



12th June 2018

AN OPEN LETTER TO:

Cesar Gaviria Trujillo

Ex-president of the Republic of Colombia
Member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

CC. The Global Commission on Drug Policy

Dear President Gaviria,

The undersigned organisations express our deep concern about your endorsement of a presidential candidate that promotes drug policy proposals contradictory to the recommendations made by the Global Commission on Drug Policy, of which you are a member. The Commission's recommendations are crucial for the transition process in which Colombia finds itself and in order to achieve the transformation of a policy that requires structural change – the reason for which the Commission was created in 2011.

To date, the Global Commission has published [7 reports](#) that have promoted:

- Breaking the taboo: Promoting an open debate and policies that effectively reduce consumption, as well as prevent and reduce the harms related to drug use and drug control policies. This includes increased investment in the research and analysis of the impact of different policies and programmes.
- Replacing the criminalisation and punishment of people who use drugs with the provision of health services and treatment for those who need them, including harm reduction programmes.
- Eliminating criminal punishments for peasants and day laborers involved in the drug market by participating in the cultivation, processing, transportation or sale of drugs as a means of subsistence for their families; policies should instead focus on long-term socio-economic development efforts.

- Encouraging governments to experiment with models for the legal regulation of drugs (like cannabis) that are designed to undermine the power of organised crime and safeguard the health and safety of citizens.

The proposed drug policy included in the government programme that you – and the party which you lead – have publicly supported are contrary to the Global Commission’s recommendations and the evidence from available research. The proposal:

- Does not support drug policy change, although this is the reason for the existence of the Global Commission on Drug Policy.
- Opposes the core elements of point 4 in the peace agreement.
- Calls for the return of forced eradication strategies such as aerial spraying, which has proven to be ineffective in containing or reducing the cultivation of crops declared to be illicit.
- Fails to embrace harm reduction as a strategy to protect the health of people who use drugs, while the Commission’s recommendation, based on a public health approach, has been precisely the opposite.
- Proposes the prohibition of a ‘personal dose’, which in practice criminalises people who use drugs.
- Opposes voluntary crop substitution, while supporting the return of aerial fumigation and the implementation of hard-line policies towards growers, while the Commission has recommended reducing the harms related to drug control policies in rural areas.
- Does not agree with market regulation strategies, including that of medicinal cannabis.

It is also important to highlight that the Global Commission was explicitly included as an international monitor for the implementation of point four in the peace agreement between the government and FARC, which refers specifically to drug policy. This is particularly worrisome given that the government plan that you publicly support includes the revision and modification of point four of the accord.

We express deep concern that the positions that you have taken regarding drug policy in Colombia, despite your role as a member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, weakens the role that the Commission may play with regards to the Colombian peace process.

We ask that you clarify your stance on the drug policy proposals made by the presidential candidate in question, that you state your position on these proposals, and consider whether that implies a change in your position with respect to those taken by the Global Commission on Drug Policy.

In conclusion, the peace process currently underway in Colombia necessitates a transformation of drug policy, along the lines of the recommendations provided by the Global Commission. The presidential candidate that you and your party have publicly supported contradicts everything that the Commission defends and proposes drug policies whose effectiveness have proven to be counterproductive for the protection and the guarantee of human rights of the people involved in illegal economies.

The civil society organizations listed below as signatories will continue working to support peace in Colombia, accompanied by a transformation in drug policy that is consistent with human rights, health, development and social justice.

cc: Global Commission on Drug Policy

Organizations

Centro de estudios de derecho, justicia y sociedad (Dejusticia)
Temblores ONG
Acción Técnica y Social (ATS)
Observatorio de Cultivos y Cultivadores Declarados Ilícitos (OCCDI GLOBAL)
Humanas Colombia
Centro de Pensamiento y Acción para la Transición (CPAT)
Sisma Mujer/GPAZ
Elementa, Consultoría en Derechos
Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz (INDEPAZ)
Centro de Estudios sobre Seguridad y Drogas (CESED)
Colectivo de Estudios Drogas y Derechos (CEDD)
International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)
Corporación Teméride
Asociación Argentina de Reducción de Daños (ARDA)
Instituto RIA
Semillero Mesa Académica Ciudadanías en Cuestión (MACEC)
Habitantes de/en Calle
Liga Colombiana de Lucha contra el Sida
Corporación Viviendo
Corporación Surgir
Fundación Procrear

List of IDPC members:

1. 12D
2. Accion Andina - Bolivia
3. Acción Semilla Boliviana
4. Acción Técnica Social (ATS)
5. Agencia Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (APDES)
6. AIDES
7. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA)
8. AIDS Foundation East West
9. Aksion Plus
10. AKZEPT
11. Alcohol and Drug Foundation
12. Alliance for Public Health
13. Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD)
14. Alternative Georgia
15. Ana Liffey Drug Project
16. Andean Information Network (AIN)
17. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice
18. Asia Catalyst
19. Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD)
20. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID)
21. Asociación de Estudios del Cannabis del Uruguay (AECU)
22. Association de Lutte Contre le Sida (ALCS)
23. Association Margina
24. Association Prevent
25. Association Senegalaise pour la Reduction des Risques Infectieux chez les Groupes Vulnerables (ASRDR)
26. ASUD
27. Asuntos del Sur
28. ATUPRET
29. BABSEACLE
30. Beckley Foundation
31. Brazilian Drug Policy Platform
32. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
33. Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy (CFDP)

34. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
35. Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad (Dejusticia)
36. Centro de Estudios en Seguridad Ciudadana (CESC)
37. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
38. Centro de Investigación Drogas y Derechos Humanos (CIDDDH)
39. Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN)
40. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
41. Colegio Médico de Chile
42. Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT)
43. Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos A.C. (CMDPDH)
44. Corporación Humanas Chile
45. Corporación Humanas Colombia
46. Correlation: European Harm Reduction Network
47. CUIPHD
48. Diogenes, Drug Policy Dialogue in South East Europe
49. Drug Policy Advocacy Group
50. Drug Policy Alliance (DPA)
51. Drug Policy Australia
52. Drug Policy Network South East Europe (DPNSEE)
53. Drug Text Foundation
54. Drugs, Security and Democracy Program of the Social Science Research Council (SSRN)
55. Ecuador Cannabico
56. Elementa, Consultoría en Derechos
57. Equis Justicia Para las Mujeres
58. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)
59. European Network of People Who Use Drugs
60. Fachverband Sucht
61. Federación Andaluza ENLACE
62. Federation Addiction
63. FEDITO BXL
64. Finnish Association for Humane Drug Policy (HPP)
65. Forum Droghe
66. Foundation Against Illicit Drug and Child Abuse (FADCA)
67. Foyer du Bonheur
68. Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma
69. Gadejuristen (The Street Lawyers)
70. Galiu gyventi - "I Can Live" Coalition
71. Global Exchange
72. Greek Drug and Substitute User Union
73. Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions (GREA)
74. Guyanese Association of Harm Reduction (AGRRR)
75. Harm Reduction Australia
76. Harm Reduction Coalition
77. Health poverty Action
78. Healthy Options Project Skopje
79. Help Not Handcuffs
80. Human Rights Watch (HRW)
81. Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU)
82. Iglesia Evangélica Protestante de El Salvador (IEPES)
83. India HIV/AIDS Alliance
84. Indonesian Association of Addiction Counselors (IAAC)
85. Indonesian Coalition for Drug Policy Reform (ICDPR)
86. Indonesian Harm Reduction Network (JANGKAR)
87. Iniciativa Negra por Uma Nova Política sobre Drogas (INNPDP)
88. Initiative for Health Foundation (IHF)
89. Institute for Land Work and Citizenship (ITTC)
90. Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)
91. Intercambios
92. Intercambios Puerto Rico
93. International AIDS Society (IAS)
94. International Association for Hospice and Palliative care (IAHPC)
95. International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research & Service (ICEERS)
96. International Centre for Science in Drug Policy (ICSDP)
97. International Doctors for Healthy Drug Policies (IDHDP)
98. International Harm Reduction Development Program, Open Society Foundations
99. International HIV/AIDS Alliance
100. International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD)
101. Kenyan AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO)
102. Lawyers Collective
103. LBH Masyarakat
104. Mainline
105. Malaysian AIDS Council
106. Medecins du Monde France (MDM-F)
107. Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD)
108. Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRRA)
109. National Rehabilitation Centre in Abu Dhabi (NRC)
110. New Zealand Drug Foundation
111. New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme (NZNEP)
112. NGO 4 Life
113. NGO Veza
114. NGO Viktorija
115. Nierika AC
116. NoBox Transitions
117. Norwegian Association for Humane Drug Policies
118. Norwegian Association for Safer Drugs Policies
119. Observatorio de cultivos y cultivadores declarados ilícitos (OCDI)
120. Ozone Foundation
121. Penal Reform International
122. Penington Institute
123. Perle Sociale ONG
124. PILS
125. Pivot Legal Society
126. PKNI
127. Plataforma COLI – Coca Orgánica, Libre e Informada
128. Polish Drug Policy Network
129. PRAKSIS
130. PREKURSOR
131. Prolegal/Proderechos
132. PSI
133. Psicotropicus
134. Puente, Investigación y Enlace (PIE)

135. RAISSS
136. Re Generation
137. Red Chilena Reducción de Danos
138. Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos (REDUC)
139. Regional Arab Network against AIDS (RANAA)
140. Release
141. Réseau Français de Reduction des Risques
142. ReverdeSer Colectivo
143. Rights Reporter Foundation
144. Romanian Harm Reduction Network (RHRN)
145. Rumah Cemara
146. Scottish Drugs Forum
147. Skoun, Lebanese Addiction Center
148. South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction Treatment Network (SEEAN)
149. SPYM
150. StoptheDrugWar.org
151. Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)
152. Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)
153. TB/HIV Care Association
154. Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group
155. Transform Drug Policy Foundation
156. Transnational Institute (TNI)
157. Trimbos-Instituut
158. Turkish Green Crescent Society
159. Udruga Terra (Association Terra Croatia)
160. Uganda Harm Reduction Network
161. Union contre la Co-infection VIH/Hépatites/Tuberculose (UNICO)
162. Unión de Asociaciones y Entidades de Atención al Drogodependiente (UNAD)
163. Utrip
164. Viva Rio
165. Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
166. West Africa Civil Society Initiative (WACSI)
167. West Africa Drug Policy Network
168. Women and Harm Reduction international Network (WHRIN)
169. World Hepatitis Alliance
170. Worldwide Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA)
171. YCC Juventas
172. Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA)
173. Youth RISE
174. Youth RISE Nigeria
175. Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network (ZCLDN)