



SIDE EVENT ORGANISED BY MALTA, CANADA, THE POMPIDOU GROUP/COUNCIL OF EUROPE and UNODC at the 64 CND SESSION

## PROMOTING ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS THAT REDUCE STIGMATISATION OF DRUG USE AND DRUG ADDICTION

**Wednesday,**  
**14 April 2021**  
**13:10 – 14:00 (CET)**

**Virtual event: BlueJeans**  
**Language: English**

**Moderator: Natasha Meli Daudey,**  
Permanent Representative of Malta.

**Opening remarks:**

**Heidi Alberta Hulan,** Permanent Representative of Canada.

**Richard Muscat,** Department of Physiology and Biochemistry University of Malta.

**Presentations:**

**Giovanna Campello:** Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, UNODC.

*Up-date on UNODC's work promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes ensuring availability of, access to and delivery of health, care and social services.*

**Thomas Kattau:** Deputy Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group.

*Presentation of survey results generated by PG stakeholder Member States.*

**Mae Johnson:** Director at Drug Policy and Science Health Canada.

*Trends and forms of stigmatising of drug users and actions taken to reduce or prevent stigmatization.*

**Q&A:**

**Closing Remarks.**

### EVENT DESCRIPTION

This event is a follow up on UNODC Technical Consultations on Stigma held in Vienna in January 2020 pursuant to CND resolution 61/11 'Promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes to ensure the availability of, access to and delivery of health, care and social services'.

Although drug policies are aimed at reducing drug use and their harmful effects, they can have unintended consequences. Stigmatisation due to drug use is one with the broadest impact since it affects not only drug users but also relatives, patients in need of pain relief and palliative care, and society in general.

Stigmatisation due to drug use is multifaceted – starting from the label of being an 'addict' to criminal labelling, leading to social isolation and rejection thus reinforcing low self-esteem and the risk of identifying with the role of being an outcast. Drug users from certain minorities may experience a double, or 'compounded', stigma.

Affected persons often internalise stigma-related stereotypes and avoid seeking treatment. In parallel, medical professionals working with addictions experience additional stress and inhibitions due to these problems.

Strategies and practices aimed at reducing stigma enhance safer and healthier societies, as far as compliance with obligations under international and national legal provisions safeguarding human rights is ensured.

### PARTICIPANTS

*This event seeks to secure the participation of all Member States, international organizations, NGOs, academics, social workers, and others interested in the interrelated issues of drug use, health, human rights and the promotion of an inclusive society.*

To register please go to: <https://bit.ly/3fxmiaP>

Access: <https://bluejeans.com/889102120/9061>

Meeting ID: 889 102 120

Passcode: 9061



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