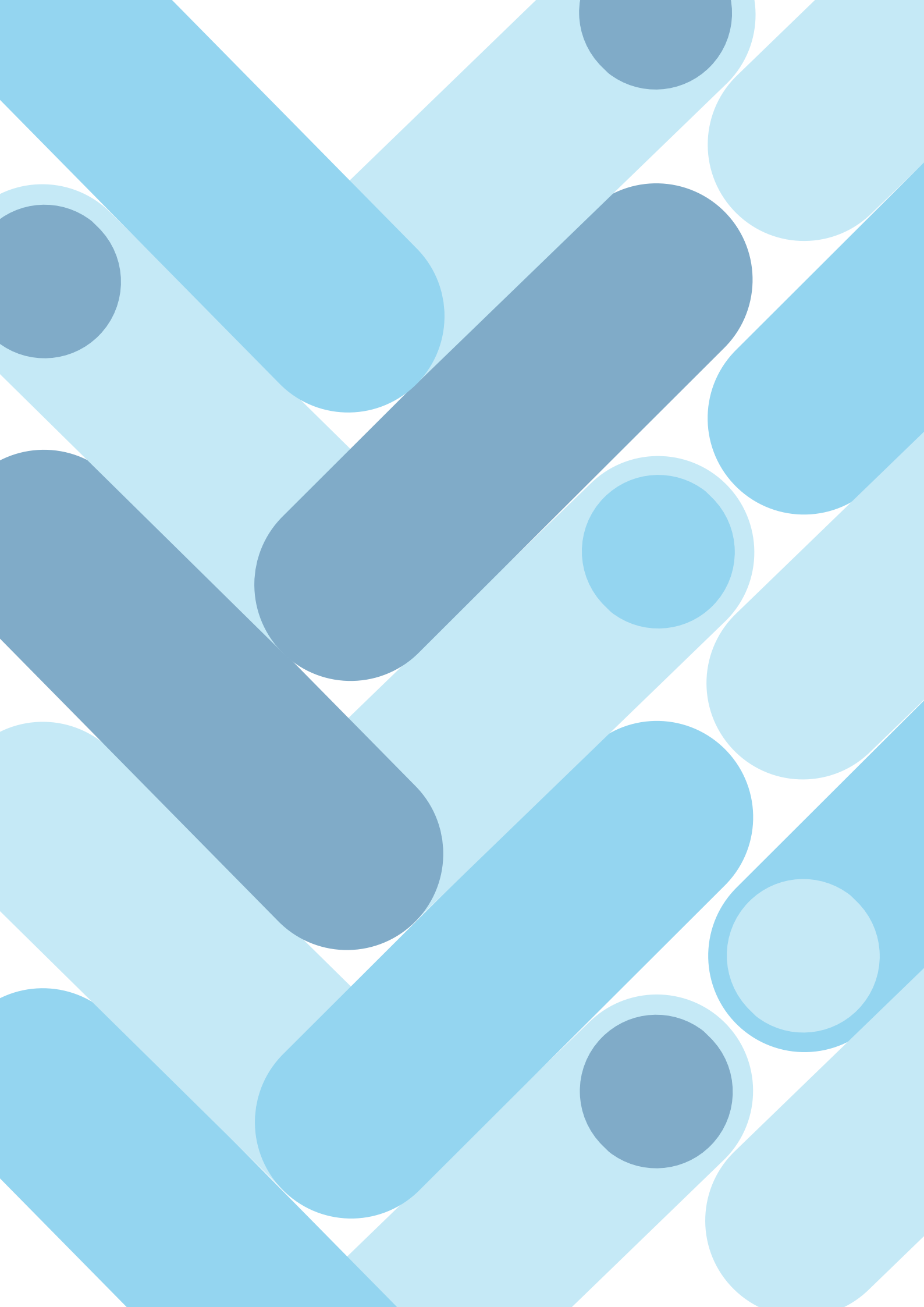


NOVEMBER 2022





Foreword



This progress report is published at the mid-term point of our current [three-year strategic plan](#) and highlights the impact we have made so far against our strategic priorities. In a politically turbulent global climate and amid the ongoing challenges of pandemic recovery, the IDPC network has remained steadfastly focused on drug policy reform efforts and on building solidarity both within and beyond the movement. Opening and holding space for civil society participation in drug policy making, and building our collective capacity, knowledge and imagination to leverage it, is at the heart of what our network is about.

This year we are particularly proud of launching the [Global Drug Policy Index](#). It is the first ever composite index that scores and ranks countries on their drug policies based on alignment with health, human rights and development principles. For too long the success of drug policies has not been measured against these principles, but instead has tended to prioritise indicators such as the numbers of people arrested or imprisoned for drug offences, the amount of drugs seized, or the number of hectares of drug crops destroyed. These skewed indicators underpin and justify ongoing repressive drug policy approaches and makes it harder to hold governments accountable for the damage their policies inflict on the lives of so many people. Civil society plays a crucial role in holding governments accountable and we hope that this first iteration of the Index will

further empower us all in that important exercise.

And as we reflect on a positive and exciting year for drug policy reform, I am truly honoured to share this year's foreword with the incoming Chair of our Board of Directors, Vicki Hanson and Ganna Dovbakh, who represents the Eastern European region on our Members Advisory Council.

Vicki has long championed IDPC in the Caribbean and always ensures that the voices of traditional farmers are heard in drug policy debates. While Ganna has been at the forefront of supporting civil society and community harm reduction efforts in Eurasia, which in recent months has faced unprecedented challenges following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Both Vicki's and Ganna's leadership, tenacity and longstanding involvement with IDPC enriches our collective work immeasurably and embodies the many strong partnerships which have been forged over the years. There is still much work to do towards achieving our vision of drug policies that truly advance social justice and human rights – and this report shows that together we are having real impact.

I hope you will enjoy reading this latest progress report from IDPC!

In solidarity,

Ann Fordham (Executive Director)



The issue of drug policy in the Caribbean continues to be a very challenging one, especially as many states in the region grapple with reforms around cannabis, and the increasing presence of psilocybin. The issue, as it relates to these natural products, is that even though they are culturally accepted for their use and benefits to many traditional communities and peoples, there remain international restrictions on their use and trade.

It is for these reasons that the work of the IDPC is important to the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. IDPC has been

able to provide a network of support for NGOs in the region to lobby international organisations such as the United Nations. IDPC has also provided valuable data and research to support policy intervention by NGOs in drug policy reforms, and in support of a social justice approach to these policy changes.

However, the work within the various corners of the world is far from over and as such IDPC need to continue to strengthen their work on a global level.

Vicki Hanson (Board Member, Jamaica)



The morning of 24th February 2022, when the large-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against the sovereignty of Ukraine started, severely changed the entire Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. War caused devastating loss of life, displacement of millions of people, massive human rights violations, trauma, disruption in access to treatment and basic medical and social services, and a myriad of harms that heighten vulnerability. Harm reduction and community-led organisations regionally and globally being uniquely positioned to respond to these challenges and rapidly evolving needs played a central role in supporting people using drugs through evacuation from bombed cities, providing temporary shelters, social and medical care within Ukraine and all over the region showing altogether unprecedented solidarity, resilience, and unity. This war brought not only humanitarian and economic crises but also a radicalisation in social policy in the region.

In this context, what do you think we heard from EHRA members in terms of their priority for advocacy? Right, drug policy reform!

Opposition to drug policy and harm reduction based on human rights values sounds like one of the justifications for the Russian aggression. Now as civil society, we face new security risks and are learning how to survive war and growing authoritarianism. In the same way, we hope that IDPC, as a global union of experts and activists, can use these policy changes as a possible window of opportunity to advocate for drug policy reform. In times of such changes, a lot of what was impossible is becoming more and more possible for policy reform – and not necessarily in a worse direction. In the EECA region and in Ukraine, we are full of hope for a bright future, where we could win not only war against an aggressor, but also win the fight for drug policy reform!

Ganna Dovbakh (Members Advisory Council, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association)

About IDPC

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of 191 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, it 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 agree and 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

"Over its 15-year history, IDPC has fundamentally transformed the scene in Vienna from a small group of committed NGOs to a significant, coordinated network united around shared views of what better drug policies could be and with significant credibility with governments and key UN actors. Kudos to IDPC!"

"The work in Vienna is at the core of what the IDPC brings to the movement. I'm sure it's exhausting and many times frustrating, but it continues to be important. Thank you for all that you do!"

"You're doing a bloody fantastic job in very tough circumstances — you're all amazing"

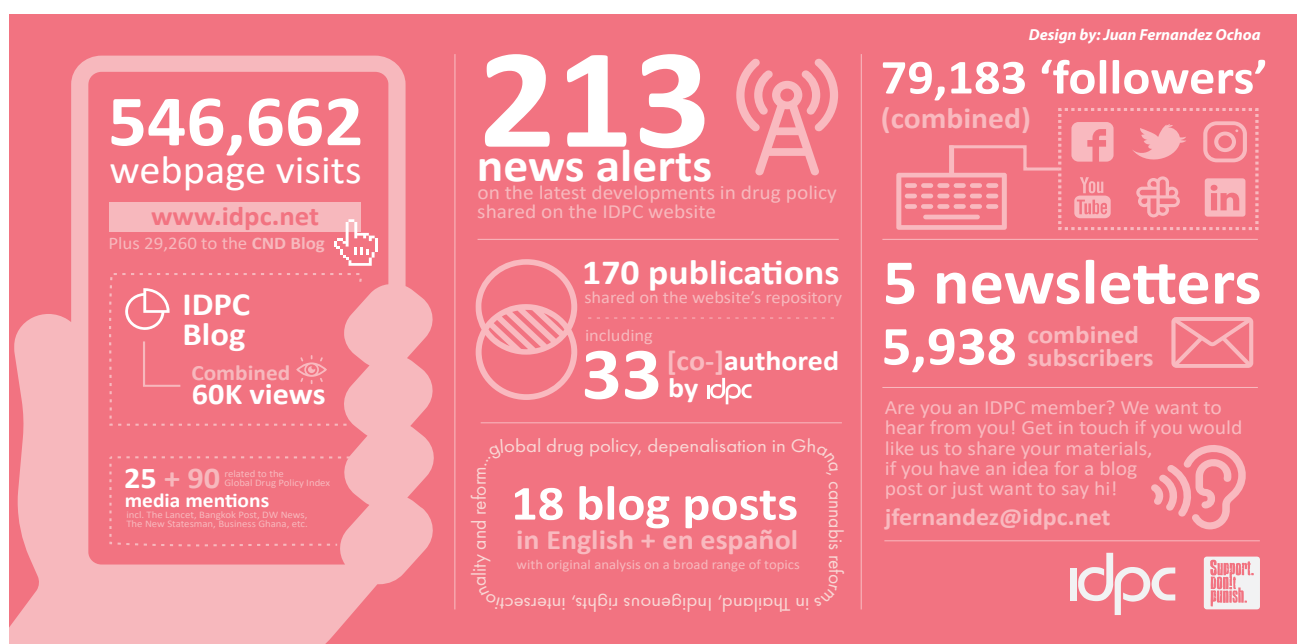
"The IDPC is doing fantastic work! Thank you all for your positive and inspiring efforts and support!"

Quotes taken from the responses to a survey among IDPC members on IDPC's engagement in international drug policy advocacy in Vienna

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 2021 to 31st March 2022, 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

The [2021-2023 IDPC Strategic Plan](#) identified decriminalisation as one of the five 'priority areas' for the network – building on the growing endorsements for this approach at the national level, as well as in the UN common positions on [drugs](#) and [incarceration](#), and in the new [Global AIDS Strategy](#). As such, the secretariat and partners have undertaken a vast array of activities and advocacy actions to further promote and sustain decriminalisation efforts.

June 2021, in particular, was earmarked as 'decriminalisation month' as an opportunity to promote and share key developments and resources with our audiences. This included an updated [Drug Decriminalisation Map](#), loads of local decriminalisation advocacy as part of the Support Don't Punish 'Global Day of Action', a series of sensitization workshops with judges across Ghana, and the launch of a flagship [Drug Decriminalisation \[e\]Course](#) (see below).

All year around, decriminalisation was a key focus of our conversations with policy makers and civil society partners. This included several side events at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND); sessions to discuss the topic at the European Harm Reduction Conference (Prague, November 2021) and at the INHSU 2021 conference in October 2021; an online event for member states, held alongside the New York NGO Committee on Drugs in December 2021; a joint statement with partners to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR); and a dedicated meeting of the UN Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) on drugs, among others.

These engagements were accompanied with new resources and publications: our exciting [\[e\]course](#) mentioned above, a report on [arbitrary detention and the criminalisation of people who use drugs in Africa](#) (alongside APCOF - the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum), a [Support Don't Punish briefing](#) alongside AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), and "Model Drug Law Explainers" for partners in West Africa and beyond. In November 2021, decriminalisation also featured prominently in the flagship [Global Drug Policy Index](#) launch, report and website. Finally, in February 2022, IDPC launched a major new [Guide for Advocacy](#) – outlining for the first time our positions, messaging and advocacy approaches on decriminalisation.

Impact achieved

Our work has played an important role in maintaining and building the momentum for decriminalisation around the world, while also helping to progress the debate past a simplistic binary view and towards a more nuanced discussion on what aspects of decriminalisation are most effective and what the 'gold standard' model might look like.

In Africa, for example, IDPC has continuously engaged with policy makers alongside our members in the region, building bridges with parallel movements and campaigns, and securing significant momentum for criminal justice reforms. Proposals, bills, legislative amendments and similar initiatives are in development in several African countries such as Mali, Mauritius and South Africa, while Ghana continues to

move towards full implementation of the revised drug law from 2018 which removed or significantly reduced criminal sanctions for drug use and possession.

Case study: The Drug Decriminalisation [e]Course

As the world reeled from the spread and impacts of COVID-19 and the related restrictions on travel and meetings, the importance of online learning resources quickly became clear. While individual workshops and capacity building events on decriminalisation (which IDPC and partners have been holding for many years) may reach dozens of people at a time – an online training course could reach many times that number. Given the absence of such a course for decriminalisation, IDPC began to create one in 2021.

Working with e-learning specialists [Health\[e\]Foundation](#), and one of our expert members in the Netherlands, [Mainline](#), we created a [free online learning course](#) that is open to anyone interested in this important topic. Seven modules cover all aspects of the debate – from arguments for (and against) reforms, to specific technical elements to consider for a decriminalisation model – through videos, exercises and interactive elements. Participants also have the choice to take as many, or as few, modules as they wish, and in any order they want.



With initial funding from [Frontline AIDS](#), the first modules were launched in June 2021 (during IDPC's 'decriminalisation month'). Subsequent modules followed as the year progressed, including with support from the [Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks](#).

The [e]course is being translated into French (with support from ARASA), Arabic (with support from the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Network), and Russian (with support from the Alliance for Public Health, Ukraine).

Design by: Juan Fernandez Ochoa

Drug Decriminalisation [e]Course

7 modules
Soon available in 4 languages

English
French · Français
Arabic · العربية
Russian · Россия

Accessed by 640 people in 90 countries

Since its launch, the [e]course has been accessed by 640 people from 90 countries. All modules and translations will be available by the end of 2022 – and will remain freely available for people to use. IDPC, Mainline and Health[e]Foundation will maintain and update the [e]course on an ongoing basis, as well as continuing to explore additional languages, content, and opportunities for “blended learning” that combines virtual and in-person training.

Drug policy impacts on women

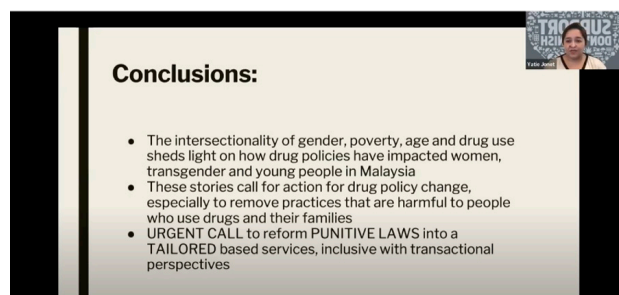
Women are disproportionately impacted in countless ways by punitive drug policies. Women who use drugs typically have less access to appropriate health, harm reduction and drug dependence treatment services, legal aid and other forms of support; the number of women incarcerated for drug offences continues to rise dramatically; the links between gender-based violence and drug use exacerbate vulnerability; and women who use drugs face a double stigma due to stereotyped gender roles in society. In Latin America and Asia, a huge proportion of women deprived of liberty are in prison for drug offences, with devastating consequences on their lives, and that of their families. Advocating for the rights of women engaged in the illegal drug trade, and working with the women's rights, feminist and trans rights movements to change policies therefore remain a major priority for IDPC.

As the regional coordinator for the [INSPIRE project](#), funded by [Voice](#), IDPC has supported the work of five country partners in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand in engaging young people and women (including transgender women) who use drugs in empowerment and advocacy for reforms towards decriminalisation and harm reduction. In Indonesia and the Philippines, country partners have helped to provide paralegal training to women who use drugs to boost actions to generate change that improves access to justice, health and social services.

IDPC is also a regional partner in another exciting Voice project known as the [Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures \(FIFF\) project](#), alongside regional organisations working with different groups of people marginalised due to ableism,

racism, gender, migration status and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and women who use drugs. The project seeks to strengthen intersectional movement-building in Asia to develop transformative advocacy strategies to achieve systemic gender equality. IDPC incorporated intersectional approaches in our advocacy for drug policy reform through the powerful stories shared during the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign](#) and the perspectives discussed by speakers from Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand at a [side event](#) held at the CND in March 2022. There, we were able to present the challenges faced by different communities of people who use drugs, including women, LGBTQI+, sex workers, and their family members, especially in relation to stigma and discrimination.

In the past year, IDPC also launched various publications on [gender-sensitive drug policies for women](#), outlining how policy makers and criminal justice institutions can effectively reduce the imprisonment of women for drug-related offences in line with international standards, and on [women who use drugs in Indonesia](#) to help inform advocacy efforts to improve the quality of life and expand access to healthcare for women who use drugs.



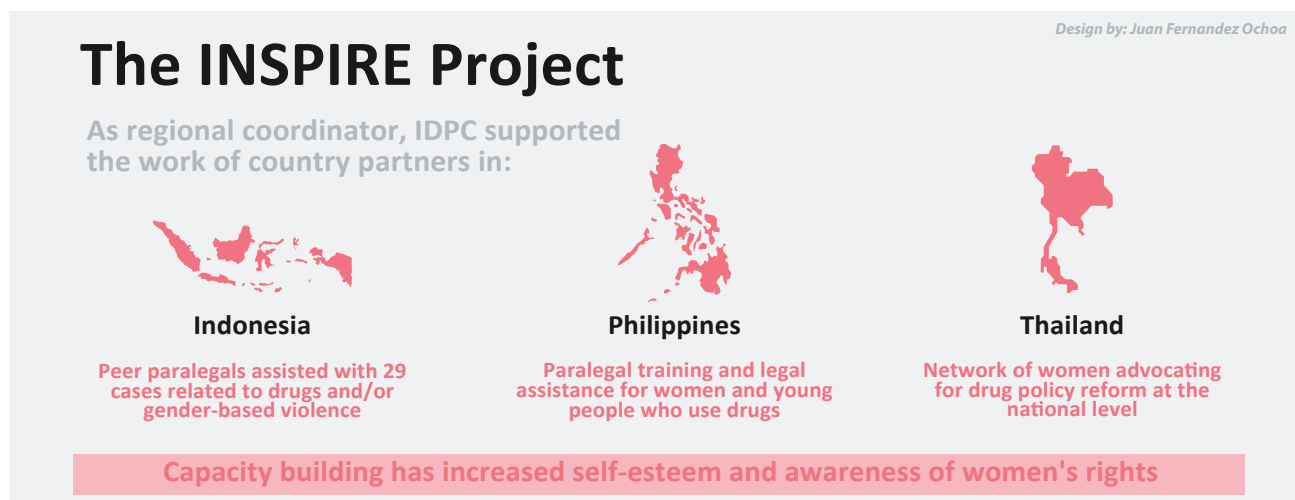
Conclusions:

- The intersectionality of gender, poverty, age and drug use sheds light on how drug policies have impacted women, transgender and young people in Malaysia
- These stories call for action for drug policy change, especially to remove practices that are harmful to people who use drugs and their families
- URGENT CALL to reform PUNITIVE LAWS into a TAILORED based services, inclusive with transactional perspectives

CND Side Event - Drug policy in Asia: the importance of intersectional perspectives


Impact achieved

The networks of women who use drugs developed with support provided to country partners in Indonesia (AKSI - Indonesia Act for Justice) and in the Philippines (IDUCare) were able to provide paralegal training and, subsequently, much needed legal assistance for women and young people who use drugs to prevent police abuse, arbitrary detention, criminalisation and incarceration. With the support given by AKSI, peer paralegals were able to assist with 29 cases, comprising 24 non-litigation cases and 5 litigation cases.




The INSPIRE Project

As regional coordinator, IDPC supported the work of country partners in:




Indonesia

Peer paralegals assisted with 29 cases related to drugs and/or gender-based violence



Philippines

Paralegal training and legal assistance for women and young people who use drugs



Thailand

Network of women advocating for drug policy reform at the national level

Capacity building has increased self-esteem and awareness of women's rights

Design by: Juan Fernandez Ochoa

Capacity building sessions conducted by the INSPIRE project partners in other countries also received positive feedback as participants reported increased self-esteem and increased awareness of legal rights and access to services including harm reduction.

Activities under the INSPIRE Project also expanded the ability of the country partner in Thailand to reach more women who use drugs and engage them, through a series of consultations and networking sessions organised throughout the year. The aim in Thailand is to form a national network by the end of 2023 to work on advocacy for drug law reform and harm reduction. In Malaysia, although our country partner has just started to work with communities of people who use drugs, the women they engaged with showed a willingness to share their stories in order to [influence](#) their country's drug policy reform debates. During the pandemic, the networks cultivated by country partners enabled them to provide critical care and support, including provision of food and medical supplies, for people severely impacted, such as through loss of income.

Case study: Supporting the creation of networks of women who use drugs in Southeast Asia

With the engagement activities under the INSPIRE project, AKSI has facilitated the growth of a feminist collective of women, including trans women, who use drugs in Indonesia called Womxn's Voice which has now become a legally registered organisation. They will continue to work with support from AKSI to provide support for women experiencing violence, including from the impacts of punitive drug laws, to have a safe space for gathering, sharing and learning amongst their peers to fight together for their rights. In the Philippines, IDUCare has been able to grow a network of women who use drugs with the support of the INSPIRE project, where they have worked to develop a structure for their advocacy and mobilisation capacity to assist their peers with access to harm reduction and paralegal services. They have now set up a community centre that includes a paralegal help desk to expand support for communities of women who use drugs, including a safe space to gather.



Community centre set up by IDUCARE and the network of women who use drugs in Cebu, Philippines, on soft opening day

The Support. Don't Punish campaign

The [Support. Don't Punish](#) campaign had yet another exhilarating year, enabling the mobilisation of communities across the world to advance sustainable alternatives to the 'war on drugs'. Through the production of knowledge resources, fostering exchanges between campaigners and with public authorities, and stimulating actions that harness people power for change, the campaign built on a nearly-decade-long effort to centre harm reduction and decriminalisation in drug policy.



In May, we released [Connecting struggles](#), a narrative report with shareable visual summaries (in English, Spanish and French) of the three international workshops that we hosted toward the end of 2020 on drug policy and young people, prison abolition, and effective communications. The following month, the campaign celebrated its [9th Global Day of Action](#), an explosion of ingenuity, care and determination that saw thousands of harm reductionists and drug policy reformers organise for change in 260 cities of 96 countries. In November, after months of COVID-19-related restrictions, we dusted off the [campaign's photo booth](#) to connect with friends, old and new, at the European Harm Reduction Conference. Later in the year, the campaign partnered with the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA) to launch [Decriminalisation: Building a future without punishment for people who use drugs](#), an overview of the key issues and questions that advocates must consider to demand this crucial policy reform (available in English, French and Portuguese).

Through these activities and the campaign's platforms of communication, Support. Don't Punish expanded its networks of solidarity and influence, including virtually, as our combined social media following ([Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)) grew to nearly 40,000 people and the ever-growing [Photo Project](#) broke the 11,000-photo mark!



Impact achieved

The Support. Don't Punish campaign experienced record engagement and impact in 2021, as reflected by the hundreds of activities organised on the [2021 Global Day of Action](#); dozens of expressions of support from high-reach personalities; and over 110 media items and thousands of social media posts engaging the wider public with our core messages.

While the intensifying challenges posed by the pandemic situation disrupted our habitual ways of convening and mobilising, these obstacles also pushed advocates and campaigners to explore novel and radical imaginings, not only on how to advance drug policy and harm reduction, but also in relation to self and community care, collaboration, and decision-making.

From expanding channels of dialogue between parliamentarians and community networks in Georgia, to nurturing grassroots learning communities on gender and drug policy in Indonesia, to creating spaces of engagement with media on drug policy reform in Nigeria, to promoting community-led initiatives for education on harm reduction and decriminalisation in Argentina, the campaign enabled an expansive range of activities brimming with ingenuity and resilience.



Community network members in a peaceful protest in front of the State Chancellery of Georgia on the Support. Don't Punish 2021 Global Day of Action. Photo by: GENPUD

Support. Don't Punish campaigners remain at the helm of a global effort to end the ruinous 'war on drugs', united in the conviction that we can build a world where care, kindness and support will prevail over criminalisation, stigma and discrimination.

Case study: The 2021 Global Day of Action: Dismantling the 'war on drugs', building sustainable and caring alternatives instead

Every year, on and around the 26th of June, thousands of people worldwide mobilise under our shared banner as part of the Support. Don't Punish Global Day of Action, a global show of force for harm reduction, decriminalisation and international solidarity. The day offers a counterpoint to the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking', which has historically been marked by governments through the glorification of punitive responses that translate into violence and harm for our communities.

While still affected by the restrictions associated with the destructive COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Global Day of Action was yet another enthusiastic high point for the campaign. Activists in 260 cities of 96 countries (a record!) organised 365 creative and galvanising activities, ranging from policy forums, art festivals, training sessions and sport tournaments. IDPC supported local partners with 126 small grants, written guidance, communication materials and other forms of in-kind support that maximise the reach and impact of our collective efforts. Through these activities, the campaign created spaces to build power within communities, establish dialogue with policy-makers and shift stigmatising discourses in the media and amidst the public.

In mobilising for change, most campaigners relied on a bottom-up and community-centred approach to organising, inviting potential and aspiring allies to continue mobilising for a world where drug policy promotes care and compassion, and where no one is left behind.



Composition produced from photos from the 2021 Global Day of Action. By Fourate Chahal.

Cross-UN involvement and coherence

For many drug policy reform advocates, gaining support from the UN to condemn human rights violations committed in the name of drug control in their countries is an essential aspect of their national advocacy efforts, enabling them to put increased pressure on their governments to achieve meaningful reform on the ground. This is why engaging with UN human rights and drug control bodies remains a strategic priority for IDPC.

14 years ago, the then UN Special Rapporteur on health, Paul Hunt, had [concluded](#) that the drug control and human rights regimes operated in parallel universes. Although much progress has been made to bridge the gap between these two universes, especially since the 2016 UNGASS on drugs, sustained advocacy remains critical for all UN agencies to speak with one voice in promoting human rights-centred drug responses, in line with the [UN System Common Position on drugs](#).

In the past year, IDPC has continued to highlight key human rights concerns at the [CND](#) and the [UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#) (CCPCJ) in Vienna, bringing the voices of communities most affected by the war on drugs and UN human rights experts, including the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) which published a [landmark report on drug policy](#) in June 2021.



A woman cultivating coca in Colombia highlights the human rights violations her community is facing because of forced crop eradication at a CND side event on the 5-year anniversary of the UNGASS on drugs

In parallel, IDPC worked with members and partners to discuss the human rights impacts of drug control in Geneva, by offering regular contributions to UN human rights treaty bodies and special procedures, holding [events](#) and delivering statements at the Human Rights Council, and [briefing government officials](#) in both Vienna and Geneva on some of the most egregious abuses committed in the name of drug policy.

Impact achieved

Although civil society continues to face resistance in our efforts to embed drug policy in a human rights and social justice approach, we have recently seen undeniable progress. In Vienna, a small but vocal group of member states continue to push a human rights agenda, and for the [UN System Common Position on drugs](#) to be recognised as a key tool to ensuring more coherence within the UN on drug policy issues. In Geneva, an increasing number of UN human rights entities are taking on the issue of drugs within their respective mandates. The powerful report of the WGAD, for which IDPC provided significant inputs, is testament to this shift. In parallel, various Geneva Missions [are also mobilising](#) to better highlight these

issues at the Human Rights Council, including through the revival of a Core Group on human rights and drug policy which had originally been created for the 2016 UNGASS but had since then become mostly inactive.

The disconnect between discussions in Geneva and Vienna on drug policy is also slowly mending. In part thanks to IDPC's advocacy efforts, the WGAD was able to make an official presentation of its report on drug policy to the CND in March 2022 (after the Chair of the Working Group had been [uninvited](#) to present at the CND reconvened session in December 2021), 13 Special Procedures released an unprecedented [joint statement](#) on drugs at the occasion of 26th June 2022, and the International Narcotics Control Board issued an important [statement](#) at the occasion of International Human Rights Day in December 2021. In turn, all of this has provided ammunition for IDPC members' own advocacy at national, regional and international level to promote humane and just drug policies.

Case study: Fostering accountability: The Global Drug Policy Index

One of the highlights for 2021 has no doubt been the launch of the first edition of the [Global Drug Policy Index](#), produced by the Harm Reduction Consortium, led by IDPC, and in partnership with Swansea University. The Index is the first of its kind to analyse, measure and compare national drug policies, based on how well they are aligned with the [UN System Common Position on drugs](#) and the [recommendations](#) of its implementation Task Team.

Each of the 30 countries reviewed for this first edition is allocated a score out of 100 based on 75 indicators running across five dimensions that review the absence of extreme sentencing, the proportionality of the country's criminal justice response, the availability of health and harm reduction services, access to controlled medicines, and development. The Index [methodology](#) was developed with strong inputs from over 200 civil society representatives, including affected communities, as well as UN and academic experts.



Evaluating drug policies on paper and their implementation on the ground, the Index constitutes an important accountability tool to hold governments responsible for their national drug policies, ensuring that they are aligned with human rights. The Index also aims to support civil society in initiating constructive discussions on meaningful

reforms. For UN agencies, it is a unique resource, enabling them to track what progress is being made in the implementation of the Common Position.

Global Drug Policy Index

Documenting, measuring and comparing national drug policies

30 countries

allocated a score out of 100 based on 75 indicators focused on:

- > Absence of extreme responses
- > Proportionality & criminal justice
- > Harm reduction
- > Access to medicines
- > Development



Involved over **200 experts** from civil society and beyond



Over **100 media hits** from outlets worldwide

And there is much to be done. The highest-ranking country, Norway, achieved only 74/100, while Brazil was given a mere score of 26/100. With a median score for all 30 countries only reaching 48/100, the Index clearly shows how current drug policies remain mostly prohibitionist in nature, and disproportionately impact the poor, women and gender non-confirming people and specific ethnic groups.

Case study: Ending arbitrary detention in drug control efforts

IDPC has invested significant efforts in supporting the WGAD as they drafted their ground-breaking [report](#) on drug policy. This included [written inputs](#), a face-to-face briefing for members of the Working Group at the CND in 2020, and a round of follow-up virtual consultations in 2021.

The Working Group published its report at the Human Rights Council's 47th session in June 2021. The study clearly highlights the widespread human rights abuses committed in the name of drug control and has quickly become an essential advocacy tool for the IDPC membership. Since June 2021, IDPC has therefore held a series of meetings between the Working Group and civil society advocates to discuss how best to disseminate the powerful recommendations of the study. We also organised events in various UN fora, including at the CND and the Human Rights Council, providing a platform for the Working Group to present its report to member states. And when the Working Group was barred from speaking at the CND Reconvened Session in December 2021, IDPC put pressure on member states, including [through the media](#), to ensure that the Working Group would be able to present its report officially at the CND. In the end, the Working Group was allowed to present the findings of its report on drug policy in person at the 65th session of the CND.



Protecting civil society space & building alliances

Opening space for civil society participation in policy making, and building our capacity, knowledge and imagination to leverage it, is at the heart of what our network is about. For IDPC, in 2021-2022 the core of this work has consisted in protecting and expanding the influence of our network in the key UN and regional policy making fora. At the same time, we have continued to thread alliances with other global movements that seek to increase the power of marginalised groups, and increase social justice.

At the UN level, we have continued to promote the voice of the drug reform movement at the CND, the Human Rights Council, and others. We organised explainer sessions ahead of the main session of CND, as well as a new training on how to analyse and influence CND resolutions. We facilitated the presence of the IDPC membership at the CND by coordinating statements, providing accreditations, and supporting virtual side events. As we explain in a case study below, we mobilised resources to conduct research and advocacy seeking to change the membership of the Committee on NGOs, the UN body that controls access to ECOSOC accreditations, and that has been targeting members of the drug reform movement.



We have continued to expand our outreach to other movements and networks, supporting their initiatives and opening new conversations on the impact of the war on drugs to new audiences. For example, we organised panels at the [Crear / Résister / Transform](#) festival of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), and in the [RightsCon](#) human rights summit.

Impact achieved

In spite of COVID-19 restrictions, the IDPC network had a very strong presence at the 2022 CND, the main UN policy making forum dedicated to drugs. This year, IDPC members organised 27 side events, 12 of which co-organised by the IDPC secretariat, on topics as varied as legal regulation cannabis, international scheduling, decriminalisation, or the Global Drug Policy Index, amongst many others.

We strengthened the presence of the drug reform movement at the Human Rights Council, with IDPC leading on five statements and one high-visibility side event to launch the study on drug policies by the WGAD.

When it comes to New York-based bodies, our work was spear-headed by our advocacy around the Committee on NGOs, which was successful in raising awareness about how


drug reform organisations are being barred from access to ECOSOC status, and contributed to changing the membership of the Committee.


At a regional level, we have remained deeply involved in regional platforms such as the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD). During the year of reporting, we worked with the CSFD to influence the ongoing reform of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), ensuring that this leading scientific body retains its historical focus on the health dimension of drugs, and that civil society and affected communities are more systematically involved in its work.

Design by: Juan Fernandez Ochoa

IDPC at the 64th CND

(64th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs)

 **27 side events**
co-organised by IDPC members

 **12 side events**
co-organised by the IDPC Secretariat

Topics: Legal regulation, international scheduling, civil society engagement, decriminalisation, the Global Drug Policy Index, women and drug policy...

Case study: Using original research to advocate for change in the Committee on NGOs

In order to participate in most UN processes, NGOs need to be granted what is normally called 'ECOSOC accreditation'. Without ECOSOC accreditation, an NGO cannot enter a UN building, deliver a statement in a formal UN meeting, or organise an official side event. In other words, they are deprived of critical tools for advocacy.

To obtain ECOSOC accreditation, NGOs must be reviewed by a UN body called the Committee on NGOs, where 19 Member States debate each application, and decide on its outcome. But rather than truly assessing the value of the NGOs' work, voting by Member States is generally guided by political priorities, and that means that NGOs working for a fair and equal society often see their applications delayed. This applies to many organisations working on issues such as human rights, LGBTQI+ rights, minority rights, and drug policy reform.

Following calls by our membership, the IDPC secretariat conducted original research that provided [hard evidence](#) about how certain Member States, led by Russia, were deliberately barring drug policy reform organisations from accessing ECOSOC accreditation.

As elections for the membership of the Committee were due to take place in March 2022, IDPC reached out to the countries that would vote in the elections from the Committee on NGOs via bilateral meetings, a [paper](#) submitted at the CND, and a well-attended online briefing for New York delegations co-organised with the New York NGO Committee on Drugs. At the end, and undoubtedly in connection with the geopolitical crisis driven by the invasion of Ukraine, Russia was excluded from the Commit-

tee on NGOs, effective January 2023. We will continue to monitor the work of the Committee after that date, and advocate long-term reform.

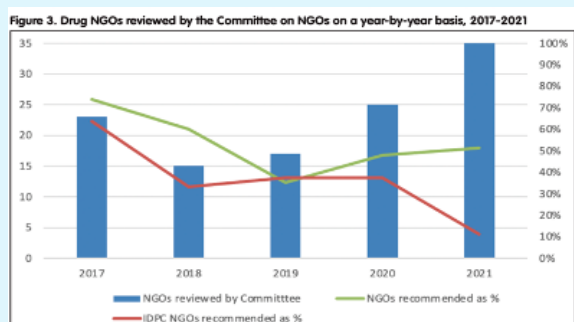


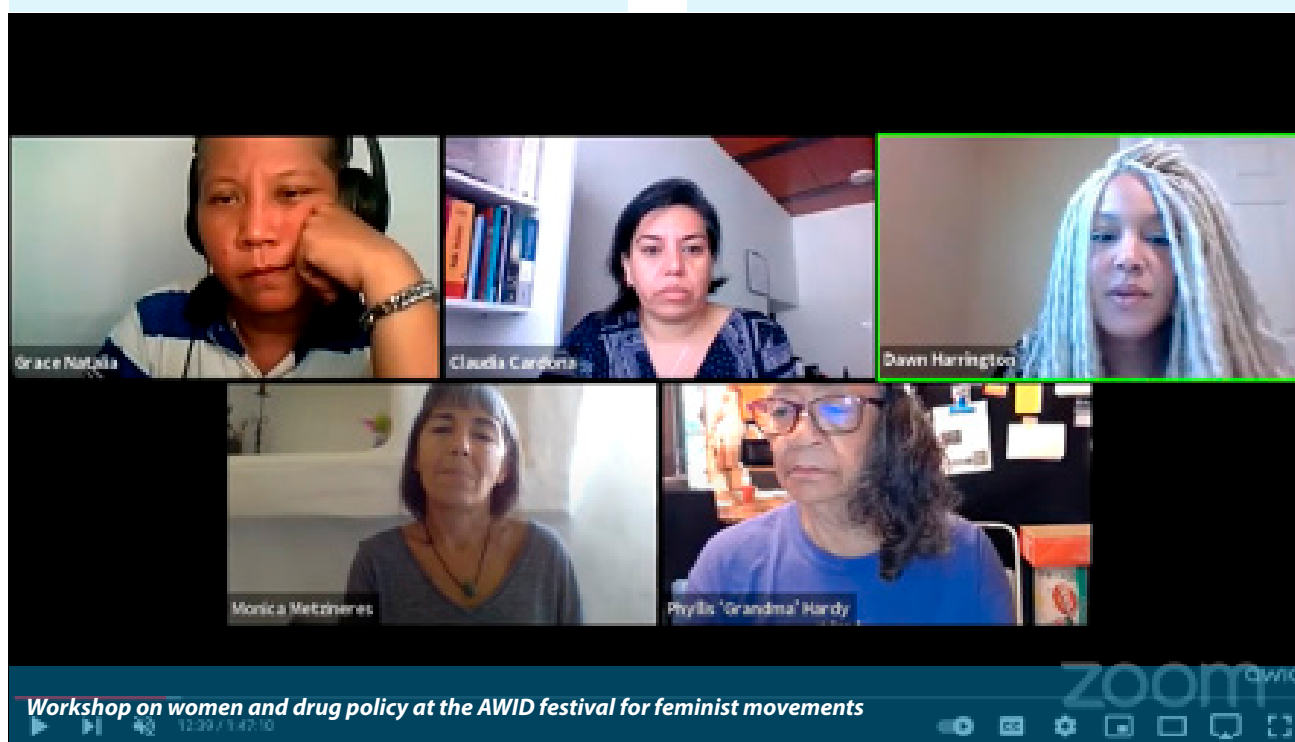
Chart illustrating how IDPC members are targeted by the Committee on NGOs

Case study: IDPC at the Crear / Résister / Transform festival for feminist movements

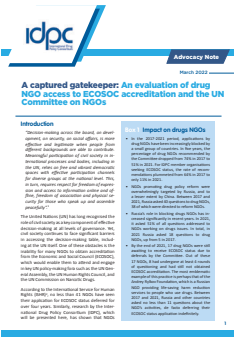
There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, and therefore there should not be such a thing as a single-issue

network. That's the reason why we collaborate with other organisations and networks with mandates that are also impacted by drug policies.

The best example of this is our cooperation with global feminist organisations such as AWID, which is grounded on the long-standing research and advocacy of the IDPC network on the disproportionate impact of drug policies on women, and the lack of gendered approaches to drugs. In September 2021, the IDPC Secretariat participated in AWID's Crear / Résister / Transform festival for feminist movements with the workshop [Voices from the Frontlines: Bolstering Collective Power to End the Incarceration of Women Worldwide](#), co-organised with WOLA, the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, WHRIN, Equis Justicia para las Mujeres, Corporación Humanas Colombia, and Mujeres Libres Colombia, featuring a powerful discussion by and between women who have been incarcerated by the war on drugs in different parts of the world. Encouragingly, members of the IDPC network and other colleagues in the drug reform movement also organised a [panel](#) during the festival, showcasing how our network is creating a space of its own within the feminist movements.

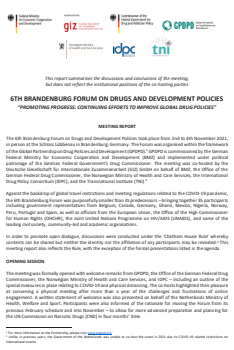


Our publications



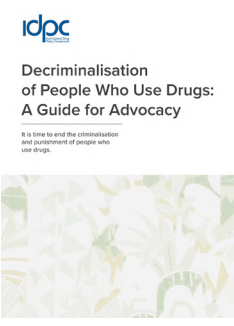
A captured gatekeeper: An evaluation of drug NGO access to ECOSOC accreditation and the UN Committee on NGOs

IDPC presents key research on how the Committee on NGOs has effectively restricted civic space for drug NGOs wishing to engage in UN proceedings, and offers key recommendations for member states as they are preparing to elect new members of the Committee on NGOs in April 2022.



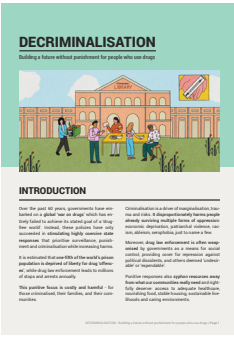
6th Brandenburg Forum on Drugs and Development Policies report

The Forum provided a space for UN, state and civil society representatives to consider how best to progress health, human rights and development in relation to drug policies.



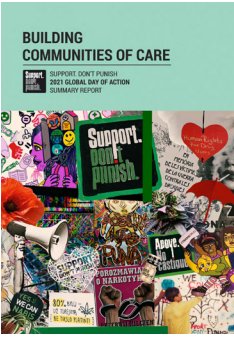
Decriminalisation of people whose drugs: A guide for advocacy

IDPC releases a user-friendly resource 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.



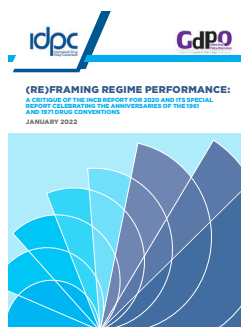
Decriminalisation: Building a future without punishment for people who use drugs

Collaborating under the Support. Don't Punish campaign, IDPC & ARASA provide an overview of the key questions that drug decriminalisation advocates should consider to call for reform.



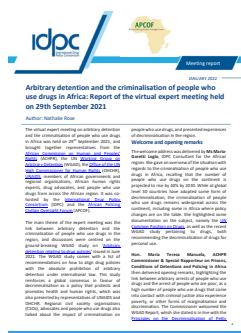
Building communities of care: The Support. Don't Punish 2021 Global Day of Action – Summary report

Dania Putri highlights and summarises the collective efforts of Support. Don't Punish campaigners worldwide to build a future without the war on drugs, where we can all thrive.



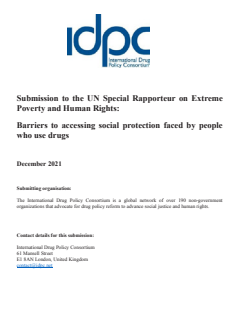
(Re)framing regime performance: A critique of the INCB report for 2020

IDPC and GDPO take a critical look at the narratives that the UN drug control system constructs to justify its own existence, and to create an appearance of success.



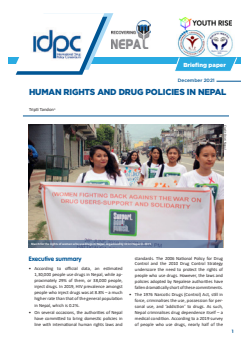
Arbitrary detention and the criminalisation of people who use drugs in Africa

IDPC and APCOF summarise discussions from a multi-stakeholder meeting addressing the links between criminalisation and human rights violations, regional policy developments and avenues for future reform.



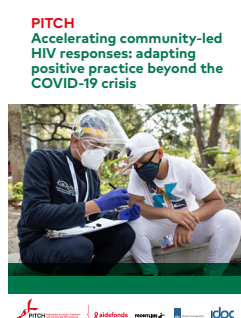
'Marginalising the most marginalised': Gathering evidence on how the welfare state discriminates against people who use drugs - Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

IDPC highlights the many ways how people who use drugs are denied access to vital social protection services.



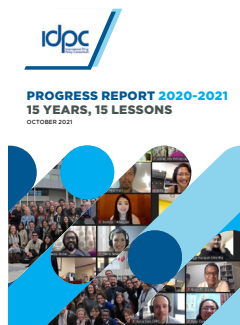
Human rights and drug policies in Nepal

This report provides a comprehensive review of the human rights situation of people who use drugs in Nepal, and examines how Nepal's repressive and outmoded drug policies are contributing to the violation of several human rights recognised under international and domestic law.



Accelerating community-led HIV responses: Adapting positive practice beyond the COVID-19 crisis

This PITCH paper highlights examples of positive shifts in policy, programme and service delivery as well as rights protections for people living with and at greatest risk of HIV, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



IDPC progress report 2020-2021

IDPC contextualises its most recent period of activities under the light of 15 lessons learnt over our network's fifteen years of existence.



IDPC Membership Survey 2020: Summary of results

The IDPC membership share insights on progress and setbacks in drug policy reform in 47 countries.



Drug policy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Africa cannot achieve the SDG targets without reforming drug policies

IDPC, TB/HIV Care and ARASA demonstrate how drug policy reform is a sustainable development issue that African countries need to urgently address to achieve the SDGs.



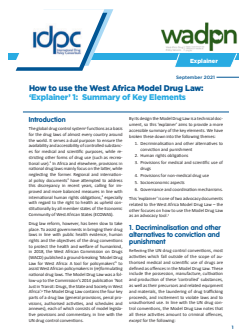
The Global Drug Policy Index 2021 - Analytical report

The Harm Reduction Consortium presents the first edition of the Global Drug Policy Index, which documents, measures and compares national-level drug policies against the UN Common Position on drugs.



How to use the West Africa Model Drug Law: 'Explainer' 2: Guide for civil society advocacy

This short document serves as a practical guide for civil society on possible ways to use the Model Drug Law in advancing drug policy reform in West Africa and beyond.



How to use the West Africa Model Drug Law: 'Explainer' 1: Summary of key elements

This 'explainer' aims to provide a more accessible summary of the key elements included in the West Africa Model Drug Law.



Cannabis regulation: Lessons from the illicit tobacco trade

IDPC draws lessons from the challenges of tobacco control, including in relation to corporate capture, to inform the design of equitable, inclusive and sustainable cannabis legal regulation.



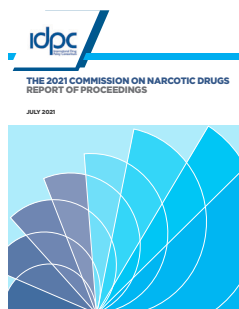
Turning the tide: Growth, visibility and impact of the civil society drug policy reform movement at the UN

IDPC offers a historical analysis of civil society advocacy for drug policy reform at the UN, assessing gains, challenges and insight on how the latter have been generally overcome.



10-point plan: Gender-sensitive drug policies for women

PRI and IDPC detail how policymakers and practitioners in the criminal legal system can reduce the imprisonment of women for drug-related offences in line with international standards.



The 2021 Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Report of Proceedings

The 64th session of the CND was marked by the increase in prominence of health and human rights narratives, the proceedings' 'hybrid format' and a welcome long-overdue shift in the US stance on harm reduction.



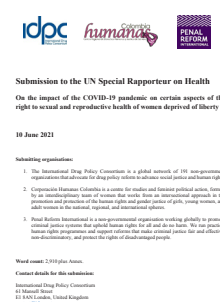
Innovation and resilience in times of crisis (Part 2): The response to COVID-19 from harm reduction services

IDPC and HRI document disruptions and challenges, as well as positive developments faced by harm reduction in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.



On the right to freedom of thought, cognitive liberty, and the global drug control regime - Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief:

IDPC and Instituto RIA argue that blanket prohibitions on practices to alter one's consciousness constitute unlawful limitations on the right to the freedom of thought.



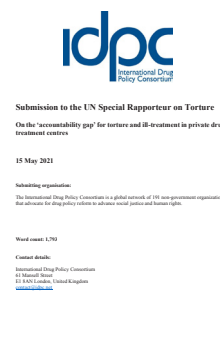
Period poverty in prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on health

IDPC documents failures in the provision of menstrual products by prison and state systems during the pandemic emergency.



1st Brandenburg Forum (BBF) in Geneva “Building bridges between the drug policy and human rights regimes of the United Nations”

The 1st Brandenburg Forum provided a trusted space for important discussion and debate to strengthen the drug policy focus within the key health and human rights bodies in Geneva.



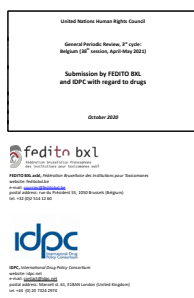
Torture in private ‘rehab’ centres: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

IDPC highlights several systemic issues prevalent in human rights abuses directed at those held against their will in drug treatment centres.



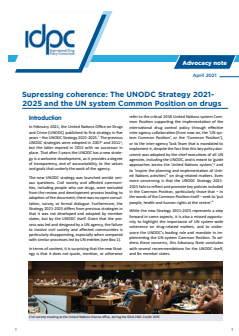
International drug policy: The impact of civil society and opportunities for addiction professionals to engage

Hill, Fehér, and Bridge outline civil society engagement processes and encourage practitioners to take a more active role.



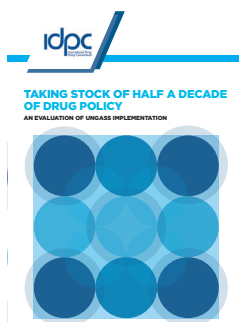
Health and people who use drugs: Recommendations for the UPR of Belgium

FEDITO BLX and IDPC make recommendations for Belgium's UPR, focusing on adopting a public health approach, decriminalising people who use drugs and providing a clear legal framework for drug consumption rooms.



Suppressing coherence: The UNODC Strategy 2021-2025 and the UN system Common Position on drugs

IDPC provides a critique of the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025 with a focus on two critical issues: the exclusion of civil society and communities from the development and approval of the document; and the departure from the policy priorities established in the 2018 UN system Common Position on drugs.



Taking stock of half a decade of drug policy - An evaluation of UNGASS implementation

IDPC takes stock of progress made on the implementation of the recommendations included in the UNGASS Outcome Document, focusing on six critical areas: public health, development, human rights, civil society engagement, UN agency collaboration and cooperation, and drug policy evaluation.



Edging forward: How the UN's language on drugs has advanced since 1990 (Version 2)

IDPC and TNI provide an overview of the evolution of the UN-agreed language on key drug policy issues for the last three decades.

Our Board of Directors

Vicki Hanson
(Chair since July 2022)



Donald MacPherson
(Chair until July 2022)



Ernestien Jensema



Jane Waterman



Rupert Markland



Smriti Rana



Tomás A. Chang Pico
(joined in July 2022)



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



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Executive Director



Jamie Bridge
Chief Operating Officer



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Head of Research and Communications



Adrià Cots Fernández
Research and Analysis Officer



Juan Fernandez Ochoa
Campaigns and Communications Officer



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Associate



Mat Southwell
Consultant: Vienna and Geneva



Thanks to our interns Beth Carriage, Henry Pope and Ross Patterson, whose work was critical to the smooth running of the IDPC Secretariat between April 2021 and March 2022.

Donors

Between April 2021 and March 2022, IDPC received the valuable financial support of:

- AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA)
- Ben Levenson Foundation
- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- European Commission (via UNAD)
- Global Fund (via MENAHRA and the Alliance for Public Health)
- Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPDPPD) – managed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Open Society Foundations
- Robert Carr Fund
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Voice – via Asia Catalyst
- World Health Organization (WHO)

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Global

1. AFEW International
2. Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation
3. Drugs, Security and Democracy Program of the Social Science Research Council
4. Frontline AIDS
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. International Network of People of Who Use Drugs
11. Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)
12. Mainline
13. Médecins du Monde
14. Penal Reform International
15. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
16. Transnational Institute
17. Women and Harm Reduction International Network
18. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
19. World Hepatitis Alliance
20. Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
21. Youth Rise

Western Europe

22. Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento
23. AIDES

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

South East Europe

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

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

70. 100% Life
71. Alternative Georgia
72. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice
73. Alliance for Public Health
74. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association
75. Galiu gyventi - "I Can Live" Coalition
76. Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
77. Polish Drug Policy Network
78. Youth Organisations for Drug Action
79. Rights Reporter Foundation
80. PREKURSOR

Latin America

81. Acción Andina - Bolivia
82. Acción Semilla Boliviana
83. Acción Técnica Social
84. Andean Information Network
85. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
86. Brazilian Drug Policy Platform
87. Center for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship
88. Centro de Convivência "É de Lei"
89. Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad
90. Centro de Estudios en Seguridad Ciudadana
91. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales
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93. Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral
94. Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
95. Conectas
96. Corporación Humanas Chile
97. Corporación Humanas Colombia
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99. Corporación Viso Mutop
100. Ecuador Cannábico
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)
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110. International Centre for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service
111. México Unido Contra la Delincuencia
112. Nierika AC

113. Psicotropicus
114. Red Americana de Intervención en Situaciones de Sufrimiento Social
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

North America

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

East and South East Asia

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

South Asia

143. India HIV/AIDS Alliance
144. Lawyers Collective
145. Recovering Nepal
146. Society for the Promotion of Youth & Masses

Oceania

147. Alcohol and Drug Foundation
148. Drug Policy Australia
149. Harm Reduction Australia
150. New Zealand Drug Foundation
151. New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme
152. Penington Institute
153. Uniting

Middle East/North Africa

- 154. Association de Lutte Contre le Sida
- 155. Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Network
- 156. Regional Arab Network against AIDS
- 157. Skoun Lebanese Addiction Centre

Sub-Saharan Africa

- 158. African Law Foundation
- 159. African Network of People who Use Drugs
- 160. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
- 161. Alliance Nationale des Communautés pour la Santé
- 162. Association Sénégalaise pour la Réduction des Risques Infectieux chez les Groupes Vulnérables
- 163. Bensther Development Foundation
- 164. Collectif Urgence Toxida
- 165. CONAD-CI
- 166. Développement-Rassemblement-Information et Prévention (DRIP)

- 167. Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform
- 168. Foundation against Illicit Drug and Child Abuse
- 169. Foyer du Bonheur
- 170. Institute for Drug Control and Human Security
- 171. Kenyan AIDS NGOs Consortium
- 172. Paroles Autour de la Sante
- 173. Perle Sociale ONG
- 174. PILS
- 175. REVS PLUS
- 176. TB/HIV Care Association
- 177. Uganda Harm Reduction Network
- 178. UNIDOS
- 179. Union Contre la Co-infection VIH/Hépatites/Tuberculose
- 180. Voices of Community Action and Leadership (VOCAL-KE)
- 181. West Africa Civil Society Initiative
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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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Website: www.idpc.net

This progress report is published at the mid-term point of our current three-year strategic plan and highlights the impact we have made so far against our strategic priorities.

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Report design by Rudy Tun-Sánchez

