

TAKING CONTROL

PATHWAYS TO DRUG POLICIES THAT WORK



**GLOBAL COMMISSION
ON DRUG POLICY**

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- Drug policies must be based on solid empirical and scientific evidence
- Drug policies must be based on human rights and public health principles
- Development and implementation of drug policies should be a global shared responsibility, but must take into consideration local realities
- Drug policies must be pursued in a comprehensive manner, involving all the stakeholders

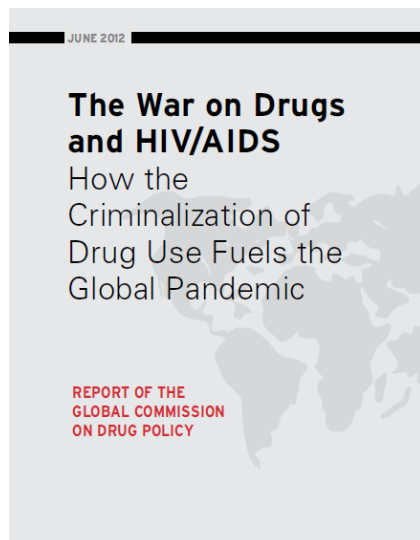
- ✓ Break the taboo: the war on drugs has failed
- ✓ Replace criminalization and punishment with the offer of health and treatment
- ✓ Encourage experimentation of legal regulation of drugs



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Two New Reports on the Negative Impact of the War on Drugs on Public Health : HIV/AIDS Global Pandemic and the Hidden Hepatitis C Epidemic



Both Reports:

- Provide scientific-based evidence that shows how repressive drug law enforcement is driving high rates of infection among injecting drug users and how it fuels the global pandemic of HIV and the Hepatitis C epidemic.
- Call for change and urge governments to acknowledge and address the causal links between the war on drugs and the spread of HIV/AIDS and the importance of Hepatitis C epidemic among people who use drugs.
- Urge governments to reform drug policies, halt the practice of arresting and imprisoning people who use drugs but do no harm to others and redirect resources into public health and harm reduction approaches in order to avert HIV or hepatitis C transmission.

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Countries that under-utilize proven public health measures should scale up evidence-based harm reduction strategies to reduce HIV infection, viral hepatitis B and C and other blood borne infections and protect the health of people who use drugs .

THE 'WAR ON DRUGS' HAS FAILED – NEW APPROACHES ARE EMERGING



End the criminalization and
incarceration of people who use drugs

Refocus enforcement responses to drug
trafficking and organized crime

PRIORITIZE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR DRUG POLICIES THAT WORK



Put people's health and safety first

Ensure access to essential medicines
and pain control

Recommendations for UNGASS 2016



1. Ensure an UNGASS process and debate that is fully inclusive, with effective participation of:

- All relevant UN entities including UNODC, WHO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNHCHR, UNICEF, UN WOMEN;
 - Scientists, providing the evidence base;
 - Civil Society Organizations;
 - Affected people and communities.
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2. Conduct an objective review of the achievements, consequences and shortcomings of the current approaches to controlling the world drug problem.

3. Shift the current dominant emphasis on law enforcement to prioritize Public Health and human rights in national drug policies; End criminalization for use and possession; commit to harm reduction.

4. Introduce new metrics to measure effectiveness of drug policies.

5. Support drug policy reforms and a multi-disciplinary science-based evaluation of new approaches to drug policies.

6. Consider regulation of drug markets as a possible option to counter illegal trafficking and its negative consequences

The purpose of the Global Commission on Drug Policy is to bring to the international level an informed, science based discussion about humane and effective ways to reduce the harm caused by drugs to people and societies.

GOALS

- *Review the basic assumptions, effectiveness and consequences of the ‘war on drugs’ approach*
- *Evaluate the risks and benefits of different national responses to the drug problem*
- *Develop actionable, evidence-based recommendations for constructive legal and policy reform*

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