

Statement by The Netherlands on the occasion of the CND thematic discussions on UNGASS implementation

4th Intersessional meeting

Vienna, 10-11 October 2016

Operational recommendations on crosscutting issues: Human rights, youth, children, women and communities

- The Netherlands associates itself with the statement made by the EU delegation on behalf of the European Union and its member states.
- We believe that human rights are fundamental to our legal system and that they are equally important for men, women and children. Use of drugs in the Netherlands is depenalized, which allows for equal and non-discriminatory access to treatment and without the threat of a prison sentence when seeking help.
- Moreover, offenders of non-drug related serious crime that however do have a drug addiction receive treatment and care in prisons. Men and women are treated in separate prisons to ensure safe and secure environments for all.
- Nevertheless, most of our efforts are aimed at the prevention of use of narcotics by youth and children. The effectiveness of targeted and indicated prevention programmes depends on consideration of the

specifics of the target groups (age, gender, sub-cultural differences, different attitudes towards drug use)

- Looking at the available research evidence, one can conclude that longer running, integrative or multi component prevention programmes are most-promising, i.e. focusing on different life areas (school - home - leisure time), combining knowledge transfer (full, factual and non-judgemental information), influencing attitudes and social norms, learning social skills and involving various stakeholders and the community (health / drugs services, schools, parents, club/ pub owners and personnel).
- One example of this approach is the national Healthy School and Drugs (HSD) project, which contains a multi component approach. It consists of a package of different work forms addressing pupils, parental involvement, early detection of and guidance for (problem) use, selective and indicated prevention for vulnerable pupils and the development of a school drug policy
- I thank you Mr. Facilitator