

PROGRESS REPORT

2022-2023

DECEMBER 2023



Foreword



In a period defined by unprecedented global shifts and uncertainty, I present IDPC's 2022-2023 Progress Report which highlights our network's unwavering commitment to advancing social justice and human rights as the core tenets of drug policies.

Over the past year, IDPC's beautiful, diverse and dynamic network remained strongly connected and unequivocal in our collaborative advocacy for reform. This tenacity has resulted in historic drug policy wins in the form of ambitious and ground-breaking resolutions at the United Nations, both at the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. Both resolutions reflect the growing recognition among many governments of the need to confront the devastating and damaging legacy of drug policies based on racist and colonial prejudices. These ambitious political documents contain the strongest language to date on the need to address systemic racism in drug law enforcement and to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially to the use of their traditional and sacred plants.

As the international community plans towards the next high-level political event in March 2024 - the mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration – we must leverage the momentum of these encouraging policy wins from across the UN system at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna. We will build on our success in strengthening and elevating civil society engagement at the CND to continue to establish the accountability

of governments, and the UN drug control regime, in the face of egregious systemic and racialised human rights violations committed in the name of drug control.

IDPC's role as *the* global network for drug policy reform is underlined throughout all of the key highlights presented in this report from the expansion of our engaging e-course on decriminalisation (which now has over 900 individual learners), to marking the tenth anniversary of the Support. Don't Punish campaign that has mobilised thousands of grassroots groups around the globe, as well as our work to strengthen intersecting feminist approaches to drug policy with amazing women-led partners in Southeast Asia. Read about of this and more in this year's report.

Our belief is that the IDPC network is stronger than the sum of our parts and the power of working in coalition is yielding transformative change as we strive toward a global drug policy system that is in full compliance with international human rights law.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the incredible IDPC team, our members and partners, the Board and the Members Advisory Council, and our allies around the world. Together, we continue to build a future where drug policies are rooted in compassion, human rights and social justice.

Ann Fordham (Executive Director)



As we review the progress of IDPC for the 2022-2023 period, we need to pause to congratulate the team and the wider network on facilitating the reform process in many countries. It must be noted that IDPC through its work at the CND level, has provided an avenue for traditional communities and vulnerable regions to have their voices heard on international regulation that impact their everyday existence. Therefore, issues such as the 'Drug policy impact on women' and 'protecting civil society space' has been significantly impacted because of IDPC's

support and networking. However, the gains made in drug policy reforms at the global level must be protected and supported, and the reduction and shifting of some donor priorities is of great concern for the work of IDPC. It is therefore crucial that we continue to appeal for funding to ensure that much needed reforms are achieved even within the United Nations Conventions.

Vicki Hanson (Chair of IDPC Board of Directors, Jamaica)



In the past year the IDPC has continued to amplify the voices of people who use drugs, focusing on ensuring that the work of its members linked to different communities like women, Indigenous people, people of African Descent and people who use drugs in humanitarian settings enjoys visibility in order to guarantee the protection of their rights. In 2023, the IDPC celebrated ten years of the Support Don't Punish (SDP) campaign through which it has continuously supported grassroots movements and mobilizations across the world.

IDPC's advocacy in international fora has contributed to a shift in global drug policies, culminating with Resolution 52/24 in April 2023 mandating the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights to submit a milestone report on the human rights challenges in addressing the world drug problem.

IDPC has and will continue to support global civil society organizations in influencing global drug policies and calling for a human rights-based approach to drugs.

Michelle Wazan, Skoun (Members Advisory Council, Lebanon)

About IDPC

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of over 190 NGOs that come together to promote national, regional and global drug policies that advance social justice and human rights. Our mission is to amplify and strengthen a diverse global movement to repair the harms caused by punitive drug policies, and promote just responses.

IDPC was founded in 2006. Since 2011, the Secretariat has been an independent, not-for-profit organisation legally registered in the UK, Ghana and the Netherlands, with offices in Accra, Amsterdam, Bangkok and London.

IDPC members align with five core policy principles:

1. Drug policies should be developed through an objective assessment of priorities and evidence
2. Drug policies should comply with national, regional and international human rights principles, laws and standards
3. Drug policies should focus on reducing the harmful consequences rather than the scale of drug use and markets
4. Drug policies should promote social justice and the inclusion of marginalised groups, rather than focus on punitive measures towards them
5. Drug policies should be developed and implemented based on open and constructive relationships with civil society and affected populations.

Voices from the IDPC membership

IDPC's membership survey was shared with IDPC members in December 2022 and received responses until February 2023. Out of IDPC's 191 members, 77 eligible responses were received from 43 different countries. Response rates were highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa, with the latter achieving a 67% response rate.

50 responses from 30 countries reported positive moves towards drug policy reform over 2023, and 20 (from 14 countries) anticipated further positive moves in the following year. 16 countries reported positive developments regarding cannabis reform, 10 of which went beyond the scope of medical cannabis and into the realm of legal regulation. The therapeutic use of psychedelics was also a subject of discussion for some governments, for example in the Netherlands where public funding was provided for research, and in Mexico where a forum on entheogens was held in the Senate.

More than half of the countries surveyed reported positive developments in the field of harm reduction. This included harm reduction 'firsts' in countries such as Egypt, Mozambique and Uganda, where opioid agonist therapy programmes have been introduced for the first time. Progress on safer consumption sites was reported in five countries, while in Canada, programmes of [limited] 'safe supply' have been rolled out.

Positive steps concerning decriminalisation were reported in nine countries and alternatives to incarceration in six. A decriminalisation bill successfully passed in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and will come into effect in October this year. In Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Germany, new progressive governments are expected to pave the way for drug policy reform.

While remarkable progress has been made in terms of drug policy reform this year, 36 respondents from 25 countries reported negative developments and 10 anticipated further negative moves in 2023 (in nine countries). Violence against farmers was reported in Bolivia, Colombia, Kenya and Mexico and almost half of the countries surveyed reported an increase in police repression and crackdowns.

Furthermore, against the backdrop of global progress in harm reduction, many countries reported a number of issues such as funding cuts, service closures and a generalised sense of inertia with regard to the expansion of harm reduction services. Stigma remains highly prevalent against people who use drugs in many countries – including in the highest spheres of government, as reported by respondents from Australia, France, Hungary, Mexico and Serbia.

Positively, with regards to the IDPC membership, reflections were universally positive and showed a great deal of appreciation for the work of the network and the Secretariat:

"Continue your excellent work, including coordination for UN engagement!"

"IDPC does an excellent job and we couldn't ask any more from them, it's up to us to make the effort if we want to engage more"

"The support and engagement from IDPC has always been immense and appreciated"

"Your communications are very good. It's nice also to have the yearly [Support. Don't Punish] campaign to mobilise and engage"

Quotes taken from the responses to the IDPC membership survey 2022.

About this Progress Report

In this Progress Report, we highlight some of the key activities and impacts achieved through IDPC's work for the period running from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, focusing on the five themes of our [Strategic Plan for 2021-2023](#):

- Decriminalisation and criminal justice reforms
- Drug policy impacts on women
- The Support. Don't Punish campaign
- Cross-UN involvement and coherence
- Protecting civil society space

Decriminalisation and criminal justice reforms

Having identified decriminalisation and criminal justice reforms as one of the five 'priority areas' in IDPC's Strategic Plan 2021-2023, work has continued to scale-up towards these aims. The ongoing criminalisation of people who use drugs remains one of the largest barriers to achieving drug policies that are based on social justice and human rights – and this continues to be increasingly recognised and advocated by the United Nations and a wide variety of expert voices.

Having defined and communicated our 'Gold Standard' of decriminalisation, the newly designed IDPC website, relaunched in October 2022, includes a [dedicated portal](#) that captures and promotes the growing body of evidence and materials produced by IDPC and partners. This includes the [Decriminalisation Advocacy Guide](#) (which is now available in [Spanish](#)), the regularly updated [Decrimi-](#)

[nalisation World Map](#) produced in partnership with Talking Drugs, and our flagship [Drug Decriminalisation \[e\]Course](#). June 2022 was also established as IDPC's 'decriminalisation month' – a chance to highlight and launch key resources from across the network, leading up to the [Support Don't Punish](#) Global Day of Action on the 26 June.

The [e]Course in particular has been a focus of the IDPC Secretariat's work in 2022-2023, working in a close and successful partnership with Mainline and the Health[e] Foundation to complete the roll-out in four languages. By October 2022, all seven modules of the course were made freely available in English, with completed translations following in French (with funds from ARASA) and Russian (funded through the Alliance for Public Health), as well as translation of the first three modules into Arabic (with funds secured by the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association – MENAHRA).

Our impact

The global momentum towards the decriminalisation of drug use has continued apace. In 2023, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) launched its '[8th March Principles](#)' to address the harmful human rights impact of unjustified criminalisation, including a clear statement that the law must not proscribe drug use, possession for personal use, possession or distribution of harm reduction equipment and services, etc. Soon after, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution [52/24](#) on 'the human rights implications of drug policy' which calls upon governments 'to consider alternatives to incarceration, conviction and punishment'. At the national level, advocates saw progress towards reforms in Luxembourg and Mauritius to name a few, while state-level reforms were secured in the Australian Capital Territory, Minnesota and Missouri in the USA,



and British Columbia in Canada. However, the fact remains that the 'Gold Standard' is not yet adopted in any country. The weaknesses that exist to varying degrees where decriminalisation is in place present a challenge for advocacy, so IDPC remains committed to promoting models that will have the greatest impacts on the lives, health and rights of people who use drugs.

Case study: IDPC's Drug Decriminalisation [e]Course

At the time of writing, the [e]Course has attracted around 900 individual learners from 100 countries around the world, across the four available languages. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive: the average

satisfaction rate from participants was 91%, with 9 out of 10 participants reporting that they found the modules useful and would recommend the [e]course to others.

In late 2022, the South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD) also took the welcome initiative to use the [e]Course as the basis of their capacity building for community allies and advocates in the country. Building on a decriminalisation roadmap developed earlier in the year, participants were invited to complete the [e]Course and attend live discussions each week with key experts, including several IDPC team and network members. This 'blended learning' model is something that we hope to expand in the coming years. To learn more, watch our [latest video](#).

THE GOLD STANDARD OF DECRIMINALISATION

IDPC's gold standard of decriminalisation is the removal of all sanctions for drug use and related activities, including possession, acquisition, purchase, cultivation and possession of drug use paraphernalia. An increasing number of governments, the United Nations, civil society groups, networks of people who use drugs and academics around the world have acknowledged the urgent need for decriminalisation.

- 1. Don't punish**
Remove all sanctions for drug use and related activities, for all substances
- 2. Support**
Promote voluntary access to systems of care and support
- 3. Community engagement**
Meaningfully involve people who use drugs in design and monitoring
- 4. Redress**
Expunge previous convictions and develop reparations for affected communities
- 5. Compliance**
Comprehensively train authorities to ensure implementation and adherence
- 6. Health & rights**
Redirect resources away from punitive systems towards rights-affirming services

This infographic was developed by the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) based on the Drug Decriminalisation [e]Course and Decriminalisation of people who use drugs: A guide for advocacy, user-friendly resources for people from all sectors who wish to understand the key objectives, principles and concepts relating to decriminalisation of drug use and how to advocate for it. You can find the [e]Course, the Guide, and more information and useful materials on decriminalisation, at www.idpc.net/decriminalisation

idpc
International Drug Policy Consortium



Drug policy impacts on women

Highlighting the drug policy impacts on women remains a top priority for the IDPC network. We began scaling up this work in 2017, expanding our research and advocacy on the issue of women incarcerated for drug offences from Latin America to Southeast Asia. We first started with a regional project focusing on Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, to better understand the nature, driving factors and impacts of the over-incarceration of women due to the enforcement of drug policies (see for example our paper on [Indonesia](#) and a summary report of our [regional dialogue](#)). Later on, IDPC initiated projects supported by [Voice](#) to bolster women's empowerment, including transgender women, and young people who use drugs and/or who are negatively impacted by punitive drug policies (the [INSPIRE project](#)), and to strengthen intersectional feminist approaches to advocate for drug policy reform in Southeast Asia (the [FIFF project](#)).

The main objective of the 3-year INSPIRE project, which began in 2021, is to enable and support women and young people affected by punitive drug policies in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, in particular for those who use drugs, are formerly incarcerated and/or are engaged in sex work, to take action and bring about the changes they want to see. Activities primarily focus on improved access to justice, health and social services, and on influencing change in existing government responses involving criminalisation, punishment, and

inadequate health and social service provision at country, regional and global levels.

Our impact

In the context of some of the most severely punitive drug policy approaches and restrictive environments for civil society activism in the world, the INSPIRE project partners have made outstanding achievements towards empowering and strengthening the influence of women who have been impacted by drug policies in Southeast Asia. Almost 3 years of dedicated efforts (most of it during the COVID-19 pandemic!) have led to notable outcomes, including the establishment of a community-based organisation led by an intersectional group of women who use drugs in Indonesia, known as [Womxn's Voice](#), a women-only drop-in centre by [IDUCARE](#) in the Philippines, and the launch of the first network of women and transgender women who use drugs in Thailand.

Case study: Strengthening the empowerment of women affected by drug policies in Southeast Asia

With the aim of supporting the empowerment and advocacy of women affected by punitive drug policies in Southeast Asia, IDPC started by learning more about the experiences of women imprisoned for drug offences. It became clear from the research carried out by country partners in Indonesia ([LBHM](#)), Thailand ([Ozone Foundation](#)), and the Philippines ([NoBox Philippines](#)), and from

existing research by other institutions, that many women imprisoned for drug offences experience multiple layers of stigma, discrimination and violence that exacerbate their existing marginalisation due to socio-economic factors. This has resulted in problems such as the lack of, or poor quality, legal representation and assistance and the dire need for women-specific harm reduction services.

In 2019, IDPC had the privilege of collaborating with Dristi Nepal – a community harm reduction services and advocacy organisation led by and for women who use drugs in Kathmandu – to deliver a regional workshop on drug policy advocacy and a side event at the annual Asia Pro Bono Conference to sensitise legal sector audiences to the challenges faced by women who use drugs and the need to provide non-judgemental support, including legal assistance. Elsewhere in Southeast Asia, leading representatives of women who use drugs approached IDPC about the need to seek funding to support the empowerment of women who use drugs, trans women who use drugs, and trans women sex workers in leadership and advocacy, leading to various projects involving country partners based in Thailand (Health Opportunity Network - HON), Indonesia (AKSI Keadilan), Cambodia (This Life in Cambodia), Malaysia (Insaf Murni), the Philippines (IDUCare) and Indonesia (Keadilan).

This regional platform facilitated by IDPC enabled the exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned between the country partners that further strengthened their work. This community-led advocacy spurred momentum in support of decriminalisation and harm reduction in Southeast Asia, including amongst important potential allies amongst the LGBTQ+ and women rights communities. In collaboration with organisations such as the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP), IDPC also started focusing on self-care and trauma-informed provision of care for women and young people who use drugs (the need for mental health care became acute during the COVID-19 pandemic), digital advocacy and security, and story-telling skills to strengthen communications and advocacy skills. And as a global network actively engaged in advocating for human rights at the international level, IDPC has also supported country partners to participate in UN processes such as the CND in March 2023. It has been an honour for us to work with incredibly courageous, creative and persistent community and civil society organisations to further the realisation of human rights and harm reduction for women, transgender people and young people who use drugs in the region.

The Support. Don't Punish campaign

The [Support. Don't Punish](#) campaign, coordinated by IDPC since its launch 2013, is a unique global grassroots-centred effort to build sustainable alternatives to the 'war on drugs'. The campaign resources organising and mobilisation by

communities targeted by and resisting repressive drug policies, and their allies. Under a common banner and through a myriad of diverse and creative actions, we promote harm reduction and drug policies that prioritise health, human rights and well-being. Every year, on 26 June (which is also the *International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*), Support. Don't Punish celebrates its [Global Day of Action](#), an invigorating show-of-force for change that offers a counterpoint to the outdated annual commemoration of the status quo.

Our impact

For over a decade, the Support. Don't Punish campaign has cultivated a decentralised movement bringing together thousands of people, working through hundreds of networks, organisations and collectives, to develop our capacity to effect change. Not just to wait for the proverbial 'windows of opportunity' to open, but to mobilise collectively to build a groundswell of support that will push them open.

Through strategic grants, knowledge and communication materials, advocacy, and networking activities, the campaign has fostered dialogue with decision-makers, strengthened hundreds of organisations' mobilisation capacity, and changed hearts and minds including via media and public engagement. In doing so, the campaign leverages not only local knowledge and expertise – favouring community leadership's capacity to identify pressing needs and how to best respond to them, but also international targets and standards – such as the ones outlined by the [Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026](#) and the [UN System Common Position on drugs](#).

The success story of the campaign can be measured in its remarkable growth, evolving from its inception with 41 activities in 22 countries, to over 1,800 actions carried out in more than 110 countries over a decade of campaigning. But this movement's achievements go beyond numbers and are also reflected by the wide range of tools and strategies that campaigners have effectively employed to build a fairer and more compassionate world – from policy forums and press conferences, to street art and film festivals. Besides campaigners' irrepressible ingenuity, the campaign has also cultivated a sense of solidarity between people affected by the 'war on drugs', recognising its intersections with various forms of oppression and promoting cross-movement solidarity to subvert them.

After a decade of mobilisation, the campaign's impact is visible in the increased autonomy with which community networks mobilise, discernible shifts in public narratives regarding drug policy and harm reduction, and the growing receptivity of policy makers to the campaign's key messages — as reflected by dozens of expressions of support and the integration of campaign messages into policy making at the local, regional, national and international levels.



Collage of photos submitted by campaigners from around the world. Credit: Various - Support. Don't Punish

Case study: The 10-year anniversary of the campaign

2022 marked the 10th anniversary of the Support. Don't Punish campaign's Global Day of Action. And campaign local partners worldwide certainly rose to the occasion! On and around 26 June, hundreds of groups and networks organised over 300 activities in 281 cities of 91 countries. IDPC was proud to provide 130 small grants to contribute to initiatives on the ground. The majority of grantees were grassroots collectives, community-led networks (including of people living with HIV, people who use drugs, sex workers, LGBTQ+ people, young people, etc.) and groups working in the Global South.

While the areas of focus, priorities, and strategies of choice vary depending on the context, as the campaign encourages local partners to consider how best to

sustainably respond to the needs of their own communities, we were all united under a shared banner and purpose. Campaigners occupied different places of struggle and change-making, bringing the Support. Don't Punish messages to parliament buildings, public parks, radio stations, online meeting rooms and many more. Their efforts were reflected by 130+ multimedia hits, including newspaper articles, radio shows and audiovisual features – further extending the reach of our collective call. In a similar way, the #SupportDontPunish hashtag appeared on thousands of social media posts, adding to a spectacular groundswell of expressions of support for harm reduction and drug policy reform.

[Growing people power: The Support. Don't Punish 2022 Global Day of Action](#) summarises the powerful and diverse experiences of local partners who mobilised on the 2022 Global Day of Action and beyond.

Cross-UN involvement and coherence

One of the foundational goals of IDPC is to bring drug policy reform to the international drug control bodies that have historically promoted a punitive paradigm based on prohibition, criminalisation, and eradication. We seek to achieve this goal by breaking the monopoly of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) over drug-related matters, ensuring that UN entities with mandates on health, human rights, and development weigh in on drug policy debates, and influencing global policy making. By these standards, the 2022/23 year has been a year of extraordinary achievements, with historical breakthroughs at the UN General Assembly and at the UN human rights system in which IDPC was closely involved.

Our impact

As described in a [briefing paper](#) we published in December 2022, in recent years UN human rights bodies have become increasingly engaged and vocal on the human rights impacts of drug policies, providing recommendations with accelerating speed and ambition. In the 2022/23 period, we have seen an intensification of this trend with three developments that had never happened before – all of them advocated and supported by IDPC.

The first of these developments was the [joint statement](#) by 13 UN human rights experts on the occasion of the 2022

World Drug Day, which contains a powerful condemnation of the ‘war on drugs’. This was the first time that a UN body broke away from the official commemoration of World Drug Day led by the UNODC, which tend to celebrate prohibition and the achievements of the global drug control regime. In doing so, the 13 human rights experts showed that drug control bodies no longer own the narrative on the world drug situation at the UN.

In October 2022 the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, announced that it would start work on a General Comment on drug policies. The General Comment will provide a comprehensive interpretation of the Covenant’s obligations with regards to drug policy for the [160 countries](#) that have ratified this treaty. While not binding, the General Comment will be an authoritative source of standards and recommendations on a wide range of rights, including the rights to health, education, housing, an adequate standard of living, and the right to take part in cultural life. The decision to start work on this General Comment was made immediately after a briefing on drug policy for the Committee was organised by IDPC together with the Global Commission on Drug Policy.

Lastly, in February 2023 a cross-regional group of countries led by Switzerland and Mexico decided to present a new Human Rights Council resolution on human rights in drug policy – the first since 2018. The final text is the [most ambitious](#) political document to date on human rights in drug



policy. Amongst many gains, it breaks the taboo on using the term ‘harm reduction’ in a resolution on drugs, and it requests the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on human rights challenges in drug policy as a contribution to the mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on drugs. IDPC had called for such a resolution for over a year, and coordinated the group of civil society organisations that provided input on the text.

IDPC advocated for these initiatives from the start, including by co-hosting the [Brandenburg Forum Geneva](#) in June 2022, the first in-person convening of like-minded Member State representatives, UN officials, human rights experts, and civil society explicitly focused on aligning human rights with drug policy. The growing pressure of human rights bodies on drug policy has also emerged in Vienna. In March 2023, Volker Türk became the first-ever UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to intervene at the [main session of the CND](#), with a [clear call](#) on Member States to ‘stop the war on drugs’, and to ‘focus on transformative change, crafting drug policies which are based on evidence, which put human rights at their centre’.

[Case study: The UN General Assembly breaks the UN consensus on drugs](#)

UN resolutions on drugs are traditionally adopted without a vote. This approach, which is commonly known as the ‘Vienna consensus’, symbolises the allegedly universal adherence to the prohibitionist paradigm brought about by the UN drug conventions. In a [historical move](#), in December 2022 the UN General Assembly was the first UN political body to break this tradition, adopting by a vote a progressive “omnibus” drugs resolution. IDPC has long advocated for a revised and more ambitious “omnibus” resolution at the UN General Assembly and supported the 2022 resolution from the start which garnered endorsement from a majority of Member States towards a health and human rights-based approach to drugs.

As it is normally the case for drug “omnibus” resolutions at the UN General Assembly, Mexico was the penholder for this text. Instead of simply repeating agreed language from prior years, the zero draft included bold innovations on critical issues such as systemic racism in law enforcement and Indigenous Peoples’ rights. Most notably, it was the first drugs resolution to not include a call on all Member States to strive for a ‘society free of drug abuse’ – the unattainable goal of a ‘drug-free world’ that has justified so much harm.

Unhappy with the text proposed by Mexico, the Russian Federation broke the historical consensus on drugs by calling for a vote. A total of 124 Member States voted in favour of the resolution, while only nine voted against, and 45 abstained. This result shows that the ‘Vienna consensus’ has been an instrument to hold back progress on drug policy making, pushing the international community towards policies and narratives that are far more

conservative than those of a majority of Member States. In the coming year, IDPC will ensure that this lesson is heard across all UN bodies.

Protecting civil society space & building alliances

Expanding civil society space in policy making, and building our capacity, knowledge and imagination to leverage it, is what IDPC is all about. With most COVID-19-related restrictions being lifted in the past year, the IDPC network was finally able to reconnect in person. This enabled us to work together on how best to protect the gains made in ensuring transparency and global outreach facilitated by virtual events, while pushing for the in-person space to expand further. At the same time, we joined hands with other global movements in our common agenda to empower marginalised groups and promote social justice.

[Our impact](#)

At the UN, our efforts to protect civic space focused on the [CND](#), to counter the worrying attempts by various countries to shut down civil society participation, in particular in the lead up to the 2024 mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. We mobilised like-minded countries to fight back against this concerning trend, while supporting civil society to participate meaningfully in the Commission.

For years, the [Brandenburg Forum](#) has been a space for civil society to strategise with friendly Member States ahead of the CND. Thanks to the Forum, and regular informal meetings with government officials, we secured strong civil society engagement for the 2024 mid-term review. In the meantime, the 66th session of the CND, held in March 2023, featured strong and coordinated civil society voices calling for reform, while many government delegates urged the CND to meaningfully involve civil society in its proceedings.

Our work was not solely limited to the UN. In Latin America, IDPC supported our members in the region to urge the Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) to meaningfully engage civil society in its debates. This notably resulted in the organisation of a [powerful side event](#) on gender and drug policy at the 72nd session of CICAD, which featured voices from affected communities from across Latin America.

In Europe, our advocacy efforts centred on influencing the adoption of a [new mandate](#) for the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction. The first draft of the new mandate had raised many concerns, among them an overwhelming focus on drug law enforcement and supply reduction, and a very weak mention of civil society. After tireless advocacy efforts over the best part of the year targeting EU Member States and members of

the European Parliament, we were delighted to see a final text much more geared towards health, harm reduction and human rights, and the inclusion of strong language that will guarantee meaningful civil society participation in the daily work of the EMCDDA.

Case study: Transparency, accountability and NGO coordination at the CND

The CND constitutes a highpoint in IDPC's activities, as we coordinate the network to maximise our influence on the proceedings. Ahead of the [66th session](#), civil society had already made their mark on the CND. For many years, we have called for the CND to be recorded on UN Web TV – the audiovisual archive of the UN. In the past, this request was consistently denied due to budget constraints. COVID-19 enabled the webcasting of the CND, but they were only available live without being recorded. Although the 66th session was once again going to be hybrid, it was announced a month before the CND that it would only be livestreamed for those officially registered to attend online (rather than webcast more broadly) – undermining previous gains made in terms of outreach, especially for NGOs without ECOSOC accreditation. After much civil society advocacy and pressure from various Member States, the CND Secretariat eventually accepted, for the first time in history, to publicly broadcast and record the CND on [UN Web TV](#).

Of course, our work did not end there. After years of mostly virtual engagement due to the pandemic, for many civil society representatives the CND was their first global in-person gatherings in over two years. From IDPC's Secretariat, we were delighted to welcome many network colleagues and friends – old and new – in Vienna at our pre-CND orientation meeting, which gathered more than 100 NGO representatives from all corners of the world. This yearly meeting is an important moment for our network to coordinate our joint advocacy efforts at the CND and other UN fora. As always, IDPC also held pre-CND webinars, other online trainings, and coordinated the [CND Blog](#) and the [CND App](#) to help guide CND attendees throughout the week.

And it was well worth the effort. The reformist NGO voice [rang loud and clear](#) throughout the 66th session of the CND, on issues as varied as decriminalisation, legal regulation, access to harm reduction, youth participation, the need for treaty reform, and much more. Positively, various civil society and community representatives were included in their official government delegation, enabling them to have a stronger influence on their government positions and to participate in closed meetings. Although much remains to be done to secure strong civil society participation at the UN, the CND is a good example of how the IDPC network and other groupings such as the VNGOC, have pushed the boundaries of NGO participation with sustained advocacy.



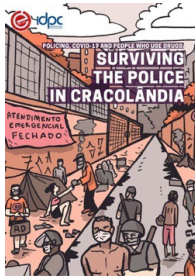
IDPC pre-CND orientation meeting. Credit: István Gábor Takács

Our Publications



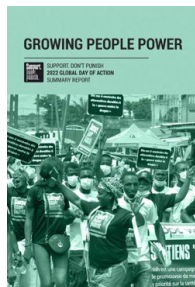
Drug Decriminalisation [e]Course

The Drug Decriminalisation [e]Course is a free online learning course available in Arabic, English, French and Russian. Developed by IDPC, Mainline, Frontline AIDS and the Health[e]Foundation, the course provides the knowledge, evidence, tools and real-life examples needed to advocate for decriminalisation.



Policing, COVID-19 and people who use drugs: Surviving the police in Cracolândia

É de Lei documents the escalation of police violence during and after the COVID-19 lockdown period, as well as the strategies of harm reduction and community mobilisation to resist and fight for the rights of people who use drugs.



Growing people power: The Support. Don't Punish 2022 Global Day of Action - Summary report

The Support. Don't Punish campaign offers an overview of activities carried out as part of the Global Day of Action in 2022, which in their own unique ways helped connect policymaking processes with realities on the ground.



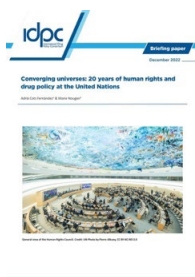
7th Brandenburg Forum on Drugs and Development Policies report

The Forum reunited government, UN and civil society experts to discuss development, health and human rights challenges in relation to drug control ahead of the 2024 mid-term review of implementation of the 2019 Political Declaration.



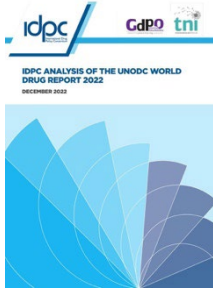
The spectre of article 14: The INCB Report for 2021, regulated cannabis markets and the board's potential enforcement measures

IDPC addresses the tensions facing the INCB, and the global drug control regime as a whole, in relation to the increasing number of jurisdictions adopting legally regulated markets, and concludes on the need for reform and modernisation.



Converging universes: 20 years of human rights and drug policy at the United Nations

IDPC highlights how the increasing involvement of UN human rights entities in drug policy debates has paved the way for greater, yet still insufficient, consideration of health, human rights and development.



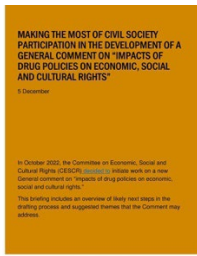
IDPC analysis of the UNODC World Drug Report 2022

IDPC welcomes the report’s impressive range of data and analysis, as well as its attention to environmental impacts; but regrets the continued lack of acknowledgement of the destructive impact of punitive drug policies, related human rights abuses and opportunities for meaningful reform.



IDPC Progress Report 2021-2022

IDPC highlight some of the key activities and impacts achieved through IDPC’s work for the period running from April 2021 to March 2022, focusing on the five themes of our Strategic Plan for 2021-2023.



UN CESCR general comment on drug policies: Maximising civil society engagement

This briefing outlines likely next steps in the drafting process and suggested themes for the Comment to address.



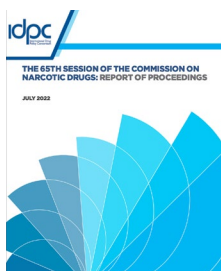
Preparations for an inclusive and meaningful mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration in 2024

IDPC draws from lessons learnt from prior reviews to provide recommendations on the possible format and outcomes for the 2024 mid-term review.



2nd Brandenburg Forum (BBF) in Geneva: Aligning drug policies with human rights - Meeting report

This meeting report summarises key debates and interventions, and provides an account of the priorities identified by participants.



The 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Report of proceedings

The 65th Session of the CND was characterised by tensions resulting from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the increasingly vocal support for a human rights-approach by most UN representatives, and the resilient engagement and sharp interventions by civil society.



Women who use drugs in Indonesia: The harmful impacts of drug control

IDPC describes the public health impact of punitive law enforcement on women who use drugs, offering recommendations for an evidence-informed and gender-sensitive response to drug use and HIV.



The World Drug Report 2021: A critical assessment of projected increases in African drug use

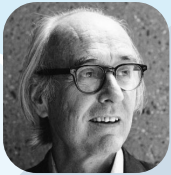
IDPC and the GDPO analyse the limitations of the data and methodologies in the report, and explore the implications of these shortcomings for drug policy in Africa.

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(Vice Chair)*



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Jane Waterman



Rupert Markland



Smriti Rana



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(joined in July 2022)



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Ernestien Jensema - IDPC
Board member

* Donald left IDPC's Board of Directors in July 2023 and was replaced by Smriti Rana as Vice Chair

** The following members left IDPC's Members Advisory Council in July 2023. For the latest list, please visit [our website](#).

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Maria-Goretti Ane
IDPC Consultant: Africa



Dave Bewley-Taylor
Associate



Thanks to our interns Christopher Winter-Goodwin and David Sagradian, whose work was critical to the smooth running of the IDPC Secretariat between April 2022 and March 2023.

Donors

Between April 2022 and March 2023, IDPC received the valuable financial support of:

- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- Global Commission on Drug Policy
- Global Fund (via MENAHRA)
- Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPDPD) – managed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Open Society Foundations
- Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Voice – via Asia Catalyst
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Our members:

Global

1. AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)
2. Beckley Foundation
3. Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE)
4. Drugs, Security and Democracy Program of the Social Science Research Council (DSD - SSRC)
5. Health Poverty Action
6. Human Rights Watch
7. International AIDS Society
8. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
9. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies
10. Frontline AIDS (formerly International HIV/AIDS Alliance)
11. International Network of People of Who Use Drugs
12. Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)
13. Mainline
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18. Transnational Institute
19. Women's Harm Reduction International Network
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21. World Hepatitis Alliance
22. Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
23. Youth Rise

Western Europe

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25. AIDES

26. AKZEPT
27. Ana Liffey Drug Project
28. Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo (ABD)
29. Associazione Luca Coscioni - ALC
30. Autosupport des usagers de drogues (ASUD)
31. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
32. Correlation European Harm Reduction Network
33. Episteme - Investigación e Intervención Social
34. European Network of People Who Use Drugs
35. Fachverband Sucht
36. Federación Andaluza ENLACE
37. Fédération Addiction
38. Fédération Bruxelloise Francophone des Institutions pour Toxicomanes (FEDITO BXL)
39. Finnish Association for Humane Drug Policy
40. Forum Droghe
41. Gadejuristen (the Street Lawyers)
42. Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions
43. Metzineres
44. Norwegian Association for Humane Drug Policies
45. Norwegian Association for Safer Drugs Policies
46. Organisation for the Prevention of Intense Suffering
47. Preventio
48. Recovering Justice
49. Release
50. Rights Reporter Foundation
51. RIO
52. Scottish Drugs Forum
53. STEPS for people
54. Transform Drug Policy Foundation
55. Trimbos Instituut
56. Unión de Asociaciones y Entidades de Atención al Drogodependiente (UNAD)
57. Youth Organisations for Drug Action

South East Europe

58. Aksion Plus
59. Association Margina
60. Association Prevent
61. Association Terra Croatia (Udruga Terra)
62. Drug Policy Network South East Europe
63. Greek Drug and Substitute User Union
64. Healthy Options Project Skopje
65. Initiative for Health Foundation
66. NGO Viktorija
67. Praksis
68. Re Generation
69. Romanian Harm Reduction Network
70. South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction Treatment Network
71. YCC Juventas

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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76. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association
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78. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
79. Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
80. Polish Drug Policy Network
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82. Acción Andina - Bolivia
83. Acción Semilla Boliviana
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85. Andean Information Network
86. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
87. Brazilian Drug Policy Platform
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101. Elementa, Consultoría en Derechos
102. Equis Justicia Para las Mujeres
103. Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma
104. Guyanese Association of Harm Reduction
105. Iniciativa Negra por Uma Nova Política sobre Drogas
106. Institute for Land Work and Citizenship (ITTC)
107. Instituto RIA
108. Intercambios
109. Intercambios Puerto Rico
110. International Centre for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service (ICEERS)
111. México Unido Contra la Delincuencia
112. Nierika AC
113. Psicotropicus
114. Red Americana de Intervención en Situaciones de Sufrimiento Social (RAISSS)

115. Red Chilena de Reducción de Daños
116. Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos
117. RESET - Política de Drogas y Derechos Humanos
118. ReverdeSer Colectivo
119. Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

North America

120. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
121. Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy
122. HIV Legal Network (formerly Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network)
123. Community Addictions Peer Support Association
124. Drug Policy Alliance
125. Harm Reduction Nurses Association
126. Help Not Handcuffs
127. Institute for Policy Studies
128. National Harm Reduction Coalition
129. Pivot
130. StoptheDrugWar.org

East and Southeast Asia

131. BABSEACLE
132. Center of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERia)
133. Drug Policy Advocacy Group
134. IDUCARE
135. Indonesian Association of Addiction Counsellors (IAAC)
136. Indonesian Coalition for Drug Policy Reform
137. Indonesian Harm Reduction Network (Jangkar)
138. LBH Masyarakat
139. Malaysian AIDS Council
140. Rumah Cemara (Indonesia)
141. Supporting Community Development Initiatives (Vietnam)
142. NoBox Transitions Foundation (Philippines)

South Asia

143. India HIV/AIDS Alliance
144. Indian Drug Users' Forum (IDUF)
145. Lawyers Collective
146. Ozone Foundation
147. Recovering Nepal
148. Society for the Promotion of Youth & Masses

Oceania

149. Alcohol and Drug Foundation (formerly Australian Drug Foundation)
150. Drug Policy Australia
151. Harm Reduction Australia
152. New Zealand Drug Foundation

- 153. New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme
- 154. Penington Institute
- 155. Uniting

Middle East/North Africa

- 156. Association de Lutte Contre le Sida
- 157. Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Network (MENAHRN)
- 158. Regional Arab Network against AIDS
- 159. Skoun Lebanese Addiction Centre

Sub-Saharan Africa

- 160. African Law Foundation (AFRILAW)
- 161. African Network of People who Use Drugs
- 162. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
- 163. Alliance Nationale des Communautés pour la Santé
- 164. Association Sénégalaise pour la Réduction des Risques Infectieux chez les Groupes Vulnérables
- 165. Bensther Development Foundation
- 166. CONAD-CI
- 167. Collectif Urgence Toxida
- 168. Développement-Rassemblement-Information et Prévention (DRIP)
- 169. Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform (DPHRP)
- 170. Drug Harm Reduction Advocacy Network Nigeria (DHRAN)
- 171. Foundation against Illicit Drug and Child Abuse (FADCA)
- 172. Foyer du Bonheur
- 173. Institute for Drug Control and Human Security
- 174. Kenyan AIDS NGOs Consortium
- 175. NEXTGEN Lawyers
- 176. Paroles autour de la santé (PAS)
- 177. Perle Sociale ONG
- 178. PILS
- 179. POS Foundation
- 180. REVS PLUS
- 181. TB/HIV Care Alliance
- 182. Uganda Harm Reduction Network
- 183. UNIDOS
- 184. Union Contre la Co-infection VIH/Hépatites/ Tuberculose
- 185. Village Health Action
- 186. Voices of Community Action and Leadership (VOCAL-KE)
- 187. West Africa Civil Society Initiative
- 188. West Africa Drug Policy Network
- 189. Women NEST
- 190. Youth RISE Nigeria
- 191. Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network

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The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs that come together to promote drug policies that advance social justice and human rights. IDPC's mission is to amplify and strengthen a diverse global movement to repair the harms caused by punitive drug policies, and to promote just responses.

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Check out this exciting overview of IDPC's key activities and our impacts on drug policies worldwide between April 2022 and March 2023.

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Report design by Rudy Tun-Sánchez

