

How the 'War on Drugs' impacts the current response to drugs and HIV: recommendations from the Global Commission on Drug Policy

10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
Satellite Meeting

Sunday, August 28, 12:00-13:30

Room No. C 103-104, Busan Exhibition Convention Centre

The global 'war on drugs' has had a number of unintended consequences. In many countries, HIV and Hepatitis C infection rates have risen. People who use drugs often have insufficient access to care and treatment, and frequently experience human rights violations.

The growing perception that it is time to rethink drugs policies led to the formation of the Global Commission on Drug Policy. High-profile figures and experts, including ex-presidents and a former U.N. Secretary General, came together to review and discuss science-based and humane ways to reduce the harm caused by drug-related activities to people and societies. The Global Commission launched a report in June 2011.

Co-hosted by the Asian Harm Reduction Network and the Global Drug Policy program, this session will examine how the current international drug control regime has impacted the overall drugs and HIV response, and discuss the recommendations of the Global Commission.

Speakers include:

Drug policy as a global shared responsibility - recommendations of the Global Commission on Drug Policies. Mr. Jon Ungphakorn, Former Senator, Thailand

Impact of current law enforcement and criminal justice on the drugs and HIV response. Mr. Datuk Zaman Khan, the Malaysian AIDS Council (former Prisons Department director-general and CID chief, Malaysia)

Benefits of drug policies based on public health principles to prevention interventions and harm reduction approaches. Ms. Tripti Tandon, Lawyers Collective, India

The global state of harm reduction and structural barriers to evidence-based programmes. Ms. Claudia Stoicescu, Harm Reduction International (formerly known as IHRA/International Harm Reduction Association)

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