

300+ NGOs call on world leaders to address the global health and human rights crisis among people who use drugs on the occasion of the 26th International Harm Reduction Conference

As civil society and global experts gather in Porto for the 26th International Harm Reduction Conference, 338 NGOs from 80 countries are calling on the international community to address the ongoing global health and human rights crisis among people who use drugs.

The latest numbers on the HIV epidemic, just released by UNAIDS, are alarming. While global HIV incidence declined by 25% between 2010 and 2017, it is rising among people who inject drugs. Outside of Sub-Saharan Africa, people who inject drugs and their sexual partners continue to account for roughly one quarter of all people contracting HIV.¹ Globally, six in ten people who inject drugs are living with hepatitis C, while 168,000 people who use drugs were reported to have died of an overdose in 2015 alone.²

There are just over ten years left to meet the international commitment to promote good health and well-being, reduce inequalities and provide access to justice for all by 2030, as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to achieve these goals, strengthened political leadership at all levels is urgently required.

In 2011, the international community committed to halving the incidence of HIV among people who inject drugs by 2015.³ This target that was spectacularly missed by 80%, with the number of people who inject drugs contracting HIV increasing by one third over that period.⁴ As for the number of all drug-related deaths (counting overdoses, as well as those related to HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis), these rose by a worrying 60% between 2000 and 2015, to reach an estimated 450,000 deaths in 2015. This represents 50 deaths every hour – deaths which are preventable. New commitments to address the global health crisis affecting people who use drugs were enshrined in the SDGs⁵ and reiterated in the Outcome Document from the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs.⁶ The 2019 Ministerial Declaration, agreed just a month ago in Vienna, calls on the international community to accelerate the implementation of these global commitments.⁷

However, without genuine leadership, these will be empty promises. It is imperative that efforts are stepped up worldwide to ensure that people who use drugs are front and centre in the global response. Today, although global coverage for HIV prevention, treatment and care services has improved for the general population, less than 1% of people who use drugs globally live in countries with high coverage of life-saving harm reduction interventions.⁸ Funding for HIV services directed at people who use drugs has also stagnated globally, and remains at only 13% of the estimated annual need.⁹ The funding gap is estimated to be close to 90% for all harm reduction interventions in low- and middle-income countries. Furthermore, people who use drugs continue to face a high level of stigma and discrimination in access to healthcare settings – as was recognised by 12 UN agencies in 2017.¹⁰

Even more concerning is the fact that people who use drugs often remain a ‘population under attack’.¹¹ Worldwide, one in five people is incarcerated for a drug offence, the overwhelming majority for simple possession.¹² Hundreds of thousands of people who use drugs are held in compulsory detention centres where they are denied healthcare and are victims of humiliations, physical and mental abuse and forced labour.¹³ At least 10 countries subject people who use drugs to corporal punishment including caning, whipping, lashing, stoning and even bodily mutilation – in some cases, even on children.¹⁴ In most regions of the world, people who use drugs are also victims of institutionalised violence, stigma and discrimination.¹⁵ Some of the most extreme cases of such repressive approaches can be found in the Philippines, with the recent surge in extrajudicial killings of suspected drug offenders. These unacceptable human rights abuses must come to an end.

At global level, we have serious concerns over the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to lead on the global health response for people who use drugs.¹⁶

By its very mandate and construction, the UNODC remains an agency that is more attuned to the law enforcement response to drugs. Alarming, the agency is struggling to fully embrace, endorse and embody health and rights-based responses to drug policy. The UNODC's position on harm reduction remains several years behind that of other UN entities and important opportunities to incorporate harm reduction into the UNODC's work and projects continue to be missed – including in the recent efforts to respond to the global opioid crisis.¹⁷ While there have been important progressive initiatives and policy documents on harm reduction led by some UNODC staff and country offices, senior leadership at the Office has consistently failed to unequivocally champion harm reduction, human rights and decriminalisation and has too often remained silent in the face of some of the most egregious cases of human rights abuses faced by people who use drugs.

Without a serious change in the attitude and commitment from UNODC's leadership on harm reduction and drug policy reform, there would be no other choice than to reconsider the role of the UNODC as the leading UN agency on the health response towards people who use drugs. Because of the many concerns raised above, it may be time to consider whether progress might be better achieved under the direct lead of the office of the UN Secretary General, or through a different primary entity. In any case, and as we approach a leadership change for the UNODC, structural reforms within that entity should be considered to ensure stronger leadership on harm reduction, and closer cooperation with other UN agencies, as called for in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and the United Nations System Common Position on global drug policy.¹⁸

Securing an improved health response for people who use drugs also requires strong political leadership at the national level.

Civil society has welcomed the United Nations System Common Position¹⁹ agreed at the highest decision-making level of the UN in November 2018 – and the convening of the UN System Coordination Task Team that produced a subsequent discussion paper 'What we have learned over the last ten years'.²⁰ Both documents – as well as the latest UNAIDS report 'Health, rights and drugs'²¹ – provide specific recommendations for more effective and humane national drug policies, including:

- The provision, scale up and funding for harm reduction interventions
- The decriminalisation of drug use and possession for personal use, as well as proportionate sentencing for all drug offences
- Ending stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs
- The inclusion, support and funding for, and empower of, communities and civil society organisations – including organisations and networks of people who use drugs.

The 26th International Harm Reduction conference held in Portugal this week will showcase the encouraging progress made by various countries which embrace these reforms, with direct impact on the lives of people who use drugs, their families and communities. There is still time to make significant, life-saving progress towards the 2030 targets – but the time to act is now. The UN System Common Position is an important step in the right direction, and its recommendations on harm reduction, decriminalisation, rights-based approaches and stigma must now be implemented by all governments with the support of a solid and coordinated UN system. But this will require genuine political will, leadership and action from the international community as a whole. Faced with the current crisis, complacency can no longer be tolerated.

List of signatory organisations

1. 1Tribe1Nation Consulting Services, United States
2. A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), United States
3. AAFNO Nepal
4. Acción Andina Bolivia
5. Acción Semilla Bolivia
6. Acción Técnica Social, Colombia
7. Action Jeunesse Maroc, Morocco
8. AFEW International, Netherlands
9. African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and neglect, Kenya
10. Agencia Piaget para o Desenvolvimento, Portugal
11. AIDES, France
12. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa, South Africa
13. AIDS United, United States
14. Aidsfonds, Netherlands
15. Aksion Plus, Albania
16. akzept e.V. Bundesverband für akzeptierende Drogenarbeit und humane Drogenpolitik, Germany
17. Alberta Addicts Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly, Canada
18. All Peoples' Encinitas Inc., United States
19. Alliance for Public Health, Ukraine
20. Ana Liffey Drug Project, Ireland
21. Andean Information Network, Bolivia
22. Apoyo Positivo, Spain
23. Ares do Pinhal, Portugal
24. Arewa Youth Trust Foundation, Nigeria
25. AS – Center for the Empowerment Youth of people who are living with HIV and AIDS in Serbia
26. Asia Catalyst, United States
27. Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN Myanmar)
28. Asian Network of People who Use Drugs, Thailand
29. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas, Costa Rica
30. Associació Reus Som Útils, Spain
31. Association de Défense des Droit Humains, France
32. Association de Lutte Contre le Sida, Morocco
33. Association des intervenants en dépendance du Québec, Canada
34. Association for Safer Drug Policies, Norway
35. Association Guyanaise de Réduction des Risques, French Guyana
36. Association Hasnouna de Soutien aux Usagers de Drogues, Egypt
37. Association HERA-XXI, Georgia
38. Association KénéDougou Solidarité, Mali
39. Association Margina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
40. Association Nationale de Réduction de Risques au Maroc, Morocco
41. Association of Rehabilitation of Dependencies of Macau, China
42. Association Osons Parler de la Drogue au Mali, Mali
43. Association PROI, Bosnia and Herzegovina
44. Association Québécoise des centres d'intervention en dépendance, Canada
45. Associazione Luca Coscioni, Italy
46. Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, Australia
47. Auto-Support des Usagers de Drogues, France
48. BABSEACLE, Indonesia
49. Bensther Development Foundation, Nigeria
50. BLM Memphis, United States
51. Brazilian Drug Policy Platform, Brazil
52. Broken No More, United States
53. Cactus Montreal, Canada
54. CAFAC, United States
55. Campaña por la Descriminalización de las Personas Usuarías de Drogas en Bolivia
56. Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs, Canada
57. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Canada
58. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canada
59. Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Canada
60. Cannabis Sans Frontières, France
61. Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc., United States
62. Caucasus Institute of Gestalt Therapy and Family Psychotherapy, Georgia
63. CAZAS, Montenegro
64. CEHURD, Uganda
65. Center for Humane Policy, Bulgaria
66. Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, United States
67. Centre Associatif Polyvalent d'Aide Hépatite C, Canada
68. Centre des R.O.S.É.S. de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Canada
69. Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health, Canada
70. Centre for Research and Information on Substance Abuse, Nigeria
71. Centre Marocain Pour la sécurité et la Démocratie, Morocco
72. Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, Canada
73. Centre sida Amitié in Québec, Canada
74. Centro de Investigación Drogas y Derechos Humanos, Peru
75. Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral, Dominican Republic
76. Children Education Society, Tanzania
77. Children's Education Foundation, Australia
78. Chunikhel society Nepal
79. CIRC, France
80. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, Ireland
81. Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida, Canada
82. Coalition Marocaine de Droits à la Santé, Morocco
83. Coalition Marocaine pour la Justice Climatique, Morocco

84. Coalition PLUS, France
85. Coalition Sida des Sourds du Québec, Canada
86. Collectif Police Contre la Prohibition, France
87. Collectif Urgence Toxida, Mauritius
88. Comité Binacional de VIH y sida e ITS, United States/Mexico
89. Community Alliance Georgia, United States
90. Conectas Human Rights, Brazil
91. Corporación Humanas Colombia
92. Corporación Kimirina, Ecuador
93. Cultura Joven A.C., Mexico
94. Death Penalty Focus, United States
95. Dee-Dee Stout Consulting, United States
96. Dejusticia, Colombia
97. Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe, Netherlands
98. Diogenis Drug Policy Dialogue, Greece
99. Dopamine, Canada
100. Drug Policy Action Group, Thailand
101. Drug Policy Alliance, United States
102. Drug Policy Australia
103. Drug Policy Network South East Europe, Serbia
104. Drug Salvation Foundation, Nigeria
105. Drug User Advocacy League, Canada
106. Drug War Memorial, United States
107. Drugs Peace Institute, Spain
108. Društvo AREAL, Slovenia
109. Eastern African Harm Reduction Network
110. ECHO Citoyen, France
111. ECPI-Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives, Romania
112. Ecumenical Advocacy Network on the Philippines
113. E-JOUSSOUR : Association des radios associatives et communautaire au Maroc, Morocco
114. Elementa, Colombia
115. Élixir, Canada
116. Empower India
117. Energy Control, Spain
118. Equal Health and Rights Access Advocacy Initiative Nigeria
119. Equis: Justicia para las Mujeres, Mexico
120. Estonian Network PLWHIV, Estonia
121. Estudiantes por una Política de Drogas Bolivia
122. Estudiantes por una Política Sensata de Drogas Latinoamérica, Mexico
123. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, Lithuania
124. European Association for Palliative Care, UK
125. European Network of People who Use Drugs, UK
126. European Treatment Action Group, Belgium
127. FAAAT, France
128. Fachverband Sucht, Switzerland
129. Families for Sensible Drug Policy, United States
130. Family Drug Support Aotearoa New Zealand
131. Family Drug Support Australia
132. Father Bob Maguire Foundation, Australia
133. Federación Andaluza ENLACE, Spain
134. Fédération Addiction, France
135. Fedito BXL, Belgium
136. Finnish Broadcasting Co, Finland
137. Fondazione Villa Maraini, Italy
138. Forum des alternatives Maroc, Morocco
139. Forum Droghe, Italy
140. Frontline AIDS, UK
141. Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil
142. Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción, Spain
143. Gadejuristen, the Danish Street Lawyers, Denmark
144. GAP-VIES Montréal QC, Canada
145. Gay Men's Health Collective, UK
146. Geneva Platform on human rights, Health, and psychoactive substances, Switzerland
147. Georgia Harm Reduction Network, Georgia
148. Georgia Red Cross Society, Georgia
149. Georgian Network of People Who Use Drugs – For humane drug policy, Georgia
150. Global Fund Advocates Network
151. Groupe d'entraide à l'intention des Personnes Séropositives et Itinérantes, Canada
152. Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions, Switzerland
153. Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos, Portugal
154. Hacia la vida digna para todas las personas, ReverdeSer Colectivo AC, México
155. HaliFIX Overdose Prevention Society, Canada
156. Harm Reduction Afghanistan
157. Harm Reduction Australia
158. Harm Reduction Coalition, United States
159. Harm Reduction International, UK
160. Harm Reduction Nurses Association, Canada
161. Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center, United States
162. Health GAP (Global Access Project), United States
163. Health Poverty Action, UK
164. Healthy Options Project Skopje, Macedonia
165. Help Not Harm, United States
166. Hep Free Hawai'i, United States
167. Hepa+, Georgia
168. Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group, Inc., United States
169. Hepatitis Education Project, United States
170. ICEERS, Spain/Uruguay
171. ICF "AIDS Foundation East-West", Netherlands
172. India HIV/AIDS Alliance, India
173. Indian Drug Users' Forum, India
174. Indonesian Harm Reduction Network, Indonesia
175. Initiative for Health Foundation, Bulgaria
176. INSERM, France
177. Institute for Drug Control and Human Security, Sierra Leone
178. Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible, Guatemala
179. Instituto para el Desarrollo Humano, Bolivia
180. Instituto RIA, Mexico
181. Intercambios Civil Association, Argentina
182. Intercambios Puerto Rico
183. International Center Women and Modern World, Azerbaijan
184. International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe, Netherlands
185. International CURE, United States

186. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies, UK
187. International Drug Policy Consortium, UK
188. International Federation of Non Governmental Organizations, China
189. International Harm Reduction Program of Open Society Foundations, United States
190. International Indigenous HIV & AIDS Community, Canada
191. International Network of Nicotine Consumer Organizations, Switzerland
192. International Network of People Who Use Drugs, UK
193. Ishonch va Hayot, Uzbekistan
194. Italian League for Fighting AIDS, Italy
195. Italian Network of People Who Use Drugs, Italy
196. Japan Advocacy Network for Drug Policy, Japan
197. John Mordaunt Trust, UK
198. Juventas Montenegro
199. Kazakhs Union of People Living with HIV, Kazakhstan
200. Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium, Kenya
201. Kethea Exelixis, Greece
202. Latin American Network of People Who Use Drugs
203. Latinoamérica Reforma, Chile
204. Law Enforcement and HIV Network, Australia
205. Lawyers Collective, India
206. LBH Mayarakat, Indonesia
207. LEAP UK
208. LEAP, United States
209. Legalize Belarus
210. Life Quality Improvement Organisation FLIGHT, Croatia
211. Magazine Youth Group
212. Mahamate Myanmar
213. Mainline, Netherlands
214. Marborg
215. Médecins du Monde, France
216. Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia, Mexico
217. Middle East and North Africa Network of People Who Use Drugs, Lebanon
218. MIELS-Québec, Canada
219. Moms Stop the Harm, United States
220. Montenegrin Harm Reduction Network LINK, Montenegro
221. Mukikute, Tanzania
222. mumsDU – Moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users, Canada
223. Namibia Diverse Women's Association, Namibia
224. NASTAD, United States
225. National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery, United States
226. National Organization for Women Foundation, United States
227. National Users Network of Nepal
228. NC Survivors Union, United States
229. Netherlands Drug Policy Foundation, Netherlands
230. New England User Union, United States
231. New Vector, United States
232. New Way, Center of Psychosocial Information and Counseling, United States
233. New Zealand Drug Foundation, New Zealand
234. NGO Labyrinth, Kosovo
235. NGO Volunteer Tajikistan
236. Nigerian Network of People Who Use Drugs, Nigeria
237. NoBox Philippines
238. Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, Italy
239. Normal Norway
240. NORML France
241. Norwegian Association for Humane Drug Policy (FHN), Norway
242. Norwegian Association for People in OST (proLAR Nett), Norway
243. Nova+, Serbia
244. NSW Users and AIDS Association, Australia
245. Observatoire Marocain des Libertés Publiques, Morocco
246. Observatoire Marocain des Prison, Morocco
247. Observatorio de cultivos y cultivadores declarados ilícitos, Colombia
248. On Our Own of St. Mary's, Inc., United States
249. ORFED, Mali
250. Organisation Marocaine des droits Humains, Morocco
251. Pan African Positive Women's Coalition, Zimbabwe
252. Paroles Autour de la Santé, Mali/Ivory Coast/Guadeloupe/Niger
253. Partnership Network
254. Peer Based Harm Reduction WA, Australia
255. PeerNUPS, Greece
256. Penington Institute, Australia
257. PITCH Uganda
258. Pla d'accions sobre drogues de Reus, Spain
259. Polish Drug Policy Network, Poland
260. Portail VIH/sida du Québec, Canada
261. Positive Malaysia Treatment Access & Advocacy Group, Malaysia
262. Positive Voice the Greek Association of People Living with HIV, Greece
263. PREKURSOR Foundation for Social Policy, Poland
264. Principes Actifs, France
265. Programa Libertas, Brazil
266. Psychologists and Psychotherapists Association of Georgia
267. Public Justice Center, United States
268. Re Generation, Serbia
269. Real People Real Vision Georgia
270. Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos, Brazil
271. Reframe Health and Justice, United States
272. Release., UK
273. Research, Education & Clinical Care for At Risk Populations, Canada
274. REVS PLUS, Burkina Faso
275. REZO, Canada
276. Rhode Island Users Union, United States
277. Rights Reporter Foundation, Hungary
278. Rise up America, United States

279. Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation, Romania
 280. Romanian Association Against AIDS, Romania
 281. Romanian Harm Reduction Network, Romania
 282. Rubiconi, Georgia
 283. Rumah Cemara, Indonesia
 284. Safe Streets Arts Foundation, United States
 285. SAND – Homeless, Denmark
 286. Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust, India
 287. SAOL Project, Ireland
 288. SATHI SAMUHA, Nepal
 289. Science for Democracy, Belgium
 290. Scottish Drug Forum, UK
 291. Seattle Hempfest, United States
 292. Sidalys, Canada
 293. SIFMA NOW!, United States
 294. Société canadienne de l'hémophilie – Section Québec, Canada
 295. Society Association HIV.LV, Latvia
 296. SOS Addictions, France
 297. South African Congress of Nonprofit Organisations, South Africa
 298. South African Network of People Who Use Drugs, South Africa
 299. St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, United States
 300. Stella, l'amie de Maimie, Canada
 301. Steps Non-Governmental Organisation, Greece
 302. Stop Overdose Now, Netherlands
 303. StoptheDrugWar.org, United States
 304. Streetworks, United States
 305. Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Sierra Leone
 306. Students for Sensible Drug Policy, United States
 307. Support Foundation "RIGRA", Lithuania
 308. Table des Organismes Communautaires Montréalais de lutte contre le VIH/sida, Canada
 309. Tanzania Network of Women Living with HIV and AIDS, Tanzania
 310. TB/HIV Care Association, South Africa
 311. Temblores ONG, Colombia
 312. Tennessee Recovery Alliance, United States
 313. Teras Interventions & Counseling Inc., United States
 314. Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, Canada
 315. Transform Drug Policy Foundation, UK
 316. Transnational Institute - Drugs & Democracy programme, Netherlands
 317. Treatment Action Group, United States
 318. Trystereo/New Orleans Harm Reduction Network, United States
 319. Uganda Harm Reduction Network, Uganda
 320. Unharming Ohio, United States
 321. UNITE Global Network of Parliamentarians to End HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other infectious diseases, Portugal
 322. Urban Survivors Union, United States
 323. Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access, United States
 324. Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition, United States
 325. Washington Office on Latin America, United States
 326. We Help Ourselves
 327. West Africa Drug Policy Network, Ghana
 328. Western Harm Reduction Network, India
 329. White Noise Movement, Georgia
 330. Women for Health, Nigeria
 331. Women's Coalition Against Cancer, Malawi
 332. World Hepatitis Alliance, UK
 333. Yamaka Youth Network
 334. Young Wave, Lithuania
 335. Youth Organisations for Drug Action, Poland
 336. Youth RISE, UK
 337. Zimbabwe Civil liberties and Drug Network, Zimbabwe
 338. CBOH Плюс, Tajikistan

Endnotes

- ¹ UNAIDS (2019), *Health, rights and drugs: Harm reduction, decriminalization and zero discrimination for people who use drugs*, http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2954_UNAIDS_drugs_report_2019_en.pdf
- ² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2018), *World Drug Report 2018*, <https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/>
- ³ UN General Assembly (8 July 2011), *Resolution 65/277. Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Identifying our efforts to eliminate HIV and AIDS*, A/ RES/65/277, http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/sub_landing/files/20110610_UN_A-RES-65-277_en.pdf
- ⁴ UNAIDS (2018), *Miles to go: Closing gaps, breaking barriers, righting injustices*, http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/miles-to-go_en.pdf
- ⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3>
- ⁶ Available here: <https://www.unodc.org/documents/postungass2016/outcome/V1603301-E.pdf>
- ⁷ Available here: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_62/ECN72019_CRP11_V1901487.pdf
- ⁸ Larney S, Peacock A, Leung J, Colledge S, Hickman H, Vickerman P et al. Global, regional and country-level coverage of interventions to prevent and manage HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs: a systematic review. *The Lancet*. 2017;5(12):PE1208–E1220
- ⁹ Harm Reduction International (2018), *The lost decade: Neglect for harm reduction funding and the health crisis among people who use drugs*, <https://www.hri.global/files/2018/09/25/lost-decade-harm-reduction-funding-2018.PDF>
- ¹⁰ UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNICEF, World Food Programme, United Nations Development Programme, UNFPA, UN Women, International Labour Organization, UNESCO, World Health Organization, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Organization for Migration (2017), *Joint United Nations statement on ending discriminations in*

health care settings, http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/ending-discrimination-healthcare-settings_en.pdf

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (January 2013), *World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, note by the Secretariat*, E/CN.15/2013/9, http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/World_Crime_Trends_2013.pdf

¹³ Kamarulzaman, A. & McBrayer, J. L. (February 2015), 'Compulsory drug detention centres in East and Southeast Asia', *International Journal of Drug Policy*, **26**(1): S33-S37; International Drug Policy Consortium (January 2015), *Throughout Asia, criminalisation and hard punishment are imposed on people who use drugs*, <https://idpc.net/alerts/2015/01/throughout-asia-criminalisation-and-hard-punishment-are-imposed-on-people-who-use-drugs>; World Health Organization, *ATLAS of substance use disorders – Country profile: EGYPT*, http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/atlas_report/profiles/egypt.pdf; World Health Organization, *ATLAS of substance use disorders – Country profile: SAUDI ARABIA*, http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/atlas_report/profiles/saudi_arabia.pdf

¹⁴ Harm Reduction International (2011), *Inflicting harm: Judicial corporal punishment for drug and alcohol offences in selected countries*, https://www.hri.global/files/2011/11/08/IHRA_CorporalPunishmentReport_Web.pdf

¹⁵ International Drug Policy Consortium (2018), *Taking stock: A decade of drug policy – A civil society shadow report*, <https://idpc.net/publications/2018/10/taking-stock-a-decade-of-drug-policy-a-civil-society-shadow-report>

¹⁶ The UN common position cites the 'lead coordinating role' played by UNODC, and states that the Task Team will be led by the Office. The 2019 Ministerial Declaration similarly reinforces UNODC as 'the leading entity of the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem', and UNODC also remains the lead co-sponsor for people who use drugs within UNAIDS

¹⁷ For instance, it is worrying that the latest UNODC opioid strategy does not include a harm reduction component, focusing instead on law enforcement. See: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/opioid-crisis/index.html>

¹⁸ United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (November 2018), *United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration*, <https://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB-2018-2-SoD.pdf>

¹⁹ United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (November 2018), *United Nations system common position supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration*, <https://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB-2018-2-SoD.pdf>

²⁰ UN System Coordination Task Team on the Implementation of the UN System Common Position on Drug-Related Matters (March 2019), *What we have learned over the last ten years*, https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/2019/Contributions/UN_Entities/What_we_have_learned_over_the_last_ten_years_-_14_March_2019_-_w_signature.pdf

²¹ UNAIDS (2019), *Health, rights and drugs: Harm reduction, decriminalization and zero discrimination for people who use drugs*, http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2954_UNAIDS_drugs_report_2019_en.pdf