

57th Commission on Narcotic Drugs – Official Side Event

“SENTENCING POLICIES FOR DRUG OFFENCES, PRINCIPLES AND BEST PRACTICES”

Speakers:

Gloria Lai, International Drug Policy Consortium. Principles for incorporating the concept of proportionality into national drug law sentencing regimes.

Gilberto Gerra, Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, UNODC.
Normative guidance for member states on drug law sentencing.

Mike Trace, International Drug Policy Consortium. The United Kingdom Sentencing Council new guidelines on sentencing for drug offences – a model for other countries?

Dr. Wilhelm Mende, Vienna Regional Criminal Court.
Austrian Sentencing Policy - Diversion and Treatment

Monday 17th March 2014, 9.00 – 9.50 am.

Conference Room M2, M Building, Vienna International Centre

Registration: <http://goo.gl/bov2nj>

Many countries around the world have been reviewing and reforming laws, sentencing guidelines and practices that have led to inflexible, disproportionate or ineffective penalties being applied to drug offenders. Problems to be addressed include the focusing of harsh penalties on the ‘little fish’ in the drug supply chain (small scale producers or dealers) to the exclusion of those who control and profit from the market, the inappropriate punishment of those struggling with drug dependence, and the pressure on prosecution, courts and prison systems arising from the application of harsh penalties. This session aims to present some principles that can be used to guide sentencing reform efforts, and examples of how some countries have developed new frameworks for sentencing in an attempt to ensure justice, proportionality and cost effectiveness.