



## Decriminalising drug use: Concept and practice

Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 13:10-14:00

Conference Room M7

Vienna International Centre

*Event organised by the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Czech Republic and Release*

Over 40 countries and jurisdictions have now removed all criminal sanctions towards people who use drugs or people caught with small quantities of drugs for personal use. This policy has proven effective in promoting a health and human rights based approach towards people who use drugs – ensuring their access to harm reduction and treatment services. However, models of decriminalisation vary greatly worldwide, with some approaches being more effective than others.

At the occasion of this side event, Release will present its updated report on decriminalisation around the world. IDPC will then offer an overview of its new report on the progress and challenges related to decriminalising drug use in Asia. ASUD will focus on the racial disparities in implementing drug laws against people who use drugs in France. Finally, the Czech Republic will present the results of its decriminalisation model.

### Speakers:

- **Edward Fox**, Policy and Communications Manager, Release
- **Gloria Lai**, Senior Policy Officer, International Drug Policy Consortium
- **Fabrice Olivet**, Executive Director, Auto-Support des Usagers de Drogues
- **Jindřich Vobořil**, National Drug Coordinator, Czech Republic

**Moderator: Marie Nougier**, Senior Research and Communications Officer, International Drug Policy Consortium