

# THE SHORTCOMINGS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE SCHEDULING

ONLINE SIDE EVENT - #CND65 REGISTRATION: [bit.do/scheduling-cnd65](https://bit.do/scheduling-cnd65)

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 12:15 - 13:05 (CET - Vienna)**

*Organised by the HIV Legal Network with the support of Canada, the Netherlands, the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Transform Drug Policy Foundation and the Transnational Institute*

Substance scheduling is a central function of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and a longstanding pillar of international and national drug policies. Despite the continued reliance on scheduling, there is an ongoing debate as to whether scheduling substances is beneficial or determinantal in preventing drug-related harms. The observed displacement/replacement effect indicates that the scheduling of substances and resulting law enforcement involvement is routinely followed by the emergence of new substances often posing greater harms from consumption, as has been observed in the case of the steadily increasing rate of overdoses around the world caused by highly potent opioids in the unregulated drug market. Scheduling substances also impedes access for medical and scientific purposes. This side event will examine the limitations and consequences of substance scheduling as well as consider alternatives for preventing drug-related harms.



Photo: International Drug Policy Consortium

