

PROGRESS REPORT

2023-2024

SEPTEMBER 2024





Foreword

Welcome to IDPC's latest progress report! This report captures the resilience, dedication and groundbreaking achievements of our network, reflecting a global movement that is not just growing, but thriving.

The period of our previous Strategic Plan (2021-2023) is marked by several significant milestones towards a genuine progressive shift in the global drug policy debate. Our movement has grown in diversity, credibility and impact at all levels – and together we have mobilised an increasing number of powerful voices to call for a paradigm shift in drug policies. These voices include senior UN officials (in particular from the human rights system), political leaders and diverse civil society and community actors from across the globe.

One of the most exhilarating highlights of this past year is witnessing the IDPC network's collective influence at the UN. At the recent 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), our sustained advocacy efforts to destabilise the long-held 'Vienna consensus' (which for decades has prioritised repression and punishment based on zero-tolerance ideology) bore fruit as Member States voted for the first time in almost half a decade on a resolution that explicitly included the term 'harm reduction'. IDPC is at the forefront of efforts to centre health and human rights in global drug policy, and collectively our network has been pivotal in steering the global conversation towards a more progressive approach across all UN settings and beyond.

As the global momentum to end the war on drugs gathers pace with several jurisdictions taking up reforms, we also witness a counterattack from prohibitionists who seek to undermine efforts towards decriminalisation and harm reduction. This can be read as an effort to push back against urgently needed reforms which must continue to be funded and defended, especially in the face of

an escalating drug toxicity crisis – which is a predictable result of prohibition. The draconian policies that have driven this crisis will not be what is needed to save lives – a dramatic and transformative approach is urgent.

Harm reduction services such as drug checking, safer use spaces and safe supply initiatives to protect users from a toxic and unpredictable drug supply have been pioneered by community groups across the world. Communities who are most affected are the experts on what they most need and it is in support of grassroots action that, 10 years ago, IDPC worked with civil society and community partners to launch the global [Support. Don't Punish](#) campaign. Now over a decade old, the campaign has become a [catalyst for change](#), providing a unique vehicle for our vibrant movement to mobilise and promote support, care and compassion over punishment, imprisonment and violence. Nurturing our movement's grassroots, supporting those most impacted by punitive policies, and working together to prevent harmful reforms, will be more critical in the coming year than ever before.

I hope you will enjoy reading this report which is a true testament to the collective efforts and steadfast commitment of the IDPC network in striving for a historic change of direction towards a better world – one where collective well-being, solidarity, evidence and compassion shape how we respond to the complex realities of drug use, cultivation, production and supply.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our members, partners and donors for their solidarity and continued support. As we embark upon a new strategic plan that will take us all the way to 2027 we will work together to make strides towards a future where drug policies are truly rooted in human rights and social justice.

In solidarity,

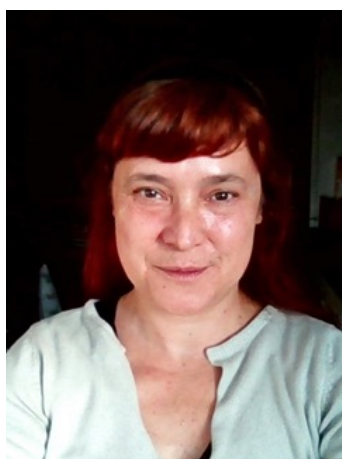
Ann Fordham (Executive Director)



With the Strategic Planning period that ended in 2023, the IDPC team continued to build upon its key pillars of work: networking and communications; research, publications and tools for advocacy; international advocacy; regional and national advocacy; and capacity strengthening. It is from these five pillars that the work of IDPC for the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 will progress, with the efforts of our team being focused on the areas of decriminalisation, working for the adoption of responsible legal regulation, reforming the international drug control system, bringing new funding to the drug policy reform movement, and influencing public

support and the media. These key areas of focus can be viewed as another layer of tenets that will lead to a fairer international drug policy framework that prioritises human rights, improving access to health, and advancing social justice for some of the most marginalised groups and communities. The IDPC team has developed significant expertise, and is recognised globally for their support in the field of international drug policies to several countries.

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



I first heard about IDPC during the initial “Support, Don’t Punish” campaign 11 years ago. Since then, I have witnessed the increasing involvement of people who use drugs in campaigns and actions to hold governments accountable for the harms caused by prohibitionist and punitive drug policies.

IDPC has been a crucial ally for people who use drugs and community-led organisations in participating in forums advocating for a human rights-based drug policy. Moreover, it has been a partner for these organisations in consortia to access funding, contributing to the effective participation of affected communities. Recently, IDPC developed the gold standard of decriminalisation, which allows us to

understand the strengths and weaknesses of each implemented model, including social sharing as a necessary condition for a truly destigmatising decriminalisation model for drug use.

This past year has been marked by the release of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ report which recommends the responsible regulation of all drugs so that drug policy truly becomes human rights based and harm reduction is accessible without barriers of discrimination. It wouldn’t be the same without the IDPC.

Ligia Parodi, EuroNPUD (Members Advisory Council, Portugal)

About IDPC

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of over 190 NGOs from more than 70 countries that come together to promote 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, it has been an independent, not-for-profit organisation legally registered in the UK, and has since opened additional offices in Ghana, the Netherlands and Thailand.

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

Below are a few quotes from responses to our latest IDPC Members Survey (2022). Thanks so much to all of our Members for their support and kind words!

We are pleased and have excellent experience working with IDPC · Continue your excellent work, including coordination for UN engagement! · **We appreciate the ongoing support provided in this challenging time** · The support and engagement from IDPC has always been immense and appreciated · **IDPC materials contribute significantly to our discussions** · IDPC does an excellent job and we couldn't ask any more from them · **Happy to have joined the network** · We are very grateful to IDPC for expert support we are receiving from the Secretariat team upon request · **Thank you for your activism and efficient coordination of all our effort** · Your communications are very good. It's nice also to have the yearly campaign to mobilise and engage · **Keep doing what you're doing!**

About this Progress Report

2023 marked the end of our [Strategic Plan for 2021-2023](#). To reflect on the progress we have made over that time, this Progress Report offers an overview of our key activities and impacts since 2021, focusing on the five priority themes we had identified in our Strategic Plan. We will also highlight specific wins from the past year:

- [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](#)

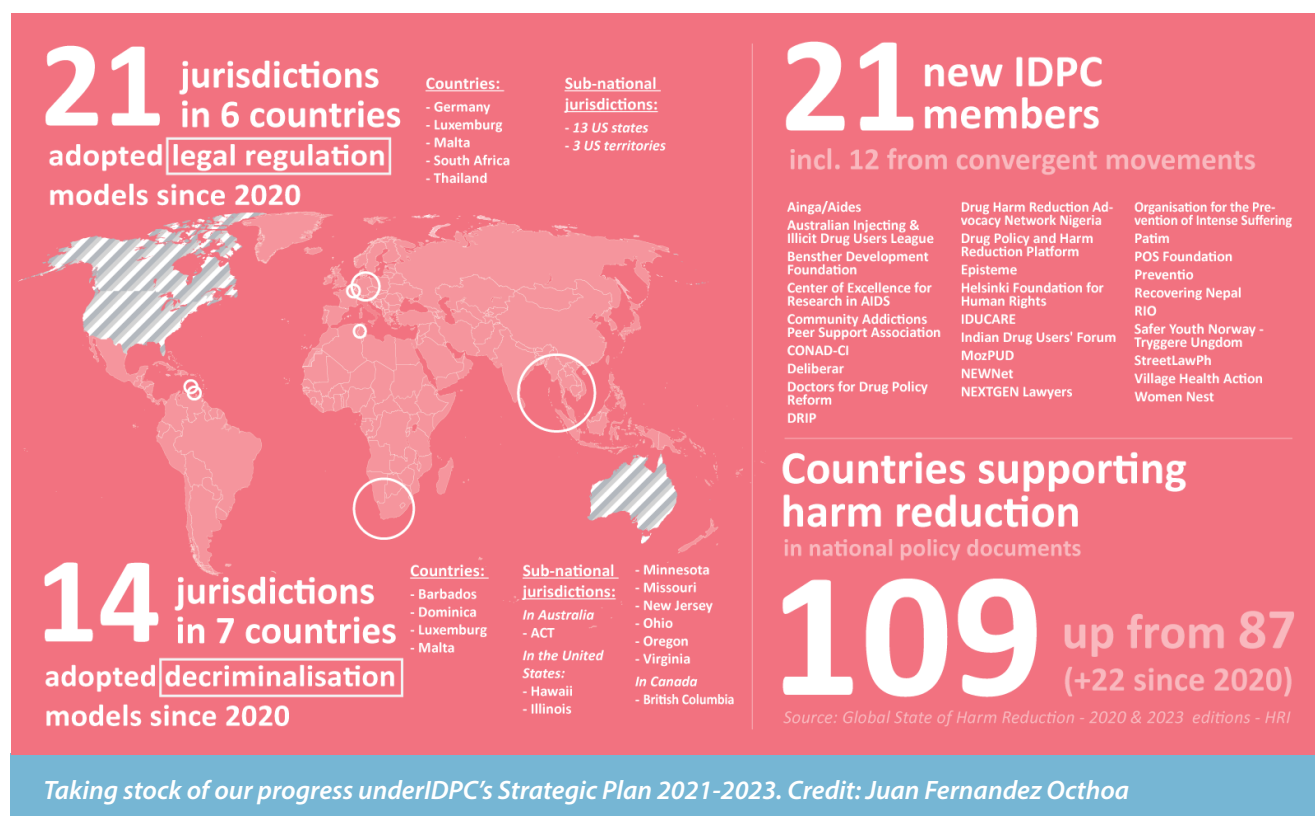
Decriminalisation and criminal justice reforms

The ongoing criminalisation of people who use drugs remains a significant barrier to social justice and human rights. Criminalisation underpins a repressive approach and a so-called 'war on drugs', yet fuels health harms (most recently a global overdose crisis) and exacerbates inequalities and stigma. Yet over the past three years, the [decriminalisation](#) of drug use and related activities has

continued to gather momentum – both in terms of international normative support and country-level reform.

IDPC's network identified this as a key strategic priority for 2021-2023 and again for the 2024-2027 period – demonstrating its importance for the movement as a whole. Over this time, IDPC has delivered a wide range of tools, resources and actions to help promote a '[Gold Standard](#)' model of decriminalisation. Although this model has yet to be fully realised, it represents the culmination of the IDPC network's long-term research and expertise on decriminalisation.

Under the Strategic Plan 2021-2023, IDPC released a [Decriminalisation Advocacy Guide](#) (in English and Spanish), outlining our positions and messaging including the articulation of our 'Gold Standard'. Since 2021, IDPC has also worked with a coalition of expert partners to deliver a flagship [Drug Decriminalisation \[e\]Course](#) – with seven interactive and open access modules now freely available in English, Arabic, French and Russian. In 2024, the [e]Course reached 1,000 individual users from more than 100 countries around the world, and the feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive. IDPC has also continued to update and maintain a [Decriminalisation World Map](#) in partnership with Talking Drugs / Release and the Drug Policy Alliance. This has helped to track the growth of this response – from 46 jurisdictions in 2020 to 60 at the time of writing.



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



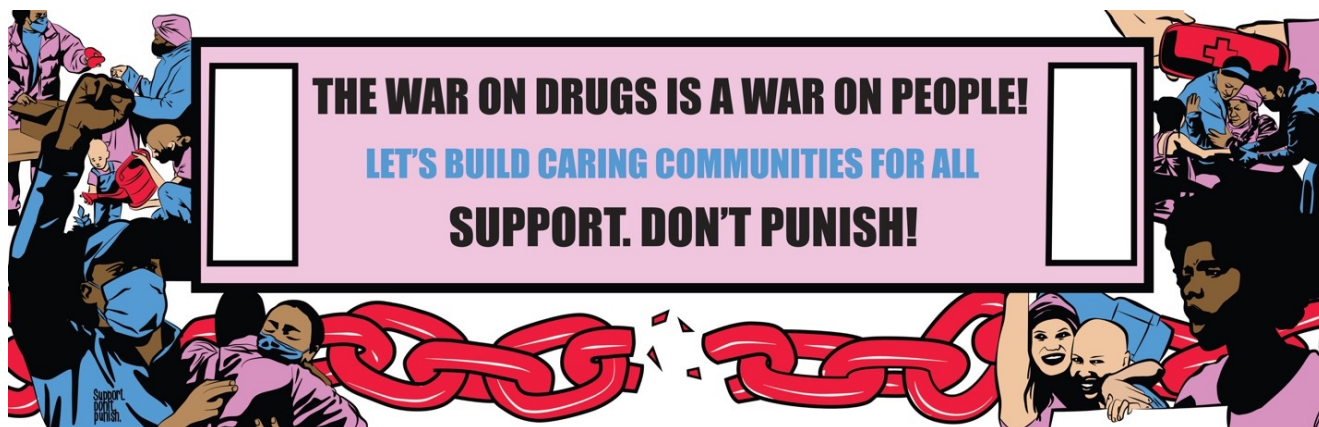
This infographic was developed by the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) based on the Drug Decriminalisation [e]Course and Decriminalisation of people who use drugs: A guide for advocacy, user-friendly resources for people from all sectors who wish to understand the key objectives, principles 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



What we have achieved over the past year

Further to the increase in jurisdictions adopting decriminalisation models – with reforms noted in Luxembourg, the Australian Capital Territory, the US states of Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio, and British Columbia in Canada over the past 12 months – there has continued to be a groundswell of high-level support for this evidence- and rights-based approach. Building on the foundations laid by the UN common positions on [drugs](#) (2018) and [incarceration](#) (2021) and the [Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026](#), normative endorsements for the decriminalisation of drugs continued throughout 2023 and 2024. In March 2023, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) launched its [8th March Principles](#) including a clear statement that the law must not proscribe drug use or related behaviours. Later

that month, IDPC played a central role in advocating for, negotiating and then analysing and disseminating [Human Rights Council Resolution 52/24](#) on 'the human rights implications of drug policy' which called upon governments 'to consider alternatives to incarceration, conviction and punishment'. The resolution also mandated the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to release a [report](#) in time for the high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2024. The report is one of the strongest compendiums to date of the damage caused by drug policies, and the need for comprehensive reforms and progressive alternatives. In the report, the OHCHR concluded that 'If effectively designed and implemented, decriminalization can be a powerful instrument to ensure that the rights of people who use drugs are protected'. Going beyond decriminalisation,



the OHCHR's report calls on Member States to consider responsible regulation and to 'review convictions and/or sentences and, where appropriate, quash, commute or reduce convictions and/or sentences'.

Case study: Rising in defence of decriminalisation

While international support for decriminalisation is expanding, the last 12 months have also seen orchestrated political push back against reforms in various settings – a stark reminder of the continuous vulnerability of reforms to political change, populism and conservative media narratives. It also underlined the need to be realistic about what decriminalisation can, and cannot, achieve – it is far from a panacea to all social problems, especially when sub-optimal models are in place or where reforms are not translated into adequate funding or on-the-ground practices. As such, defending existing decriminalisation policies has become just as important to IDPC's ongoing work in this area as promoting new reforms.

To this end, in October 2023, IDPC partnered with Dejusticia (Colombia), the Drug Policy Alliance (USA), the European Network of People who Use Drugs, GAT (Portugal), Release (UK), the South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD), the Support Don't Punish campaign and Talking-Drugs to host the first in a series of online events entitled 'In defence of decriminalisation'. Speakers from four continents explored the ongoing challenges they faced locally to secure meaningful decriminalisation, with the presentation from the USA focusing on the [case of Oregon](#). Data show a huge drop in drug possession arrests, and increases in the number of people accessing a wide range of harm reduction, treatment, housing and support services. Yet the policy was blamed by its opponents for not reducing homelessness and overdoses – wider and systematic problems across the USA – leading state politicians to retrace the steps taken to reform drug policies.

Going forward, IDPC will continue to mobilise and support efforts to resist such backlash and coordinated attacks on decriminalisation, while also progressing a nuanced and honest debate about what aspects of decriminalisation are most effective – in line with our 'Gold Standard'.

Drug policy impacts on women

One of IDPC's key strategic priorities for the past three years has centred on highlighting the disproportionate impacts of drug policies on women – with a focus on Asia and Latin America. Last November, IDPC, WOLA, Dejusticia and Mujeres Libres produced a [10-year review](#) of our joint advocacy aiming to reduce the rate of incarceration of women for drug offences in Latin America, highlighting key successes, challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities for the future. On the other side of the world, thanks to valuable funding [Voice](#), IDPC worked alongside local and regional partners across Southeast Asia to support women, including transgender women, and young people affected by drug policies to generate change and challenge multiple systems of oppression to achieve gender equality, ensure improved access to justice, health and social services, and advocate for decarceration and decriminalisation – through an intersectional perspective.

What we have achieved over the past year

Thanks to two projects funded by Voice, we strengthened the capacity of intersectional women-led networks in the region to empower their peers and advocate for actions to address human rights abuses against women who use drugs, and for drug policy reforms, both at national and international levels. The networks are growing with increased visibility and participation across various platforms, raising their voices to promote gender-sensitive approaches in drug policies. IDPC and Yayasan Suar Perempuan Lingkar Napza Nusantara in Indonesia were able to engage regional and national networks working with sex workers, LGBTQ+ people, Indigenous women, refugees, and women living with disabilities in advocacy on harm reduction and decriminalisation during a regional thematic meeting we organised in Phuket, Thailand.

Case study: Promoting intersectionality at the UN

In an effort to support the efforts of community organisations to influence policy change, IDPC and various project partners held a series of activities to lift up the voices of affected communities at the CND session in Vienna in



March 2024. Using IDPC's experience in advocating for reform at the CND, we held capacity building sessions for our three partners on the mandate, role and advocacy opportunities at the CND. Partners then organised consultations with their peers to identify key priority advocacy issues and recommendations for change to be presented to policy makers in Vienna. IDPC also helped to organise a pre-CND briefing with the Thai and Indonesian policy makers – including the Indonesian drug control agency and Thai health and human rights agencies.

To boost our advocacy aiming to provide gender-sensitive harm reduction services, reduce the use of detention and imprisonment, and address human rights violations against women (including by law enforcement and prison staff), IDPC worked with the partners on an [advocacy paper](#) which was launched at the CND – including during meetings with policy makers from their own country and European Member States. We also collaborated on the CND side event '[Breaking barriers and building bridges: navigating justice for womxn who use drugs](#)' – a truly intersectional feminist effort with ASEAN SOGIE Caucus serving as the lead applicant, and speakers from the Women and Harm Reduction International Network and the International Indigenous Drug Policy Alliance.

The Support. Don't Punish campaign

[The Support. Don't Punish campaign](#) – one of our key strategic priorities between 2021 and 2023 – is a global, grassroots-centred initiative building sustainable alternatives to

the harmful 'war on drugs'. At the core of that vision are [harm reduction](#) and [decriminalisation](#), as necessary strategies to affirm community rights and promote everyone's wellbeing. To advance toward this goal, over the past 12 years, the campaign has [resourced thousands of campaigners](#) in over 120 countries with communication and knowledge materials, trainings, and technical and financial support. Organising under a shared transnational banner, yet guided by their communities' needs and realities, campaigners subvert punitive narratives, practices and policies to propose caring and non-judgemental responses instead.

What we have achieved over the past year

Our campaigners' 'toolbox' for change is as wide ranging as our collective ingenuity and resolve. From sports and cultural events to media trainings and press conferences, to dialogues with policy makers and parliamentarians, the campaign has fostered the organisation of over 2,100 impactful activities that strengthen local partners' mobilisation capacity and accelerate momentum for reform.

The [2023 Global Day of Action](#), which marks the yearly campaign high point around 26 June, was a resounding success, building on over a decade of sustained efforts to strengthen local, national and transnational 'ecosystems of change'. IDPC was delighted to provide small grants to 121 local partners, with a focus on community-led networks resisting the 'war on drugs'. The range of participants and activities is a testament to the campaign's capacity to mobilise people, inform the media and the public, and foster dialogue with decision-makers.



Collage of submissions by 2023 Global Day of Action local partners and supporters from across the globe, including community leaders, UN officials, and many more. Credit: Multiple sources

In addition to the Global Day of Action, the campaign's third edition of the Initiatives Programme supported six partners in the realisation of strategic, creative and collaborative workplans in Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Mali, Poland and Russia. By highlighting human rights abuses, showcasing lived experiences through the arts, and engaging public authorities (such as prison authorities, judges and prosecutors) on community needs, the [Initiatives Programme](#) moved the dial in the direction of reform.

The campaign's participation in (and organisation of) a number of key events and conferences contributed to sustaining and growing our networks, fostering strategic exchanges on harm reduction advocacy, and sharing our latest [communication and knowledge materials](#).

As demonstrated by a lifetime evaluation process, of which the results will be presented at the 25th International AIDS Conference, the campaign remains a unique

global show of force for harm reduction, sparking debate and change at the local and national levels. Crucially, the absolute majority of campaigners (almost 200 surveyed!) sees value in their engagement with the campaign, noting it contributes to strengthening their own work, developing their organising capacity, undermining stigma, building bridges for dialogue and influence, reaching out to sister movements, and ultimately changing punitive policies and practices.

Case study: The Global Day of Action and community resistance against the 'war on drugs'

The Global Day of Action is a cornerstone of the Support. Don't Punish campaign, drawing thousands of people into dialogue and action each year. The Day is marked around 26 June, as a counterpoint to the official 'International Day



Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking’, which has historically been commemorated in highly violent and punitive terms.

The 2023 Global Day of Action was a powerful one, with activities held in 297 cities across 96 countries — including the first one in Madagascar! From [conversations on harm reduction and bodily autonomy](#) over salsa tunes in Peru; to a [running event led by community leaders](#) in Uganda; a [multi-city flash mob campaign](#) highlighting the needs of people who use drugs amidst the war in Ukraine; and through to a [week-long series of events](#) on alternatives to ‘zero tolerance’ in Singapore, the day brimmed with the creativity and determination of thousands of campaigners committed to building a world where everyone in our communities can belong and thrive.

The Global Day of Action was also impactful in the media, with 120 items shared by local partners. This ever-growing media coverage helped amplify our messages and broaden our audiences, whilst also prompting us to continue developing our media engagement capacity. In the coming months, a new campaign media strategy will see the light and provide pointers for local partners worldwide.

As we took stock of the Day, our Feedback Form asked local partners whether their participation made them more

confident in effecting change for their community. Every single respondent answered affirmatively, highlighting the Day’s significance not only as a policy advocacy tool but also in strengthening our movements’ grassroots for lasting change.

Cross-UN involvement and coherence

The past three years have seen major wins on improving coherence within the UN system on drug policy. This has included an increased interest in human rights and health in CND debates, the first-ever vote on a drugs ‘omnibus’ resolution in New York in 2022 due to its strong human rights focus, unprecedented research and recommendations from UN human rights entities on drug-related issues with landmark reports dedicated to various aspects of drug policy from the [UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](#) (2021), the [OHCHR](#) (2023) and the [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health](#) (2024). And just a few months ago, the CND taboo over the term ‘harm reduction’ was finally broken in a [historic vote](#) on the US-led resolution relating to drug overdoses.

IDPC has been instrumental in driving this change, with our continued advocacy at the CND, increased engagement with UN human rights experts, and the convening of dialogues such as the [Brandenburg Forum](#) (and its counterpart in Geneva) that provide an invaluable space for strategising among policy makers, UN officials, academics and civil society.

What we have achieved over the past year

A key highlight of the past year was the adoption of [Resolution 52/24](#) ‘Contribution of the Human Rights Council with regard to the human rights implications of drug policy’. In addition to including some of the most [progressive language](#) to date on harm reduction, racial discrimination, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and civil society engagement, the resolution also mandated the OHCHR to produce a new [report on drug policy](#), launched last August. IDPC was one of the driving forces behind the resolution, and we mobilised the network to feed into the OHCHR report. Notably, the report calls for an end to prohibition and militarisation, and urges countries to consider decriminalisation and legal regulation – two of the key recommendations included in IDPC’s submissions. IDPC has worked closely with OHCHR to provide an [analysis of the report](#) and ensure it is used as an advocacy tool at all levels. At the 2024 CND, we coordinated a programme of [seven side events](#) alongside a number of NGOs, UN entities and Member States, to present the report recommendations. IDPC’s Executive Director was also one of the speakers invited to address the [intersessional panel](#) held at the Human Rights Council to present the report.

IDPC’s strategy to ensure that the human rights message reached Vienna involved encouraging the participation

of UN human rights experts in CND debates. And this year, for the first time in the history of the CND, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk attended the 67th session of the Commission in person. The OHCHR delegation also included a representative of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health and a member of the Human Rights Committee (in charge of implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). The presence of a representative of the Special Rapporteur on the right to health at the CND was particularly important as Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng was, at the time, preparing her [seminal report on harm reduction](#). Again, IDPC helped to coordinate contributions from the network and held an informal consultation between the Special Rapporteur's representative and civil society while in Vienna to feed into the report. The Special Rapporteur's report is the strongest analysis of harm reduction in the context of the right to health to date.

In the meantime, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights continues to make progress in drafting its general comment on drug policy - for which civil society mobilised to submit written contributions.

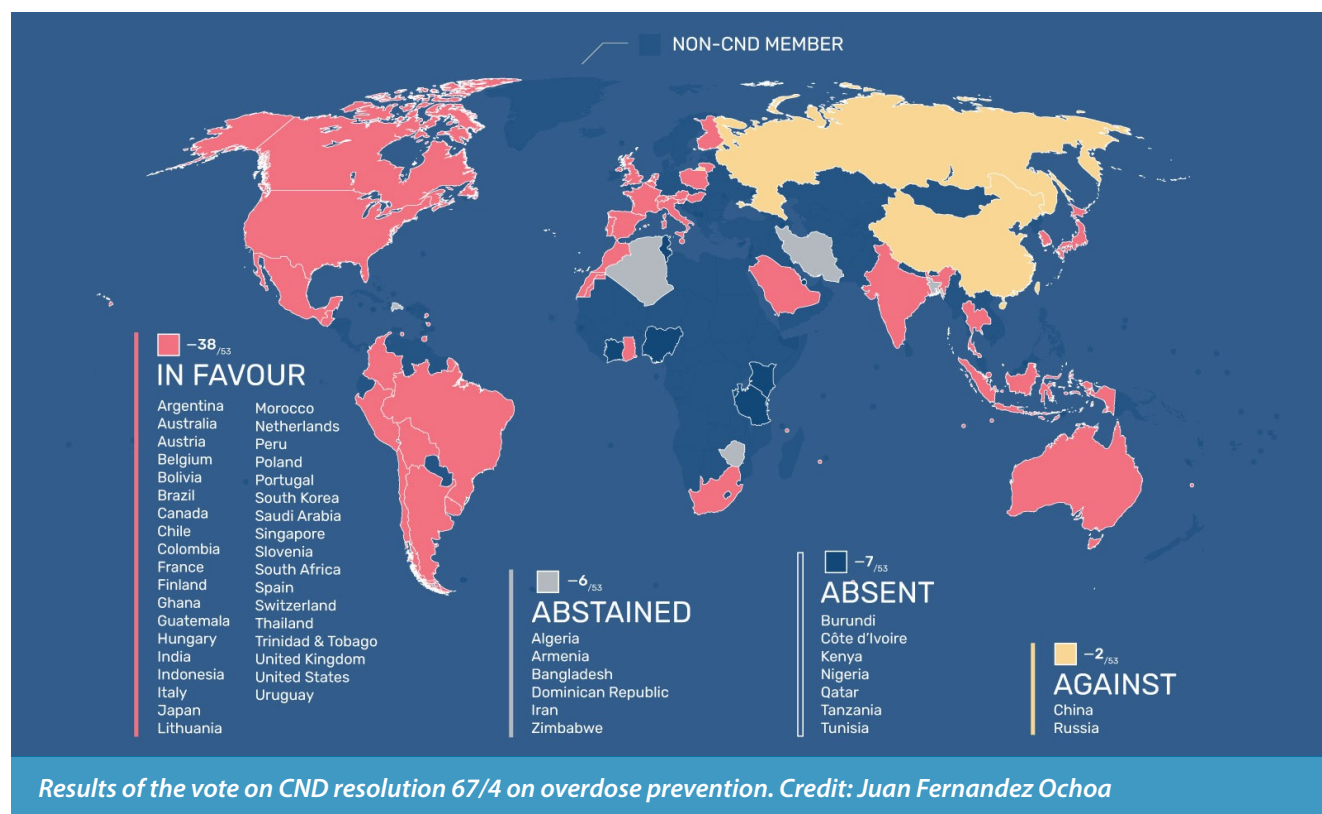
Case study: Ensuring coherence on drug policy, health and human rights: The CND votes on harm reductions

This year's CND was no doubt one of the most exciting we have seen in many years, with the first [votes](#) on CND

resolutions since 1985. One of the key points of contention was the inclusion of the term 'harm reduction' in the US-led resolution on overdose. Unsurprisingly, this caused heated debates and much tension throughout the CND week.

For years, and particularly ahead of this year's [mid-term review](#), IDPC had been advocating for friendly Member States to break away from the shackles of consensus. The so-called Vienna Consensus, or Vienna Spirit, has been one of the key impediments to the adoption of strong language on health and human rights at the CND, due to resistance by a small but vocal number of Member States. The advocacy on this was carefully coordinated by IDPC and other NGO partners in the lead up to the CND and its high-level segment, including via the Brandenburg Forum and regular meetings and briefings with friendly governments.

Faced with a strong and coordinated front of Member States from North America, Europe and Latin America refusing to yield on the inclusion of harm reduction in the overdose resolution, Russia was left with no other choice than to break the long-standing Vienna consensus. And positively, the vote was won by a large majority of 38 States in favour, and only 2 against, with 6 abstentions (see figure). The option of a vote opens the door to many opportunities for the CND to adopt improved language on the health, human rights and development dimensions of drug policy – opportunities that IDPC will leverage in the coming years.





IDPC orientation meeting ahead of the 67th session of the CND. Credit: Rights Reporter Foundation

Protecting civil society space and building alliances

As a global network of NGOs, the issue of civic space is of paramount importance. At a time of ongoing conflict, crises and funding shortages, global civil society space continues to be shrunk and under threat. This can take many forms: legal barriers to registration, restrictive banking policies, so-called ‘foreign agent’ laws in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the refusal to acknowledge networks of people who use drugs, farmers of crops deemed illicit and other affected communities as legitimate stakeholders, and key policy discussions and decisions being made behind closed doors, among others.

Yet within the drug policy sphere there are some notable ‘wins’ to reflect on during the lifespan of IDPC’s Strategic Plan 2021-2023, alongside the challenges that continue to test the resilience and strength of our members and allies. For example, IDPC played a key role in raising awareness of how governments on the ‘Committee on NGOs’ were using their position to block or delay NGO attempts to gain formal accreditation from the UN’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – a key step for any NGO wanting to engage in UN meetings such as the CND. Many drug NGOs, and especially those working on harm reduction and human rights, had their applications deferred year after year. IDPC’s [research and advocacy](#) identified Russia as the main protagonist. By January 2023, Russia had been voted off of the Committee, and the blockages facing many IDPC partners were lifted. The USA also played a key role by tabling ECOSOC resolutions to over-ride the Committee and un-block NGOs who had been waiting for the longest periods – with IDPC’s research playing a key role in identifying affected NGO partners within our movement.

What we have achieved over the past year

As in previous years, IDPC’s work in this area was largely focused on opening and protecting space for civil society participation in policy making, and building capacity and collaborations to leverage these spaces. We did this across various UN settings and related Forums – including at intergovernmental meetings such as the [Brandenburg](#)

[Forums](#) and through engagement in regional mechanisms in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

One place where the fruits of these efforts can be seen is the CND in Vienna. IDPC has long pushed for increased civil society participation, spaces and visibility at the Commission – and it has become a positive example of civil society engagement in many ways. As mentioned before, the 67th CND included a [high-level ‘midterm review’](#). Despite attempts by some Member States to limit civil society access to this high-level meeting – the voice of NGOs and affected populations was once again loud and impactful. The meeting saw hundreds of civil society representatives attend, deliver interventions, organise side events, disseminate research and publications, and use the meeting for their own advocacy work. The adoption of [UN Web TV](#), something that IDPC had advocated for over many years, also ensures that the Commission meetings are accessible to those unable to travel to Austria – while IDPC also continues to produce tools like the [CND App](#) and the [CND Blog](#) (providing the only record of discussions and proceedings).

In time for the 2024 meeting, IDPC also produced a flagship ‘[Shadow Report](#)’ to capture the alarming lack of progress that had been made since the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. The concept of shadow reports is itself a mechanism for civil society engagement in policy processes and reviews, and IDPC’s report included inputs and stories from 51 NGOs from 33 countries. The Shadow Report was instrumental in shaping the discussions at the high-level segment, with various delegates citing parts of the Report to highlight the devastating impacts of the ‘war on drugs’ and the need for reforms.

What we also witnessed in March 2024 was that the CND had become a critical networking space for the drug policy reform movement – mainly thanks to the convening role played by IDPC since our creation. IDPC delivered its usual programme of orientations, briefings and [webinars](#) for our Members, including a one-day meeting for more than 80 members and partners to strategise for the coming days. For many IDPC Members, the side meetings and conversations are as important as the main proceedings.



Gloria Lai, IDPC's Regional Director for Asia, presents our Shadow Report at the mid-term review. Credit: VNGOC

For example, IDPC organised side meetings between IDPC Members and key UN human rights experts, as well as specific meetings for Members from specific regions and countries to discuss ongoing advocacy challenges and opportunities.

Case study: Consolidating civic space with the newly created European Union Drugs Agency

In addition to expanding civil society space at the UN, IDPC has also promoted civil society engagement in regional mechanisms, in particular in Europe. In 2022, the EU announced that the mandate of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) would be renewed, and expanded. Since then, IDPC has provided regular inputs to EMCDDA leadership and EU Member States to ensure that the new mandate would incorporate a strong health and human rights focus, and importantly

ensure stronger partnership between the agency and civil society. This was not an easy win. Over the years, while the EMCDDA has increased its engagement with civil society, NGO participation was only ad hoc in nature.

Once the draft mandate had been approved by the European Council, the European Parliament began working on the text – and so the next phase of our advocacy began. Throughout 2022 and 2023, IDPC engaged with a number of Members of European Parliament (MEPs), including the MEP in charge of the file. Via written contributions, regular meetings and participation in civil society hearings held by the European Parliament, we secured unprecedented language on civil society participation in the work of the EMCDDA, or rather, the new European Union Drug Agency (EUDA). This was a huge win, and in the coming months we will be engaging with the EUDA to help them shape this new collaboration mechanism.

Our Publications

A key highlight of this past year has no doubt been the launch of our landmark report: [‘Off track: Shadow report for the mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on drugs’](#). In an effort to influence the 2024 high-level segment of the CND, the report offers a thorough evaluation of progress made in global and national drug policies since 2019.

The Shadow Report presents a dire picture of the impacts of current drug policies, with punitive measures being responsible for an alarming public health crisis, widespread human rights abuses, an increase in violence, and an ever-expanding illegal drug market. But the report also shows there is hope for the future. Through data and testimonies from people directly affected by drug policies,

the Report shows how civil society has been a driving force for harm reduction service provision and policy reforms, including decriminalisation and legal regulation.

The Shadow Report made its mark on the high-level segment. While countries like Canada and Switzerland directly quoted segments of the Report in their statements, others used the data from the report in their interventions to show the limited progress made in drug policy since 2019.

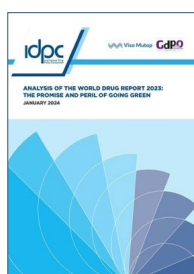
In the framework of our new Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, we will continue to produce reports, briefings and advocacy notes to support our advocacy and that of our Members.

Below is a list of all IDPC publications produced over the past year:



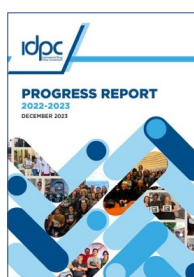
3rd Brandenburg Forum (BBF) in Geneva: Consolidating progress for human rights in drug policy - Meeting report

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



Analysis of the World Drug Report 2023: The promise and peril of going green

IDPC, Viso Mutop and GDPO explore the report’s discussion of buoyant drug markets and UNODC’s stance on key issues like decriminalisation, human rights and environmental impact, noting the growing influence of green criminology and its potential to reshape perspectives.



IDPC Progress Report 2022-2023

IDPC summarises key wins and progress achieved between April 2022 and March 2023 toward ensuring that social justice and human rights are core tenets of drug policy.



Justice is setting them free: Women, drug policies, and incarceration in Latin America (in English and Spanish)

This report reflects on almost ten years of collective research and joint advocacy by the working group, its achievements and disappointments, as well as challenges and opportunities for the future.



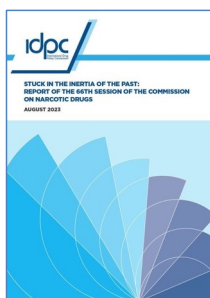
The 2024 Mid-term review: Paving the way towards transformative drug policies grounded in reality (in English and Spanish)

IDPC lays out the main challenges and opportunities offered by the midterm review and provides recommendations for the global drug control regime to rise to the challenge of becoming fit for purpose.



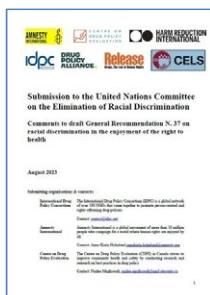
Moving away from the punitive paradigm: An analysis of the 2023 OHCHR report on drug policy

IDPC highlights the major gains from the 2023 OHCHR report on human rights and drug policy, and provides recommendations to Member States and UN entities for its effective implementation.



Stuck in the inertia of the past: Report of the 66th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

IDPC analyses clashes between reform and status quo advocates in the international community, in the context of tensions related to the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia and increasingly central calls for reform.



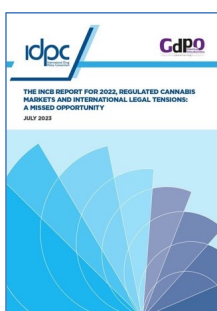
Comments to draft General Recommendation N. 37 on racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health - IDPC submission to CERD

IDPC, Amnesty International, CDPE, HRI, DPA, Release and CELS provide evidence on the role of drug policies as a driver of discriminatory policing and incarceration.



Submission to CERD: The right to health and the criminalisation of ancestral plants

IDPC and ICEERS argue that the right of Indigenous Peoples to grow, use, possess, heal, and travel with their ancestral plants should be enshrined as a part of a right to health, free from racial discriminations.



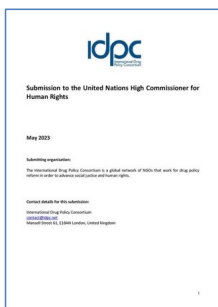
The INCB Report for 2022 - Regulated cannabis markets and international legal tensions: A missed opportunity

IDPC welcomes the Board's increasing focus on human rights issues and cannabis regulation, whilst regretting its misrepresentation of the evidence on the latter.



The decriminalisation of people who use drugs: An essential component of a human rights-based approach to drug policy - IDPC submission to OHCHR

IDPC, CDPE, Instituto RIA, HRI and the Health[e]Foundation provide data and recommendations on the importance of decriminalisation to fulfil the human rights of people who use drugs.



Moving beyond prohibition and towards a human rights-based approach to drugs: IDPC submission to OHCHR

IDPC calls on the UN system and Member States to evaluate the human rights impacts of the global drug control regime, and to propose concrete steps for its reform and modernisation.



On the situation of women and gender-diverse people who use drugs surviving multiple situations of violence and vulnerability in Spain - Shadow report

Metzineres and IDPC illustrate through official documents, research and personal testimonies the need to eliminate discrimination, criminalisation and systematic violence against women and gender-diverse people who use drugs.



Human Rights Council resolution 'Contribution of the Human Rights Council with regard to the human rights implications of drug policy': Analysis and implications

IDPC sheds light on key political wins including in relation to countering racial discrimination in drug policy, recognising the importance of harm reduction for the right to health, protecting Indigenous rights and eliminating racial discriminations.

Our Board of Directors

Vicki Hanson
(Chair)



Ernestien Jensema



Jane Waterman



Rupert Markland



Smriti Rana



Tomás A. Chang Pico
(joined in July 2022)



Our Members Advisory Council*



Charanjit Sharma - South Asia
(Alliance India)



Ganna Dovbakh - Eastern Europe
& Central Asia (Eurasian Harm
Reduction Association)



Lígia Parodi - Networks
of people who use drugs
(EuroNPUD)



Emily Hughes - Oceania (New
Zealand Drug Foundation)



John Walsh - North America
(Washington Office on Latin
America)



Katrin Schiffer - Western & South
East Europe (Correlation - European
Harm Reduction Network)



Michelle Wazan - Middle
East and North Africa (Skoun)



Olivia Rope - International
organisations (Penal Reform
International)



Paula Aguirre - Latin America and
the Caribbean (Elementa)



Róisín Downes - Youth (Students
for Sensible Drug Policy)



Sai Lone - Representative of farmers
of crops deemed illicit (Transnational
Institute, TNI)



Ernestien Jensema - IDPC
Board member



Smriti Rana - IDPC
Board member

* Note that the composition of the Members Advisory Council changed in June 2024

The IDPC Team

Ann Fordham
Executive Director



Jamie Bridge
Chief Operating Officer



Marie Nougier
Head of Research and Communications



Adrià Cots Fernández
Research and Advocacy Officer*



Juan Fernandez Ochoa
Campaigns and Communications Officer



Shannon Mortimer
Senior Finance Officer



Alice Pomfret
Policy & Communications Assistant*



Gloria Lai
Regional Director, Asia



Unchisa (Un) Eaimtong
Asia Programme Officer



Maria-Goretti Ane
IDPC Consultant: Africa



Chee Wen
IDPC Consultant: Asia



Shrutika Badgujar
IDPC Consultant: Asia

* Note that Adrià and Alice no longer work at IDPC. We thank them both so much for their amazing contribution while working with us!

Thanks to our brilliant interns Christopher Winter-Goodwin, Lauren Borders, RJ Naguit and Zara Nelson, who provided invaluable support to our small team over the past year.

Donors

Between April 2023 and March 2024, IDPC received the valuable financial support of:

- The Elton John AIDS Foundation
- The Global Fund (via MENAHRA)
- The Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPPD) – managed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- The Open Society Foundations
- The Robert Carr Fund
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Voice – via Asia Catalyst
- The Swiss Federal Office for Public Health
- COPOLAD / European Union
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- The Mayor of Amsterdam

Our members:

Global

1. AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)
2. Beckley Foundation
3. Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE)
4. Doctors for Drug Policy Reform (D4DPR)
5. Drugs, Security and Democracy Program of the Social Science Research Council (DSD - SSRC)
6. Health Poverty Action
7. Human Rights Watch
8. International AIDS Society
9. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
10. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies
11. Frontline AIDS (formerly International HIV/AIDS Alliance)
12. International Network of People of Who Use Drugs
13. Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)
14. Mainline
15. Médecins du Monde
16. Penal Reform International
17. Reprieve
18. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
19. Transnational Institute
20. Women's Harm Reduction International Network
21. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
22. World Hepatitis Alliance
23. Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
24. Youth Rise

Western Europe

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

South East Europe

62. Aksion Plus
63. Association Margina
64. Association Prevent
65. Association Terra Croatia (Udruga Terra)
66. Drug Policy Network South East Europe
67. Greek Drug User Union
68. Healthy Options Project Skopje
69. NGO Viktorija

- 70. Praksis
- 71. Re Generation
- 72. Romanian Harm Reduction Network
- 73. South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction Treatment Network
- 74. YCC Juventas

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- 75. 100% Life
- 76. Alternative Georgia
- 77. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice
- 78. Alliance for Public Health
- 79. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association
- 80. Galiu gyventi - "I Can Live" Coalition
- 81. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
- 82. Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
- 83. Polish Drug Policy Network
- 84. PREKURSOR

Latin America and the Caribbean

- 85. Acción Andina - Bolivia
- 86. Acción Semilla Boliviana
- 87. Acción Técnica Social
- 88. Andean Information Network
- 89. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
- 90. Brazilian Drug Policy Platform
- 91. Center for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship
- 92. Centro de Convivência "É de Lei"
- 93. Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad (Dejusticia)
- 94. Centro de Estudios en Seguridad Ciudadana
- 95. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales
- 96. Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral
- 97. Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMPDPH)
- 98. Conectas
- 99. Corporación Humanas Chile
- 100. Corporación Humanas Colombia
- 101. Corporación Teméride
- 102. Corporación Viso Mutop
- 103. Deliberar
- 104. Ecuador Cannábico
- 105. Elementa, Consultoría en Derechos
- 106. Equis Justicia Para las Mujeres
- 107. Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma
- 108. Guyanese Association of Harm Reduction
- 109. Iniciativa Negra por Uma Nova Política sobre Drogas
- 110. Institute for Land Work and Citizenship (ITTC)
- 111. Instituto RIA
- 112. Intercambios

- 113. Intercambios Puerto Rico
- 114. International Centre for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service (ICEERS)
- 115. México Unido Contra la Delincuencia
- 116. Red Americana de Intervención en Situaciones de Sufrimiento Social (RAISSS)
- 117. Red Chilena de Reducción de Daños
- 118. Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos
- 119. RESET - Política de Drogas y Derechos Humanos
- 120. ReverdeSer Colectivo
- 121. Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

North America

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

East and Southeast Asia

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

South Asia

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

Oceania

- 151. Alcohol and Drug Foundation (formerly Australian Drug Foundation)
- 152. Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
- 153. Drug Policy Australia
- 154. Harm Reduction Australia
- 155. New Zealand Drug Foundation
- 156. New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme
- 157. Penington Institute
- 158. Uniting

Middle East/North Africa

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

Sub-Saharan Africa

- 163. African Law Foundation (AFRILAW)
- 164. African Network of People who Use Drugs
- 165. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
- 166. Ainga/AIDES
- 167. Alliance Nationale des Communautés pour la Santé
- 168. Association Sénégalaise pour la Réduction des Risques Infectieux chez les Groupes Vulnérables
- 169. Bensther Development Foundation
- 170. CONAD-CI

- 171. Collectif Urgence Toxida
- 172. Développement-Rassemblement-Information et Prévention (DRIP)
- 173. Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform (DPHRP)
- 174. Drug Harm Reduction Advocacy Network Nigeria (DHRAN)
- 175. Foundation against Illicit Drug and Child Abuse (FADCA)
- 176. Foyer du Bonheur
- 177. Institute for Drug Control and Human Security
- 178. Kenyan AIDS NGOs Consortium
- 179. MozPUD – National network of support for people who use drugs
- 180. NEXTGEN Lawyers
- 181. Paroles autour de la santé (PAS)
- 182. Perle Sociale ONG
- 183. PILS
- 184. POS Foundation
- 185. REVS PLUS
- 186. TB/HIV Care Alliance
- 187. Uganda Harm Reduction Network
- 188. UNIDOS
- 189. Union Contre la Co-infection VIH/Hépatites/ Tuberculose
- 190. Village Health Action
- 191. Voices of Community Action and Leadership (VOCAL-KE)
- 192. West Africa Civil Society Initiative
- 193. West Africa Drug Policy Network
- 194. Women NEST
- 195. Youth RISE Nigeria
- 196. 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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