

We are a group of more than 40 youth from more than 30 countries and this is our message to you.

People who use drugs are coping with a difficult situation, they need our help, and not stigma and discrimination. Research shows that dependence is a health issue, and as such, it needs treatment. Punishing people that use drugs is costly and counterproductive. People suffering from drug dependence need easy access to treatment and health services and not criminal sanction and isolation.

We are not only the generation of tomorrow, we are the generation of today. We are committed to do our part, especially in schools, leading by our personal example and raising the awareness of the real nature of drug addiction and its consequences that is based on science. We have also many ideas on how to use different kinds of media and how to promote an open and honest discussion about drugs.

We need your help and we are confident that you will not fail us.

We need you to develop a better education system, so that children are protected. Schools need to be able to provide education on drugs that is based on scientific evidence as one of the normal subjects. If youth have problems, with drugs or with other difficulties in life, counselling should be easy to access.

Parents and guardians need your support too. When children are born, parents should be able to take care of them. As children grow, parents should have the possibility to learn how to be better parents, how to keep an open communication with their children and, later on, also to be able to talk about drugs.

Social and economic support and services must be especially provided to the most vulnerable, such as children that are not in school, disabled children, children in orphanages and those living in the street, those who are not as privileged as we are.

A lot can be accomplished through using media wisely. Policy makers have the power to engage with media, including social media, to promote healthy lifestyles and not glamorise drug use. Please use it. A well designed media campaign can really help, involve us and it will be even better.

We call on you to make law enforcement effective, which means to stop the availability of drugs, without punishing the people who use drugs. You as policy makers can mobilise resources. Resources should be mobilised, but we should also use them more wisely. We have heard from Dr. Volkow and Prof. Kazatchkine, let's use that knowledge.

Finally, we acknowledge that you have hard decisions to make at present and leading to the Special Session of the General Assembly. We want and we can help. We call on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to keep on working with us on this issue that is crucial to our health and well being.