

How to constructively engage with – and win – the debate on drug regulation: An interactive workshop

When: 9:45am – 12:30pm Sunday March 16th, followed by a free lunch, co-funded by IDPC

Where: NH Danube City Hotel on Wagramer Strasse (next to the Vienna International Centre)

You are invited to an interactive workshop for NGOs, policy makers and other reform advocates, facilitated by Transform, Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD) and Espolea.

Please email steve@tdpf.org.uk if you wish to attend – places are limited

The legal regulation of drugs is not just a mainstream topic for debate, but a growing reality around the world. As a result, drug policy reform advocates are increasingly having both the opportunity and the challenge of engaging in public and private debates on this complex issue.

Whether you are new to the debate, or a seasoned campaigner, we hope this workshop will be an enjoyable way to help you make the case for legal regulation from a position of increased confidence and authority. Through a mixture of presentations, short videos, break-out groups, videoed practice debates, and hand-outs, this workshop will help you to develop and practice the constructive arguments, different approaches and messaging needed to address the concerns and interests of your key audiences. It will also provide a chance for you to share your expertise with colleagues.

We hope as a result, you will find it easier to not just win the argument, but to make the new allies that we as a movement need to roll out real policy change nationally and internationally.

Workshop Structure

1. Short presentations by Steve Rolles, Aram Barra and Lisa Sanchez
 - How the debate around regulation fits into the wider debate
 - Why it's important to engage now: shaping/framing the discourse for the next phase of reform
 - Common ground approaches: using shared goals as a way of critiquing failures and exploring alternatives
 - How to talk about regulation
2. Breakout groups
 - Looking at different audiences, and how to shape messages to maximise engagement and catalyse change
 - Exploring how to address key concerns for your priority audiences
3. Feedback and discussion session
 - Group decides on 2 Key Concerns for practice debates, and volunteers to argue for reform against Transform/MUCD staff

Coffee Break

4. 2 separate 20 minute 'Devil's advocate practice debates' focussing on key concerns
 - a. Short discussion of what lines worked/didn't
 - b. Offer to film individuals afterwards and give personalised feedback
5. Summary of discussions
6. LUNCH