

Thematic CND Intersessionals – human rights

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: Human rights, youth, children, women and communities

Chair,

The United Kingdom is delivering a modern, balanced and evidence-based drug strategy that is fully compliant with our human rights obligations and the UN drug conventions.

Chair,

Ensuring access to a wide range of evidence-based treatment options is essential to respecting the human rights of people who are dependent on drugs. In the United Kingdom, dependent drug users have access to a variety of services tailored to their individual circumstances in order to protect their health and support them in tackling their dependence. Treatment is available for all and is free at the point of delivery.

Chair,

A proportionate criminal justice system is essential for ensuring that human rights are respected. The United Kingdom implements a smart, proportionate criminal justice response at each stage of the process.

This includes alternatives to incarceration for minor drug offences, and integration of criminal justice and health services to ensure that offenders who misuse drugs get the support they need.

The resolution on proportionality passed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March highlights that proportionate sentencing helps to ensure a just, humane and effective criminal justice response. Both this resolution and the Outcome Document note the importance of taking both aggravating and mitigating factors into account in sentencing.

In the United Kingdom, this is achieved through independently-produced sentencing guidelines which ensure consistency and proportionality in sentencing, where the particular circumstances of each case are considered against relevant culpability and harm factors.

Chair,

The United Kingdom has a proud history of championing human rights across the world. We strongly oppose the use of the death penalty in all circumstances. We continue to urge all Member States who still use the death penalty for drug offences to abolish this unacceptable and ineffective practice.

The United Kingdom does not provide criminal justice, or other assistance, which may result in a death sentence being applied. As such, we have implemented a clear and robust framework - the Overseas Security and Justice Assistance Guidance – to

assess and monitor the impact of bilateral and multilateral overseas engagement. This enables us to assess, comprehensively and in a structured way, the risk attached to our international activity. Once in place our Overseas Security and Justice Assistance is subject to continual review to ensure that our values and human rights obligations are safeguarded.