

Structure and work plan - 2009/2010

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs and professional networks that specialise in issues related to the production and use of controlled drugs. The Consortium aims to promote objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harm. It produces occasional briefing papers, disseminates the reports of its member organizations about particular drug-related matters, and offers expert consultancy services to policymakers and officials around the world. IDPC members have a wide range of experience and expertise in the analysis of drug problems and policies, and have contributed to policy debates at national and international level. The following paragraphs describe our main planned areas of activity in 2009/10.

IDPC has a global membership of NGOs and professional networks with an interest and expertise in drug policy issues (see below for a full list). Partner members work together to implement the annual IDPC work plan, while network members contribute to the dissemination of our ideas and materials. We have come together to facilitate open debate on drug policy issues, and to promote more humane and effective policy at a national and international level. The network is managed through a steering group of representatives from the 10 regions, and a secretariat based at Release, the UK drugs and legal advice charity.

Our work plan for the period April 2009 to March 2010 aims to build on the analysis and advocacy relationships we have developed over the previous two years and to articulate a progressive alternative to repressive drug policies. We will provide NGOs and policy makers with mechanisms to discuss and implement more humane and effective policies and programmes. Our activities can be grouped under three broad headings:

Networking and communications

The core of our communication system is our website (www.idpc.net). This site contains all the latest information on our work, regular updates on drug policy debates and structures from around the world, and a publications library of relevant reports and briefing papers produced by IDPC, our members and other relevant bodies. We produce and distribute a monthly email alert to thousands of subscribers, that provides latest news and publications on drug policy issues. Most of our publications and the monthly Alert are translated into Spanish. If you wish to subscribe to the IDPC alerts please visit www.idpc.net.

We have a regional structure for planning our advocacy work with national governments. In each region, a lead member facilitates discussion on advocacy priorities and opportunities, and organises our resources to maximize the influence of our network. The regional leads are listed below – they can be contacted directly with enquiries or offers of help regarding their respective regional plans:

South East Asia / Oceania

Ross Bell (main lead) – New Zealand Drug Foundation

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Pascal Tanguay – Asian Harm Reduction Network

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South Asia

Rajesh Kumar – Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses (SPYM)

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South East Europe

Thanasis Apostolou – Andreas Papandreou Foundation

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Eurasia

Peter Sarosi – Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

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Western Europe

Mike Trace – Beckley Foundation

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Caribbean

Marcus Day – Caribbean Drugs and Alcohol Research Institute

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Latin America

Graciela Touze

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North America

TBA

Sub-Saharan Africa

TBA

Middle East / North Africa

TBA

International advocacy

The United Nations, and other multilateral institutions, need to consider drug policy in the context of many other global challenges – for example the fight against HIV/AIDS, the obligation to protect human rights, the need to maximize social and economic development, and the battle against organized crime. The issue therefore comes up in many different multilateral forums, but is mainly dealt with through the structures established to oversee the global system of drug prohibition – the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). We will co-ordinate the involvement of our network in seeking to promote our policy principles and perspectives to these bodies. This involves producing reports and briefing papers that analyse and critique the work of these bodies, providing information on their structures and meetings, and organising NGO activity and advocacy. A key target in this regard is the annual meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held every March in Vienna, and at which the IDPC has a significant presence.

National advocacy

As most national governments around the world attempt to reconcile their commitment to the international drug control system, with evidence on the ground that shows the problems related to drug markets and use as being much more complex and intractable, IDPC members are seeking to offer constructive advice on how to develop and implement more humane and effective policies. We are collating a national policy 'toolkit' of best practice and evidence from around the world that our regional groups can use to promote our policy principles, and specific programmes and activities that have been shown to be effective in reducing drug related harm. Regional groups can call upon the expertise and contacts in our global network to arrange seminars and workshops in target countries, offer advice and consultancy to policy makers, and arrange study tours to showcase effective practice.

Membership

The IDPC membership is constantly growing. Members can be NGOs, academic institutions, think tanks, or professional networks, but they must have a national or international outlook, and a credible track record in the drug policy field. There are no membership fees, but all members need to be committed to supporting the IDPC vision and mission, strategic directions, policy principles and work plan. The following is a full list of members at the end of June 2009:

Partner Members:

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)
Andean Information Network (AIN) – Bolivia
Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation (APF) – Greece
Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) – Thailand
Beckley Foundation – UK
Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy (CFDP)
Caribbean Drug Abuse Research Institute (CDARI)
Correlation European Network on Social Inclusion and Health – Netherlands
Colectivo por una política integral hacia las drogas (CUPIDH) – Mexico
Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) – USA
DrugScope – UK
ERIT - Scottish Drugs Forum
Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)
Forum Droghe – Italy
Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions (GREA) – France

Harm Reduction Coalition - USA
Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU)
Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) – USA (Latin America Focus)
Intercambios – Argentina
International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) – Global
New Zealand Drug Foundation
Release – UK
Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses (SPYM) – India
South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction Treatment Network (SEEAN)
Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group (TTAG) – Thailand
Transnational Institute (TN - Global
Transform – UK
Viva Rio – Brazil
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

Network members

AKZEPT – Germany
Alternative Georgia
Australian National Council on Drugs
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Centro de Respuestas Educativas y Comunitarias A.C (CRECE) – Mexico
Connections – Europe
Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG) – Ireland
International AIDS Society (IAS) – Global
International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA) – Global
International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD) – Global
L'Association Nationale des Intervenants en Toxicomanie et Addictologie (ANITEA) – France
Lawyers Collective – India
Malaysian AIDS Council
Psicotropicus – Brazil
Red Americana de Intervención en Situaciones de Sufrimiento Social (RAISSS) - Latin America

Contact

If you want to learn more about the work of the International Drug Policy Consortium, visit the website (www.idpc.net) or email us at contact@idpc.net.