policies and programmes;

- implementing of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);

- ensuring that women, including detained women, have access to adequate health services and counselling;

- addressing conditions that make women and girls vulnerable to exploitation and their participation in drug trafficking;
MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN DRUG POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

IMPLEMENTING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN PRISONERS AND NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS (THE BANGKOK RULES)

Ms. Valerie LEEBAUX
Chief, UNODC Justice Section
What is gender mainstreaming and why we need it

• UN definition => ECOSOC Resolution 1997/2

• Common misconceptions
  – Sex = gender
  – Gender issues = women’s issues
  – Creating a gender unit and hiring female staff is enough

• Advantages over a gender-neutral approach
  – Example: overcoming gender-related obstacles in accessing justice
Gender dimensions of drug-related offences

• Most drug traffickers are male

• Female drug traffickers are usually minor players and can be easily replaced

• Disproportionate growth of the female prison population

• A large proportion of women are in prison for drug-related offences
  – Drug trafficking offences
  – Personal consumption offences
Factors affecting women disproportionately

- Drug or alcohol dependency
- Caring responsibilities for children or families
- Domestic and sexual violence
- Mental health-care needs
- Low levels of education and literacy
- Stigma

Lack of laws, procedures, programmes and facilities that address these factors
Guidance from international standards and norms

• International human rights law
  – Provides general rules on due process and treatment of offenders

• International drug control conventions
  – Allow for alternatives to conviction and punishment

• Tokyo Rules
  – Elaborate on the types and implementation of non-custodial alternatives

• Bangkok Rules
  – Based on the principle of non-discrimination; adopt a gender-perspective: non-custodial measures for women offenders; treatment of women prisoners
Applying international standards in practice

- Legislative reform
- Use of non-custodial alternatives to conviction/punishment
- Consideration of women’s typical backgrounds and circumstances
- Access to legal aid
- Access to substance abuse treatment programmes
- Specific measures for pregnant women and mothers
- Specific measures for foreign national women
- Social reintegration programmes to avoid reoffending
- Gender-sensitive data collection and analysis

How are they applied in your country?
Discussion with participants

- National experiences in mainstreaming gender in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes
- Good practices concerning national initiatives to apply international standards
- National experiences concerning women’s involvement in drug offences and conditions that continue to make women vulnerable to exploitation and participation in drug trafficking
ENSURING THAT WOMEN HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND COUNSELLING

Ms. Elizabeth MATTFELD
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International Standards on Drug Use Prevention

International Standards on the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders

Guidelines on drug prevention and treatment for girls and women

Global Gender Disparity: Prevention

What could be done?
- Do drug prevention interventions benefit girls and boys equally?

On the basis of the little evidence that we have, not necessarily
Adapted from UNODC, 2014 – Does NOT include gender specific programmes
(1 school, 2 family)
Even though one out of three drug users is a woman, only one out of five drug users in treatment is a woman.
**Actions?**

- Include and highlight gender specific services for women and girls in National legislation
- Financially support healthcare services targeted for women and girls, specifically related to drug use prevention, drug use disorder treatment and HIV treatment
- Identify and address barriers for women and girls:
  - Childcare responsibilities
  - Fear of losing child
  - Stigma of criminal justice system
  - Co-occurring disorders
  - Sexual and reproductive health
- Recognize unconscious bias
- Address the family unit – extended family, father, mother, children
- Be aware of cultural components
Gender responsiveness is a core component of the HIV/AIDS programme

**POLICY**: Review **drugs & criminal justice law, policies & practices** to determine if they have a negative impact on women

**TOOLS AND GUIDELINES**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**Programming**: Projects for women who inject drugs in community and women in prison in Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan and Ukraine
ADDRESSING CONDITIONS THAT MAKE WOMEN AND GIRLS VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

ORGANIZED CRIME AND GENDER

Ms. Riikka PUTTONEN
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The different roles

• Leaders (organizers, partners in crime)
• Assistant/supporting roles (subordinate to male criminals as stable and often central support system)
• Girlfriends, wives and mothers
• Intermediary between perpetrators and victims (coping)
• Victims
• Players in the criminal justice system
- Stereotypical construction of femininity and masculinity
- Influenced by time, culture, socio-political environment and economic conditions
Policy findings from the GI study and conclusions

- **Long-term**
  - Changing structural conditions and providing alternatives

- **Medium-term**
  - Preventing recruitment

- **Short-term**
  - Providing “pathways” to exit
Findings in a new study by GI

- **VIOLENCE**: Girls/women gang members actively participate in violence. “Lures”, “hitgirls”, violence against “boyfriends” and abusers.
- **CONFIDANTS BUT NOT LEADERS**: Play important roles but no clear case of leadership. Finances and trust.
- **“BREAKING OUT”**: Hard to do. Children and reaching mid-30s seems to be tipping point. But before that few options: employment “boring” and “underpaid”.