



INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY CONSORTIUM

PROMOTING OBJECTIVE AND OPEN DEBATE OF DRUG POLICIES

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IDPC Alert October 2007

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs and professional networks that specialise in issues related to illegal drug production and use. The Consortium aims to promote objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harm. It disseminates the reports of its member organisations about particular drug-related matters, and offers expert consultancy services to policymakers and officials around the world.

Updated IDPC Website

The website of IDPC plays a major role in the implementation of our mission. This gives our members, and anyone else interested in drug policy, easy access to a wide range of reports on issues related to national and international policies in this area. Through this platform we have been able to reach out to over 10,000 individuals and organisations around the world, and this number is continually increasing.

IDPC has redesigned its website, which you can visit at the same address as before: www.idpc.info. The aim was to make the site more user-friendly, and to make our messages and publications more accessible. For example:

To ensure better transparency we give prominence to the IDPC's five policy principles, which our members consider to be the basis for more humane and effective drug policies. The site also lists IDPC members sharing these values and objectives as well as the terms of membership in IDPC for potential new members.

The new Document Library offers more options for searching for information. It clearly distinguishes publications of IDPC, IDPC members and other organisations. Visitors to the site can also target their investigation by author, language, year of publication, the drug policy subject, and the relevant IDPC Policy Principle.

Latest Publications

The following reports have been published in recent weeks, and can be downloaded from the Consortium website (<http://www.idpc.info>) Please forward this alert to anyone on your email networks with an interest in drug policies.

IDPC Advocacy Guide

The first version of this guide has been posted on the IDPC website. It serves as an introduction to the structure and operation of the UN drug control system, and describes the forthcoming process of review leading to the political meeting in 2009. It also introduces the advocacy themes that the IDPC will be working on throughout this process, and invites like-minded NGOs to become involved. As the review progresses, updated versions of the Advocacy Guide will be produced that refine the IDPC positions. The next version is scheduled to be produced in December 2007.

http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/IDPC_Oct2007_AdvocacyGuide_EN.pdf

Missing Targets: Counterproductive drug control efforts in Afghanistan. TNI Drug Policy Briefing No. 24, September 2007

The report points out that the main policy instruments aiming to tackle opium production in Afghanistan - eradication of opium poppy fields and implementing alternative livelihoods projects - are missing their targets.

http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/TNI_BP_MissingTargets_EN.pdf

Women, Harm Reduction, and HIV. Report of the International Harm Reduction Development Programme (IHRD), August, 2007.

This report discusses the difficulties women drug users face in accessing harm reduction, drug treatment, and sexual and reproductive health services. It offers recommendations for policy and service design to better protect the health and rights of women who use drugs, and focuses on Eastern Europe and Asia.

http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/IHRD_WomenHRHIV_EN.pdf

Hepatitis C Among Injecting Drug Users in the New EU Member States and Neighboring Countries: Situation, Guidelines and Recommendations. CEEHRN Briefing Paper, September 2007.

This report describes the situation with hepatitis C among injecting drug users in the 13 countries of the region, and critically examines the availability of HCV prevention services.

http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/CEEHRN_HepatitisCReport_EN.pdf

http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/CEEHRN_HepatitisCReport_RU.pdf

Reducing alcohol and other drug problems in New Zealand's criminal justice system. New Zealand Drug Foundation (Te Tūāpapa Tarukino o Aotearoa) Policy Position, August 2007

This paper presents the New Zealand Drug Foundation's policy position on reducing alcohol and other drugs (AOD) problems in New Zealand's criminal justice system. It is aimed at identifying priorities for action which are supported by evidence. The position is supported by a detailed review of current evidence on effective interventions.

http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/NZDF_ReducingDrugsCriminalJustice_ReviewOfEvidence_EN.pdf

http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/NZDF_ReducingDrugsCriminalJustice_PositionPaper_EN.pdf

Why it's time to legalize drugs?

Article by Ethan Nadelmann, Foreign Policy, September/October 2007 Issue

The "war" on drugs cannot be won. But the United States continues to insist on failed prohibitionist policies that enrich international drug cartels, fuel narcoviolence, and do unnecessary harm to users, says Ethan Nadelmann in the current issue of FOREIGN POLICY magazine. In the September/October cover story, he says that it's time to end prohibition.

<http://idpc.info/php->

[bin/documents/Nadelmann_2007_TimeToLegalize_ForeignPolicy_EN.pdf](http://idpc.info/php-bin/documents/Nadelmann_2007_TimeToLegalize_ForeignPolicy_EN.pdf)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMAAs6o9sCy4>

Upcoming Events

The second annual conference and meeting of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) - 3rd/4th April 2008. Lisbon, Portugal.

The conference will address the themes of drug policy evaluation, drug policy models, drug-related security and nuisance concerns as well as integrated approaches to both licit and illicit drugs. The event is being supported by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the Instituto da Droga e da Toxicodependncia (IDT), Portugal

A call for papers has been issued, with a deadline of October 15th 2007.

www.issdp.org/conferences.htm

"Beyond 2008" NGO Forum on Drugs and its Regional Consultations

A Global NGO Forum contributing to the 10 year Review of Achievement following the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Illicit Drugs. The "Beyond 2008" process consists of a series of regional NGO consultation meetings, culminating in a global meeting in Vienna in July 2008. Details of all these events can be downloaded from www.vngoc.org

The first Regional Consultation (covering Eastern Europe and Central Asia) was held in Kiev, the Ukraine, on 13 - 14 September 2007. Information on this event can be found on the Vienna NGO Committee website. The following regional consultations will be held in the coming two months:

Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Belgrade, 12 - 15 October 2007

Sub-Saharan Africa: Johannesburg, South Africa: 26 - 28 October 2007

Dakar, Senegal 2 - 4 November 2007

Nairobi, Kenya 9 - 11 November 2007

Latin America and the Caribbean: Lima, Peru, 11 - 13 November, 2007

North Africa and the Middle East: Cairo, Egypt, 25 - 26 October 2007

Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Pacific: Macau SAR, China, 31 October - 1 November 2007

Western and Central Europe: Budapest, 24 - 25 January 2008

Please feel free to pass this alert on to any contacts who may be interested in drug policy issues. If you have received this alert in error, or do not wish to continue receiving our alerts, you can unsubscribe yourself by emailing to

aw@internationaldrugpolicy.net

