

# The International Drug Policy Reform Conference

Program and Agenda

drugs &  
health &  
community



Reform is hosted by the Drug Policy Alliance.

October 18–21, 2023

Gila River Resorts & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass  
reformconference.org

#Reform2023 • #NoMoreDrugWar

\* Please note that session details are subject to change.  
For the latest information, refer to the conference app.

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### Co-Hosts



**Dear friends,**

## Welcome to the 2023 International Drug Policy Reform Conference!

It is a singular honor to gather here in Phoenix with you, all of us working together for health, equity, and human rights – for dignity, justice, and compassion – for liberation, freedom, and autonomy. Take a look around. We are a diverse collection of people, in every sense of the word. We are the drug policy reform movement.

This is our first Reform Conference since 2019. It thrills me to see many of you for the first time in years and to meet others new to our movement. But my heart aches for those who are not with us. We lost so many people we love – to overdose, to Covid, to criminalization, to everything in between.

That is a big part of why we are here, to honor those who cannot be with us. It is in their names that we advocate for a better world. We fight so that people may live free and well, cared for in their times of need, without the danger, threat, and violence of the war on drugs, in the United States and abroad.

There is no doubt that drug policy reform has made incredible progress in recent years. We chalked up a lot of truly groundbreaking victories. And it is precisely because of this progress that the old drug war regime has reorganized, rebranded, and instigated a fierce backlash against us. So much is at stake – the record-breaking rate of overdose deaths, the massive system of punishment and surveillance, the lives hanging in the balance.

But now isn't the time to get disillusioned. Drug policy reformers have had their backs against the wall many times before. You can find someone at this conference who helped start our movement and whose tenacity over decades ushered in our big wins of the 2010's – they will tell you all about it. We draw strength from our rich history so we can meet the challenges of today. We are nothing if not gritty, and rest assured we will end up stronger as a result.

As you will see in the program, detailed in the following pages, we are made for this moment – and we are already looking three steps ahead. We are covering many new topics while staying true to our roots, a reflection of our ever-growing movement. We must always dare to push forward.

Over the next three days, let us recommit to our work. Learn from each other, get inspired, and meet new allies. Let us stand in our collective power, knowing that our calling is a moral imperative. And savor the moments of joy that we always find whenever drug policy reformers get together.

Thank you for sharing your time and energy, for traveling from near and far, and for doing your part to make the Reform Conference special and keep drug policy reform moving forward.



**Kassandra Frederique**  
Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance



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## Land Acknowledgment

It is vitally important to acknowledge the land we visit. The Gila River Indian Community is a unique partnership of two distinct indigenous people, the O’Odham (People of the river) and the Piipaash (Maricopa).

Their language and customs reflect their cultural values and their way of life. The Community is located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona and has the largest indigenous population in the Phoenix metro Valley. Gila River operates four Gaming Facilities Wild Horse Pass, Vee Quiva, Lone Butte, and the newest addition Santan Mountain as well as 17 other enterprises. 100% of profits from these businesses are utilized by the Community to provide services and opportunities to achieve the highest quality of life for its people.

## Getting Around

### Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass

A map of Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass is on page 40 of this program book as well as on the conference app. This will show all meeting room locations. Here’s a quick reference:

*Conference Registration: Acacia Foyer*

*Plenary Sessions: The Show Room*

*Breakouts: Palo Verde A, Palo Verde B, Palo Verde C, Yucca, Willow, Cholla, Agave*

*Achievement Awards Ceremony & Reception: The Show Room*

Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass is a smoke-free hotel. Please smoke outside the hotel in clearly designated areas.

Water is provided in all meeting rooms and public spaces.

## At the Conference

### Registration/Information

Our registration staff will be on-site to answer any questions you may have throughout the conference.

The registration desk is located in the Acacia Foyer.

Registration desk hours are:

- \* Wednesday, October 18: 4:00pm – 8:00pm
- \* Thursday, October 19: 8:30am – 5:00pm
- \* Friday, October 20: 8:30am – 5:00pm
- \* Saturday, October 21: 9:00am – 12:00pm

### Exhibitors

Please visit our exhibitors, which are located in the Acacia Ballroom. See page 33 for our full list of exhibitors.

- \* Wednesday, October 18: 12:00pm – 4:00pm (for Set Up)
- \* Thursday, October 19: 9:00am – 4:30pm
- \* Friday, October 20: 9:00am – 4:30pm
- \* Saturday, October 21: 9:30am – 3:00pm

### Bookstore

Please visit our Bookstore, located in the Acacia Ballroom, for a wide array of publications focused on drug policy reform.

Bookstore hours are:

- \* Wednesday, October 18: 12:00pm – 4:00pm (for Set Up)
- \* Thursday, October 19: 9:00am – 4:30pm
- \* Friday, October 20: 9:00am – 4:30pm
- \* Saturday, October 21: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Bookstore is run and managed by Changing Hands Bookstore.

### Mobile App

Want to organize your schedule, receive updates and reminders, or find a place to eat nearby? Then download the 2023 International Drug Policy Reform Conference app! You should have already received an email inviting you to register and enjoy the full functionality of the app or scan below.

Scan here to download the official Reform Conference app:



### Nametags

Please wear your nametag at all times when entering conference sessions. This is proof that you have paid registration and are eligible to attend the sessions. If you lose your badge, go to the registration desk to request a replacement.

### Room Hosts

All of the breakout sessions will have room hosts to assist the speakers and help with any issues that may arise. Please note that to comply with fire code, the room hosts have been instructed to close the door once all seats are taken. We request that you please respect room host requests if you are asked to select another

session. Also, if your room is full, please be sure to place your personal items on the floor and not on the chair next to you.

### Evaluations

Please complete the individual breakout session evaluations and the general conference evaluation in your conference app. These evaluations are anonymous. Your valuable feedback will be helpful to the presenters and in our future planning.

### Receipts

If you need a receipt for your registration, you can easily print a receipt for yourself by going to the online registration site, entering your email address, and following the directions.

### Lost and Found

Any items found during the conference will be taken to the registration desk or hotel security.

### Cell Phones and Electronics

When entering session rooms, please silence your cell phones and electronics.

### Social Media

Use the hashtags #Reform2023 and #NoMoreDrugWar and tag us in your social media posts!

DPA:  @DrugPolicyOrg  @DrugPolicyAlliance

Reform:  @ReformConf  @ReformConference

### Share Your Story

We believe in the power of personal stories to show the real-life harms of drug policies rooted in punishment and stigma.

Have a story to share with us? Visit [drugpolicy.org/mystory](https://drugpolicy.org/mystory).

## Conference Policies

### Code of Conduct

We are committed to providing a conference experience where everyone is treated with respect, free from discrimination or harassment based on gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, ethnicity, nationality, race, age, religion, or other protected category. Discrimination or harassment of conference participants, which includes attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors, will not be tolerated in any form. Conference participants violating this rule may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference without a refund at the discretion of the conference organizers. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of conference staff immediately.

### All Gender Restrooms

In our continued effort to make the Reform Conference as inclusive as possible for those individuals who do not identify as cisgender, several of the restrooms within the conference space have been labeled as "All Gender Restrooms". These restrooms can be used by all attendees, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

### Fragrance-Free Policy

To be respectful of those with allergies and environmental sensitivities, we ask that you please refrain from wearing strong fragrances.

### Statement on Substance Use

We recognize that everyone at the conference is working to change drug-related policies and may oppose many of the laws currently in place. However, please remember that while this conference is a forum for discussion about the widest possible range of reform efforts, when it comes to your substance use choices, the event still takes place within the context of the current legal system. Please also keep in mind that the Reform Conference draws attendees with all manners of different personal relationships to drug use, including people in various types of recovery. Attendees also have varied experiences with and relationships to the criminal legal system. Please be mindful of others' comfort and safety as you participate in the conference.

For information about Arizona and tribal drug laws, please check the conference app.

## Conference Health & Wellness

We aim to support the health and wellness of all conference attendees as well as our local host community. Please carefully review the following information. This and more detailed information will be available in the conference app.

### Emergency Response

If you or another conference attendee experiences a life-threatening medical emergency, please call 911 from your cell first and then find the nearest staff member, as they will be able to help direct EMS. You can also alert hotel staff by calling 1-800-946-4452, or call from a hotel phone and dial 0 or 4400 for the Front Desk or 7180 for Security. If you know or suspect this is an opioid-involved overdose, please visit the MedEvent911 medical station in the exhibit area located in the Acacia Ballroom or the Harm Reduction Lounge in Ocotillo C, as they will have naloxone on hand. For non-life-threatening medical emergencies, please first alert the hotel to facilitate an emergency response.

### Closest Hospital:

Emergency Room at Arizona General Hospital Ahwatukee  
4328 E Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85048  
(480) 454-3630 • (10 minute drive from the hotel)

### Chandler Regional Medical Center

1955 W Frye Rd, Chandler, AZ 85224  
(480) 728-3000  
Open 24 hours • (13 minute drive from the hotel)

### Closest Pharmacy:

CVS  
4657 E Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85048  
(480) 598-6776  
Monday - Friday 9:00am – 1:30pm / 2:00pm – 7:00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10:00am – 1:30pm / 2:00pm – 6:00pm  
(9 minute drive from the hotel)

(Continued on next page)

## GENERAL INFORMATION • #REFORM2023

### Basic Health & Medical Needs

The Reform Conference will have a medical station staffed by local medical company MedEvent911 with a paramedic trained in basic as well as advanced life support (including naloxone administration) during the regular conference meeting times, all three days of the conference. This station will carry naloxone (intramuscular and nasal) as well as items such as antacids, antiseptic wipes, muscle pain balm, throat lozenges, aspirin, ibuprofen and other pharmaceuticals and supplies. It will be located in the exhibit area in the Acacia Ballroom.

Please note that the hotel has syringe disposal boxes in all public bathrooms on the meeting level of the hotel.

### The Harm Reduction Lounge

Please visit the Harm Reduction Lounge for all your harm reduction needs! This space will feature trainings on topics such as overdose prevention and drug checking with vital supplies like naloxone provided by our national and local partners. The Harm Reduction Lounge is located in Ocotillo C. You can find more detailed information about Harm Reduction Lounge activities in our conference app.

### The Harm Reduction Sanctuary

Co-created by members of Faith In Harm Reduction, this Sanctuary space will center healing, wellness and resilience for conference attendees. Community care offerings will include ritual, sacred rest, a community altar, expressive arts, peer support and community healing/grief circles. The Harm Reduction Sanctuary is located in Ocotillo B. Please check the conference app for a detailed schedule of activities.

### Harm Reduction at a Distance

Fireside Project's Psychedelic Peer Support Line / 623-473-7433  
Call, text, or download the free app ([firesideproject.org/app](https://firesideproject.org/app)) to receive emotional support for anyone using psychedelics or cannabis, supporting someone using psychedelics or cannabis, or processing a past experience. The line operates seven days a week, from 11am to 11pm Pacific time.

### Never Use Alone / 844-597-1234

Call or video chat to this line to receive safety checks and emotional support for anyone using opioids or stimulants. The number is specifically for use by Reform Conference attendees and operates from Tuesday, October 17 at 6pm Pacific to Sunday, October 22 at noon Pacific. If you have trouble connecting to this line, you can call Jessie B. at 229-869-3136.

### Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

If you need methadone or buprenorphine access while attending the conference, Intensive Treatment Systems (ITS) has several locations in the Phoenix area. The locations closest to the conference and with the broadest dosing hours are below:

340 W University Dr., #19  
Mesa, AZ 85201  
(602) 666-1910  
Dosing hours: Monday-Saturday, 5:00am – 1:00pm

4136 N 75th Ave Suite #116  
Phoenix, AZ 85033  
(623) 247-1234 • Dosing hours: 24/7

ITS also offers on-demand transportation to and from its locations. Please contact the clinics in advance to confirm their dosing hours as well as requirements regarding paperwork from a home clinic/medical provider and costs for guest doses. The Reform Conference is working with an MOUD-specialized doctor to help ease this process. Please see the app for details on how to contact this individual.

### Recovery Services

Those in recovery can find local NA/AA meetings by using the service In the Rooms (<http://meetings.intherooms.com>). Non-alcoholic beverage service areas will be available at all official Reform events where alcohol is served.

### Local Criminal Legal Defense

The Reform Conference organizers share a belief that drug use ought to be treated as a health issue rather than a criminal matter, but recognize that as things are, drug use can bring about interactions with the legal system. We have arranged for a local criminal defense attorney, AJ Hall of Tait & Hall ([aj@taitandhall.com](mailto:aj@taitandhall.com)), to provide pro bono consultation should any conference attendee be contacted by local law enforcement. Please see the app for more detailed instructions on how to contact this individual.

## Conference Services

### Child Care

Professional on-site child care will be offered free of charge in Ocotillo A.

Child care will be provided on the following days and times:

Thursday, October 19: 8:30am – 6:00pm  
Friday, October 20: 8:30am – 6:00pm  
Saturday, October 21: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Child care services provided by A Child's Garden.

### Spanish Interpretation

Thanks to the support from the Open Society Foundations, and in partnership with Phoenix Language Justice Collaborative, we are pleased to offer interpretation services for some of the conference sessions. Spanish-only speakers are encouraged to check out a headset from Phoenix Language Justice's table next to the registration area prior to each session. Two of the breakout sessions in each timeslot and all of the plenaries will offer interpretation from English into Spanish.

### Conference Host Committee

We are thrilled to have worked with three extraordinary Phoenix-based organizations to strategically engage the community in and around Phoenix with the Reform Conference and to further the impact of our work at a local and regional level.

Big thanks to Sonoran Prevention Works, Shot in the Dark, and Poder in Action for serving on our official 2023 Reform Conference Host Committee.

## Achievement Awards Reception

October 19 • 8:00pm – 10:30pm • Show Room

Join us to celebrate the work of our 2023 Achievement Award honorees at a special ceremony and reception on Thursday, October 19 from 8:00pm – 10:30pm, in the Show Room. The ceremony program will also feature a special fireside chat between honoree Sam Rivera, Executive Director of OnPoint NYC, and Svante Myrick, President of People for the American Way and Board Member of the Drug Policy Alliance.

Food and hosted wine and beer provided.  
Cash bar also available.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online with your conference registration. There may be a limited number of tickets available for purchase at the registration desk.

## Top Golf (21 & Over Venue)

October 19 • 7:00pm – 11:00pm

The Top Golf Swing Suite is reserved exclusively for Reform Conference attendees. Work on your swing at the two Virtual Golf swing suites or play any of the other available games: Zombie Dodge Ball, Quarterback Challenge, or Baseball Pitching.

Food provided and cash bar available.

You can also reserve a swing suite on Open Table the other days of the conference.

## Karaoke Night

October 20 • 8:00pm – 11:00pm • Show Room

Friday night is karaoke night at the Reform Conference! Head to the Show Room, browse DJ Miss Mixx's catalogue, and sing your heart out on the big stage.

Cash bar available.

## Official Reform Conference Party!

Saturday October 21

Latin America and the United States join together once again to celebrate advances in drug policy reform with an unforgettable party! Acción Técnica Social (Colombia), Instituto RIA (Mexico), and DPA are hosting the official party for the 2023 International Drug Policy Reform Conference, including international and local DJs. Check the conference app for details, and join all your favorite reformers tearing up the dance floor on Saturday, October 21 after the close of the conference!

## Become an official Drug Policy Alliance Member.

The Drug Policy Alliance is the leading organization in the U.S. working to end the drug war, repair its harms, and build a non-punitive, equitable, and regulated drug market.

**Members are the driving force behind our work and help us make the Reform Conference possible.**

Become an official DPA member today and receive an official membership card, plus: invitations to exclusive events with Executive Director Cassandra Frederique and other senior policy staff and experts; opportunities to provide your crucial opinions on our future advocacy and policy work; and special updates and analysis on the latest local, national, and international drug policy reform news. DPA Members also receive discounts at future Reform Conferences.

**Help us build a world without the drug war and save lives.**

Become a member today at  
[drugpolicy.org/jointoday](https://drugpolicy.org/jointoday)



Scan here to visit our website's registration page.

## Wednesday, October 18

4:00pm - 8:00pm      **Registration is Open**      Acacia Foyer

7:00pm - 9:00pm      **Welcome Reception**      Event Lawn

## Thursday, October 19

8:30am - 9:30am      **Continental Breakfast and Registration**      Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn & Acacia Foyer

9:30am - 11:00am      **Welcome and Opening Plenary**      Show Room  
 Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available

11:00am - 11:30am      **Morning Break**

11:30am - 1:00pm      **Breakout Sessions**

- Small Town, Big Drug War: Rural Policing and Surveillance, Resistance, and Resilience      Palo Verde A
- The Future of Drug Policy Research: A Conversation with Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse      Palo Verde B  
 Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.
- Illness and Wellness: The Tradeoffs Between Medicalization and Pleasure in Drug Policy Reform      Palo Verde C  
 Spanish interpretation available.
- The Disability Carceral State: Disability Justice Informed Abolition      Yucca
- Unlearning the Drug War: An Exit Strategy for School-Based Drug Policing      Willow
- Visioning Black Feminist Futures: A World Beyond the Drug War      Cholla

1:00pm - 2:30pm      **Lunch**      Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn

2:30pm - 4:00pm      **Breakout Sessions**

- From the Ground Up: How People of Color Are Building Regulatory Models That Advance Equity in Marijuana Policy Reform      Palo Verde A
- Righting Wrongs Worldwide: Drug War Reparations in a Global Context      Palo Verde B  
 Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.
- Psychedelic Decriminalization: Gateway or Hurdle to All-Drug Decriminalization?      Palo Verde C  
 Spanish interpretation available.
- Book Talk - Whiteout: How Racial Capitalism Changed the Color of Opioids in America      Yucca
- Methamphetamine as a Scapegoat: When an Old Drug is Framed as a New Social Problem      Willow
- Resisting Surveillance: Movement Implications from Navigating Drug War Surveillance      Cholla

# Thursday, October 19 Continued

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4:00pm - 4:30pm

## Afternoon Break

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4:30pm - 6:00pm

## Breakout Sessions

- Whose Body? My Body!  
The Fight for Bodily Autonomy When the Drug War,  
Reproductive Justice, and Family Regulation System Collide  
Palo Verde A
  - The Lure of Coercion:  
Don't Be Fooled By "Kinder, Gentler" Drug War Tactics  
Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.  
Palo Verde B
  - Safer Supply 360: Addressing Different Models Along a Spectrum  
Spanish interpretation available.  
Palo Verde C
  - Introduction to Drug Policy Reform  
Yucca
  - Environmental Justice for All:  
An Equitable Approach to Sustainable Development  
and Climate Justice in Drug Policy Reform  
Willow
  - Who Deserves to Eat?  
Drug War Exclusion and the Fight for Basic Supports  
Cholla
- 

7:00pm - 11:00pm

## Top Golf

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8:00pm - 10:30pm

## Achievement Awards Reception

Show Room

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# Friday, October 20

8:30am - 9:30am	<b>Continental Breakfast and Registration</b>	Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn & Acacia Foyer
9:30am - 11:00am	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decriminalizing Personal Liberties and Building Freedom Across Movements</li> <li>- For Us, [Near] Us: A Conversation About OPCs, Gentrification, and Resource Allocation in Marginalized Communities <small>Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Transitional Justice and Engaging Cartels in Reforms <small>Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Policy Advocacy for Academics</li> <li>- Reclaiming Our Movements: Building Power Between Drug User and Recovery Communities</li> <li>- Effective Communications for Difficult Conversations on Drugs: What's the Secret?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palo Verde A</li> <li>Palo Verde B</li> <li>Palo Verde C</li> <li>Yucca</li> <li>Willow</li> <li>Cholla</li> </ul>
11:30am - 1:00pm	<b>Feature Plenary: Centering Indigenous Leadership and Innovation in Harm Reduction and Drug Policy</b> <small>Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.</small>	Show Room
1:00pm - 2:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn
2:30pm - 4:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Black Lives, Police Power, and the Fourth Amendment</li> <li>- After Oregon: The Next Era of All-Drug Decriminalization <small>Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Will Drug Checking Save Us? <small>Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Book Talk - In Their Names: Hierarchy of Harm</li> <li>- Fundraising Tips, Strategies, and Wisdom from the Field</li> <li>- Beyond Commercialization: How Regulation Can Create Legal Access and Safer Supply Without Big Business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palo Verde A</li> <li>Palo Verde B</li> <li>Palo Verde C</li> <li>Yucca</li> <li>Willow</li> <li>Cholla</li> </ul>
4:00pm - 4:30pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
4:30pm -6:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Combatting Drug Panics in Congress: How Law Enforcement, the Media, and Lawmakers Perpetuate Fear-Based Drug Policy</li> <li>- When Facts Fail: The Promises and Perils of Research in Drug Policy Reform <small>Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Street-Based Harm Reduction Outreach to Combat "Public Disorder" <small>Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- We Never Get Anywhere But Mad: Building Racial Equity Caucuses in the Southwest</li> <li>- Drug Testing in Employment: Narrative Change and Policy Shift</li> <li>- The Rise of Authoritarianism and Extremism in the Name of the Drug War</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palo Verde A</li> <li>Palo Verde B</li> <li>Palo Verde C</li> <li>Yucca</li> <li>Willow</li> <li>Cholla</li> </ul>
8:00pm - 11:00pm	<b>Karaoke Night!</b>	Show Room

# Saturday, October 21

9:00am - 10:00am	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn
10:00am - 11:30am	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Controlled Substances Act: Reform or Abolish It? <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde A</span></li> <li>- The Deadly Game of Drug War Whack-A-Mole: Responding to the Ever-Changing Drug Supply <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde B</span> <small>Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Dangers of Corporate Capture of Emerging Markets <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde C</span> <small>Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Beyond Housing First: Limitations, Gentrification, and Visibility <span style="float: right;">Willow</span></li> <li>- The Pueblo's Budget Campaign: The Fight to Defund Phoenix Police and Build a Budget for the People <span style="float: right;">Cholla</span></li> <li>- Moving Beyond Alternative Sanctions: Assessing the Harms of Non-Criminal Punishment <span style="float: right;">Agave</span></li> </ul>	
11:30am - 12:00pm	<b>Morning Break</b>	
12:00pm - 1:30pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For Better or Worse? How Reform and Regulation Impact Drug Criminalization and Enforcement <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde A</span></li> <li>- Cashing in on the Drug War in Daily Life: Following the Money and Motivation of the Drug War Profiteers Outside of the Criminal System <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde B</span> <small>Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Advances in Health and Harm Reduction Services and Persisting Barriers <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde C</span> <small>Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Drug Policy in Disasters and Other Trying Contexts <span style="float: right;">Willow</span></li> <li>- The Intersections of Drug Policy, Policing, and Border Militarization in the Borderlands: Challenging the Dangerous Rhetoric of the War on Drugs <span style="float: right;">Cholla</span></li> <li>- Radicals, Resistance, and Rebellion: Lessons from Civil Disobedience and Direct Action <span style="float: right;">Agave</span></li> </ul>	
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn
3:00pm - 4:30pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Power Structures of Drug Trade Economies <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde A</span></li> <li>- Early Insights and Critiques of Psychedelic Regulation: Who's Benefiting from the Psychedelic Renaissance? <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde B</span> <small>Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Immigration in the Age of Fentanyl: How the Overdose Crisis is Fueling Xenophobia and Racism and Undermining Sanctuary Policies in the U.S. <span style="float: right;">Palo Verde C</span> <small>Spanish interpretation available.</small></li> <li>- Until We Reckon: Forging the Path for Conversations on Violence and Drug Policy Reform <span style="float: right;">Willow</span></li> <li>- At a Crossroads: Black Harm Reduction and Recovery <span style="float: right;">Cholla</span></li> </ul>	
4:30pm - 5:00pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>	
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>Closing Plenary</b>	Show Room

# Thursday, October 19

## Morning Session



### Continental Breakfast & Registration

8:30am – 9:30am  
Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn / Acacia Foyer



### Welcome & Opening Plenary

9:30am – 11:00am | Show Room



### Break

11:00am – 11:30am



### Breakout Sessions

11:30am – 1:00pm

#### **Small Town, Big Drug War: Rural Policing and Surveillance, Resistance, and Resilience** Palo Verde A

Small towns and rural places — while not wholly distinct from big cities and urban areas — do have unique drug war dynamics. How are drug war tactics, police militarization, and tough-on-crime politics especially present in small areas? How do people who use drugs in small towns fare when their cousin is the sheriff or their neighbor is the drug court judge? How is a town impacted when the dominant economies are extractive industries like prisons and coal mining? How do factors like transportation, health care, and infrastructure affect people who use drugs in rural places? This panel will explore small town drug war dynamics and evasion tactics to resist drug war practices and surveillance.

Moderator:

Aliza Cohen, Research Coordinator, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

- \* Roberto Abadie, Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Madison, WI
- \* Lesly-Marie Buer, Co-Founder, Hellbender Harm Reduction, Knoxville, TN
- \* LuzHilda Campos, Deputy Director, Bold Futures NM, Albuquerque, NM
- \* Shameka Parrish-Wright, Executive Director, VOCAL-KENTUCKY, Louisville, KY
- \* David Showalter, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

#### **The Future of Drug Policy Research: A Conversation with Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse** Palo Verde B

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

\* Cassandra Frederique, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

In Conversation with:

Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, North Bethesda, MD

#### **Illness and Wellness: The Tradeoffs Between Medicalization and Pleasure in Drug Policy Reform**

Palo Verde C

Drug policy reformers have strategically used medicalization as a tactic to gain broader support for incremental policy change, as in the cases with overdose prevention centers, heroin-assisted treatment, safer supply, medical marijuana, and psychedelic-assisted treatment. What are the tradeoffs of approaches that prioritize medical professionals in service delivery within the context of purely therapeutic motives for use? What is lost when we do not lead with messages about the role of pleasure and autonomy in drug use, and we downplay or erase the value of community- and peer-led approaches to meet these needs?

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- \* Queen Adesuyi, Policy Strategist, State & Local Government Affairs, Color of Change, Washington, D.C.
- \* Zoe Dodd, Community Scholar, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- \* Alsane Mezon, Overdose Prevention Specialist, OnPoint NYC, New York, NY
- \* Justice Rivera, Partner, Reframe Health & Justice, San Juan, Puerto Rico

#### **The Disability Carceral State: Disability Justice Informed Abolition**

Yucca

What can disability justice informed and implemented abolition work be? During an exciting workshop — using small group breakout, informal political education conversations, and stakeholder stories — we will cover and engage participants around the following key themes:

- A top-level overview of how Ableism operates as a hub of multiple supremacy systems — with examples such as anti-Black racism, misogyny, the hatred of the poor, and transphobia — and how it is working to underpin and feed mass incarceration, population control, and violence by the State.
- An examination of the core elements, political analysis, and identification that make up the "Disability Carceral State" and how a disability justice informed abolition movement will create more holistic analysis and more robust strategy and campaigns.

Trainers:

Ericka Dixon, Senior National Organizer, The Disability Project, Brooklyn, NY

# Thursday, October 19

## Afternoon Session

Sebastian Margaret, Senior National Organizer, The Disability Project, Atlanta, GA

### Unlearning the Drug War: An Exit Strategy for School-Based Drug Policing

Willow

The drug war has shaped school policies that teach adults to treat students as suspects and prioritize policing, metal detectors, locker and backpack searches, and drug testing. Because of zero-tolerance drug policies in schools, students who use drugs are often shamed, suspended, and arrested. Drug use is currently one of the most common sources of referrals of students to police, disenfranchising entire communities from access to education. How can schools instead center reality-based drug education, counseling, and support services? How can advocacy shift to a more cohesive exit strategy for school-based drug policing in the wake of students overdosing on campuses and parents calling for more intervention including bringing back law enforcement on school campuses?

Moderator:

Danica Rodarmel, Consultant, Whole Consulting LC, Sacramento, CA

- \* Max Felker-Kantor, Scholar, Ball State University, Indianapolis, IN
- \* Sydney McKinney, Executive Director, National Black Women's Justice Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- \* Jason Ortiz, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Last Prisoner Project, West Hollywood, CA
- \* Edward Vogel, Senior Policy Researcher, Surveillance Resistance Lab, Antioch, TN

### Visioning Black Feminist Futures: A world Beyond the Drug War

Cholla

Black feminism offers a framework for organizers and advocates to come together across movements and borders to build a shared analysis and a common vision that centers the experiences and visions of Black women, girls, and trans people, toward a cross-sectoral, internationalist agenda for resistance that surfaces and challenges the underlying logics driving drug policy. But what does that look like in practice? What are the opportunities to build transnational solidarity? What campaigns and narratives are needed to keep communities safe? Join author of *Practicing New Worlds: Abolition and Emergent Strategies*, Andrea Ritchie, in conversation with Black Feminists at the conference to envision a new drug reform policy politic.

- \* Andrea Ritchie, Author, *Practicing New Worlds: Abolition and Emergent Strategies*, and Co-Founder, Interrupting Criminalization, Detroit, MI

In Conversation with other Black Feminists



### Lunch

1:00pm – 2:30pm



### Breakout Sessions

2:30pm – 4:00pm

**From the Ground Up:**

#### How People of Color Are Building Regulatory Models That Advance Equity in Marijuana Policy Reform

Palo Verde A

Marijuana policy reform has created a unique opportunity for communities to address longstanding disparities and inequities related to criminalization. Tasked with launching legal markets and building regulatory systems from the ground up, people of color are at the center of efforts to replace prohibition with policies that advance equity as well as public health and safety. What are the experiences, priorities, and challenges for regulators of color? How are regulators of color using their roles to advance equity in U.S. marijuana policy reform?

Moderator

Chelsea Higgs Wise, Executive Director, Marijuana Justice, North Chesterfield, VA

- \* Rafi Aliya Crockett, Writer & Executive Producer, Higher Power Film, Washington, D.C.
- \* Dasheeda Dawson, Founding Director, Cannabis NYC, New York NY
- \* Cat Packer, Director, Drug Markets and Legal Regulation, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- \* Shekia Scott, Cannabis Business Manager, City of Boston, Boston, MA

**Righting Wrongs Worldwide:**

#### Drug War Reparations in a Global Context

Palo Verde B

The U.S.-led war on drugs has resulted in mass violence, human rights atrocities, economic devastation, and environmental degradation around the world. How can we begin to right these wrongs? This session will explore what reparations could look like for communities that have most been harmed by the drug war, with a focus on what the U.S. owes to global communities. Speakers from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Myanmar will share their experiences and perspectives.

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Rebeca Calzada, Program Manager, Youth RISE, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

- \* Dayana Blanco Acendra, General Director, ILEX Acción Jurídica, Bogotá, Colombia

(Continued on next page)

## Thursday, October 19

### Afternoon Session (Continued)

- \* Sai Lone, Senior Adviser, Myanmar Opium Farmers' Forum, Tamwe, Yangon, Myanmar
- \* Nathalia Oliveira, Co-Founder, Black Initiative for a New Drug Policy (Brazil), São Paulo, Brazil
- \* Isabel Pereira-Arana, Drug Policy Area Coordinator, Dejusticia, Bogotá, Colombia
- \* Zara Snapp, Director, Instituto RIA, Coatepec, Mexico

#### **Psychedelic Decriminalization: Gateway or Hurdle to All-Drug Decriminalization?**

Palo Verde C

Following Oregon's lead, legislation to decriminalize possession of all drugs has been introduced in several states and at the federal level. Separately, legislation to decriminalize possession, and sometimes cultivation, of one or more psychedelics has been introduced in numerous states and at the local level. This bifurcation raises important questions concerning ethics and efficacy. Should decriminalization be done piecemeal or wholesale? Does singling out psychedelics harm efforts to decriminalize all drugs? Should all-drug decriminalization include conduct beyond possession, such as cultivation? How can decriminalization be crafted to respect Indigenous cultures? How can psychedelic and all-drug decriminalization efforts work together toward comprehensive drug policy reform?

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Tamar Todd, Attorney, New Approach, Berkeley, CA

- \* Betty Aldworth, Director of Communications, Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, Boulder City, NV
- \* Dawn D. Davis, CEO, Native Sci, Pocatello, ID
- \* Ifetayo Harvey, Executive Director, People of Color Psychedelic Collective, New York, NY
- \* Ami Kachalia, Campaign Strategist, ACLU of New Jersey, Newark, NJ

#### **Methamphetamine as a Scapegoat: When an Old Drug is Framed as a New Social Problem**

Willow

Methamphetamine has long been an entrenched part of the U.S. drug supply and a popular drug across the nation for decades. Yet in recent years, headlines about a "new" and uniquely damaging methamphetamine prevail. These stories frequently quote law enforcement and other talking heads who blame this supposedly new formulation for causing social problems such as crime, homelessness, and "public disorder". However, the reality is far more complex. And the solutions go beyond more punishment and more ineffective treatments. Panelists from communities nationwide will speak about how they challenge these narratives in their communities and how they work to meet the needs of those they serve through innovative outreach, programming, and services.

Moderator:

Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- \* Cleo Jenkins, Outreach Manager, Healthright360, San Francisco, CA
- \* Cuica Montoya, Safe Outdoor Space Program Director, Colorado Village Collaborative, Aurora, CO
- \* Haven Wheelock, Harm Reduction Manager, Outside In, Portland, OR
- \* Mayra Valdovinos, Syringe Service Specialist, Sonoran Prevention Works, Yuma, AZ

#### **Resisting Surveillance: Movement Implications from Navigating Drug War Surveillance**

Cholla

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, there has been a flurry of attention to data hygiene and protecting against criminalization for reproductive care. People who use drugs have long had to take precautionary measures — like those now in the spotlight — to avoid drug war surveillance. What does our movement need to do to stay safe in the era of constant tracking and monitoring? How do we not replicate policing in our spaces, especially as harm reduction expands and many mainstream entities are now espousing this approach without the connection to its radical roots? How does technology help or harm health care and treatment?

Moderator:

Kate D'Adamo, Partner, Reframe Health and Justice, Baltimore, MD

- \* Nadia Eskildsen, Impact Strategist, NEXT Distro, North Carolina
- \* Hamid Khan, Organizer, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, Los Angeles, CA
- \* Puck Lo, Research Director, Community Justice Exchange, Brooklyn, NY
- \* Liam Michaud, Researcher, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

#### **Book Talk - Whiteout: How Racial Capitalism Changed the Color of Opioids in America**

Yucca

In the past two decades, media images of the surprisingly white "new face" of the U.S. opioid crisis abounded. But why was the crisis so white? This panel discussion with the authors of *Whiteout: How Racial Capitalism Changed the Color of Opioids in America* will reveal how a century of structural racism in drug policy and in profit-oriented medical industries led to mass overdose deaths. It will explore how racially segregated health care systems, the racial assumptions of addiction scientists, and relaxed regulation of pharmaceutical marketing to white consumers fed racial capitalism that is toxic for all Americans. Panelists will discuss new policy strategies for addressing these entrenched inequities.

Moderator:

Kassandra Frederique, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- \* Helena Hansen, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences/Interim Director, Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA/Interim Physician-in-Chief, Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Los Angeles, CA
- \* Jules Netherland, Managing Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

## Thursday, October 19

### Evening Session



#### Break

4:00pm – 4:30pm



#### Breakout Sessions

4:30pm – 6:00pm

##### Whose Body? My Body!

##### The Fight for Bodily Autonomy When the Drug War, Reproductive Justice, and Family Regulation System Collide

Palo Verde A

Overdose is now a leading cause of pregnancy-associated deaths in the United States. Laws in nearly half of U.S. states punish any drug use during pregnancy as child maltreatment, regardless of context. Increased criminalization of abortion care is also driving family policing cases — even if the criminal case is resolved the harms from investigations and separations last a lifetime. In the face of attacks on bodily autonomy, how do we ensure people who can become pregnant can make informed decisions about the personal health care that impacts their life, health, and future, and connect with evidence-based care instead of criminalization?

Moderator:

Indra Lusero, Director, Elephant Circle, Palisade, CO

- \* Ruchi Fitzgerald, Addiction Medicine Specialist/Primary Care Physician, PCC Community Wellness/Rush University, Hinsdale, IL
- \* Stephanie Jeffcoat, Executive Director, Families Inspiring Reentry & Reunification 4 Everyone, Anaheim, CA
- \* Sarah Roberts, Professor, ANSIRH/University of California, San Francisco, Oakland, CA

##### The Lure of Coercion:

##### Don't Be Fooled By "Kinder, Gentler" Drug War Tactics

Palo Verde B

What exactly do we mean by a public health approach to drugs? Many members of the public interpret "treatment not jails" as an endorsement of mandatory, often residential, treatment. Even for those who agree voluntary community-based services should be our first approach, many are quick to suspend belief and support involuntary treatment when they encounter drug use in public or for people who have multiple interactions with the legal system. Support for decriminalizing drug possession has grown, but so have calls for involuntary treatment, especially in urban areas where narratives have spread claiming public disorder is caused by drug use, mental health challenges, and homelessness. How do we build a movement to resist increasing calls for involuntary treatment and effectively address narratives around public disorder? What will it take to convince the public to embrace actual solutions instead of supporting counterproductive coercion? Can we prevent those solutions from being weaponized (e.g., OPCs are allowed but strict enforcement of drug use in public)?

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Denise Tomasini-Joshi, Chief of Staff, Innocence Project, Brooklyn, NY

- \* Victoria Law, Freelance Author and Journalist, New York, NY
- \* Paula Lum, Professor, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- \* Meenakshi Manno, Campaigner, Pivot Legal Society, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- \* Joyce McMillan, Executive Director, JMACforFamilies, New York, NY

##### Safer Supply 360: Addressing Different Models Along a Spectrum

Palo Verde C

While highly medicalized models often take center stage, safer supply can take many forms to address both the unique needs of communities as well as the political and social context and realities. What lessons can we learn from Canada's models? Can we adapt those to a U.S. environment? How can we ensure these models meet the needs of all people who use drugs and are driven and shaped by them? And, until our political climate changes, how can we create avenues for safer supply within the currently illicit market?

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Aliza Cohen, Research Coordinator, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

- \* Jessica Hales, Nurse Practitioner, Regent Park Community Health Centre, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
- \* Aretha McCarthy, Founder, DevelopME Youth, Brampton, Ontario, Canada

(Continued on next page)

# Thursday, October 19

## Evening Session (Continued)

- \* Fernando Montero, Chief T32 Postdoctoral Fellow, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, Columbia University, New York, NY
- \* Katy Simon, Sex Worker Liaison and Leadership Team Member, National Survivors Union/Director of Narrative Development, North Carolina Survivors Union/Co-Founder and Development Director, Whose Corner Is It Anyway, Holyoke, MA

### Introduction to Drug Policy Reform

Yucca

This training is designed for first-timers to the Reform Conference and those newer to the broader drug policy reform movement. It will provide an overview of key domestic drug policy reform events in history, including the disproportionate impact upon communities of color and low-income communities. Notable drug policy issues, including strategic priorities, will be discussed and attendees will learn about how they can get involved in policy reform.

Trainer:

Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

### Environmental Justice for All: An Equitable Approach to Sustainable Development and Climate Justice in Drug Policy Reform

Willow

Prohibition threatens the climate and challenges efforts to advance sustainable development. Within drug policy, experts are calling for an environmental harm reduction approach, integration of environmental standards into models of legal regulation, and the fair distribution of environmental, economic, and social resources. What's being done to document and address the environmental harms caused by drug prohibition? What sustainable development opportunities exist as markets are regulated? And what types of regulations and environmental standards are needed to protect the environment and communities?

Moderator:

Clemmie James, Senior Policy & Campaigns Officer, Health Poverty Action, London, United Kingdom

- \* Annette Henry, Attorney-at-Law and Chair, Caribbean Fair Trade Cannabis Working Group, Kingston, Jamaica
- \* Sylvia Kay, Project Officer, Transnational Institute (TNI), Den Haag, Netherlands
- \* Diana Valenzuela, Lawyer, Instituto de estudios para el desarrollo y la Paz (INDEPAZ), Rionegro, Antioquia, Colombia
- \* María Alejandra Vélez, Professor, CESED, Bogotá, D.C., Colombia

### Who Deserves to Eat?

#### Drug War Exclusion and the Fight for Basic Supports

Cholla

Nearly half of U.S. states limit welfare and food stamp eligibility for people with a felony drug record. Public benefits access has been contaminated by the way the drug war has impacted our thinking about both drugs and people who use drugs, including the racist (and false) idea of “drug addicted welfare queens” that was a prominent narrative in welfare reform requiring mandated drug testing and other surveillance. How can we ensure drug war fallout does not impact people’s access to critical public benefits necessary for health and wellbeing? What movement are we seeing in decoupling drug involvement from essential supports?

Moderator:

Grant Smith, Deputy Director, Office of Federal Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Silver Spring, MD

- \* Yasmeen Covington, Advocate and Speaker, Center for Employment Opportunities Participant, Charlotte, NC
- \* Parker Gilkesson, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy, Peoria, IL
- \* Simone Price, Director of Organizing, Center for Employment Opportunities, Atlanta, GA
- \* Sammie Stroud, Program Director, Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC
- \* Naomi Sugie, Associate Professor, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA



### Top Golf

7:00pm – 11:00pm



### Achievement Awards Reception

8:00pm – 10:30pm | Show Room

# Friday, October 20

## Morning Session



### Continental Breakfast & Registration

8:30am – 9:30am

Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn / Acacia Foyer



### Breakout Sessions

9:30am – 11:00am

#### Decriminalizing Personal Liberties and Building Freedom Across Movements

Palo Verde A

Interlocking methods of social control, stigmatization, and oppression threaten personal liberties every day. Amidst heightened attacks on drugs, abortion, gender-affirming health care and more, how can drug policy advocates work with allies to identify and dismantle all mechanisms that enable the State to violate personal liberties? For example, how can the drug decriminalization movement also support movements to decriminalize poverty, race, gender, mental illness, disability, and sex work? When we dismantle overlapping, carceral systems, how can we build new systems that respect communities' rights and are rooted in health, safety, compassion, and justice?

Moderator:

Justice Rivera, Partner, Reframe Health & Justice, San Juan, Puerto Rico

- \* Reagan Dunham, Research Assistant, Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing, Chicago, IL
- \* Tamika Spellman, Policy and Community Engagement Manager, Grammy's Place/HIPS/IONN, Birmingham, AL
- \* Renae Swope, Independent Consultant, Renae's Consulting, Jamestown, NM

**For Us, [Near] Us:**

#### A Conversation About OPCs, Gentrification, and Resource Allocation in Marginalized Communities

Palo Verde B

Black, Brown, and low-income white communities are all too familiar with their communities lacking healthful services — such as fresh foods, parks, funded schools and health care — while being a catchall for infrastructure that whiter / wealthier communities use but do not want in their communities, such as prisons, toxic waste plants, and highways. As the push to open overdose prevention centers (OPCs) grows, how do we work with impacted communities to undo the stigma of OPCs while resisting the gentrification of them to ensure OPCs are implemented as high-quality health care for people who need it most, where we need it?

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Samuel Roberts, Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and History, Columbia University, New York, NY

- \* Queen Adesuyi, Policy Strategist, State & Local Government Affairs, Color of Change, Washington, D.C.

- \* Jason Beltre, Director of Community Initiatives and Impact, OnPoint NYC, New York, NY
- \* Rajani Gudlavalleti, Director of Mobilization, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc., Baltimore, MD
- \* Aura Roig, Director, Metzineres, Barcelona, Spain

#### Transitional Justice and Engaging Cartels in Reforms Palo Verde C

In 2016, Colombia adopted a historic peace agreement with the FARC in an attempt to promote justice and heal wounds after decades of war. Last year, newly elected President Gustavo Petro committed to engage with armed groups in a new set of negotiations branded as Total Peace. What is the transitional justice process? What lessons can be learned from engaging with cartels in an effort to forge a lasting peace? Does Colombia's strategy offer a new model for addressing drug market related violence in Mexico and elsewhere?

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Isabel Pereira-Arana, Drug Policy Area Coordinator, Dejusticia, Bogotá, Colombia

- \* Felipe Botero, Head of Colombia Programmes, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Cali, Colombia
- \* Estefania Ciro, Directora, Centro de Pensamiento desde la Amazonia Colombiana AlaOrillaDelRio, Florencia, Colombia
- \* Adriana Muro, Executive Director, Elementa DDHH, México City, Mexico
- \* Amaya Odorika, Advocacy Coordinator, ReverdeSer Colectivo, Mexico City, Mexico

#### Policy Advocacy for Academics

Yucca

This training is designed for researchers and academics who want to have a greater impact on drug policy. It will cover the basics of how policy gets made, where researchers fit into the policy process, and practical tips on how researchers can engage with policymakers and the policymaking process. It includes a special focus on research translation and using media to move policy reform forward.

Trainers:

Jules Netherland, Managing Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

Sheila Vakharia, Deputy Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

Aliza Cohen, Research Coordinator, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

#### Reclaiming Our Movements: Building Power Between Drug User and Recovery Communities

Willow

Many recovery communities have historically been abstinence-only spaces, whereas harm reduction offers radical welcoming

(Continued on next page)

## Friday, October 20 Morning Session (Continued)

to people across the continuum. As the recovery community has evolved, so have the pathways and ideology around the definition of recovery. Harm reduction accepts that drug use occurs across a continuum and offers pragmatic strategies to reduce disease transmission, soft tissue infections, and overdose. What are some of the strategies to build power in the recovery community while building bridges to the harm reduction community? How can the recovery community share that power with people who use drugs to shape effective drug policy together?

Moderator:

Ryan Hampton, Founder and Executive Director, Mobilize Recovery, Las Vegas, NV

- \* Michael Brown, Founder, Never Use Alone, McMinnville, TN
- \* Courtney Gary-Allen, Organizing Director, Maine Recovery Advocacy Project, Augusta, ME
- \* Kyle Johnston, Advocate Activist, DropTheLabel, Lorain, OH
- \* Lisa Lee, Program Specialist, Washoe County Human Services Agency, Reno, NV
- \* Marilyn Reyes Scales, Co-Director, Peer Network Of New York, Bronx, NY
- \* Chasity Tuell, Director of Northern Maine Harm Reduction Services, Maine Access Points, Brunswick, ME

### Effective Communications for Difficult Conversations on Drugs: What's the Secret?

Cholla

Many people fear and stigmatize drugs. Polling shows that many Americans are deeply concerned about fentanyl and issues such as homelessness, crime, and “public disorder”. Some policymakers play on these valid fears to build support for more criminalization of drugs and the people who use them. In response, some advocates react with messaging or tactics that feel cathartic but may not always be effective. What messaging strategies do work? How do you build support for public health and harm reduction solutions? How do you open pathways for change? We will answer and explore these questions, and more, together.

Moderator:

Brian Pacheco, Managing Director, Communications & Marketing, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- \* Nabarun Dasgupta, Senior Scientist, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- \* Kristen Millnick, Senior Communications Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- \* Insha Rahman, Vice President, Vera Institute of Justice and Vera Action, Brooklyn, NY
- \* Maia Szalavitz, Freelance Journalist, New York, NY



## Feature Plenary: Centering Indigenous Leadership and Innovation in Harm Reduction and Drug Policy

11:30am – 1:00pm | Show Room

## Friday, October 20 Afternoon Session



### Lunch

1:00pm – 2:30pm



### Breakout Sessions

2:30pm – 4:00pm

#### Black Lives, Police Power, and the Fourth Amendment

Palo Verde A

In the pursuit of drugs, police have been given unchecked power to use aggressive tactics. In too many instances this has led to police killings, particularly of Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people. Devon Carbado sits down to explain how the Fourth Amendment, which is intended to protect people against unreasonable searches and seizures, actually legitimizes the harsh treatment of people of color by police and protects police in these instances. In this interview, we will ask Carbado about how the U.S. Constitution has exacerbated this epidemic in the name of drug law enforcement, his own experience at the hands of police, and how we can rethink drug policy and law enforcement.

Interview with Devon Carbado, Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA

Moderator:

Alejandro Madrazo, Academic Director, Talisis, Aguascalientes, Mexico

#### After Oregon: The Next Era of All-Drug Decriminalization

Palo Verde B

In 2020, voters made Oregon the first U.S. state to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of drugs. Policymakers and advocates alike are watching the impact, trying to learn from the policy and also the politics. There's been a growing movement to enact similar decriminalization reforms whether through the ballot box or through legislatures. What will the next iteration of all-drug decriminalization look like? How is Oregon's experience influencing the new era of decriminalization? What are some of the campaigns or work happening in other states and around the world that are most interesting, and how is Oregon's model impacting this movement?

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Emily Kaltenbach, Senior Director, State Advocacy and Criminal Legal Reform, Drug Policy Alliance, Santa Fe, NM

- \* Cathy Alvarez, Executive Director, StreetLawPh, Moalboal, Philippines
- \* Chibundo Egwuatu, Advocacy and Sex Worker Advocates Coalition Coordinator, HIPS, Washington, D.C.
- \* Diego Garcia-Devis, Team Manager, Drug Policy at OSF-LAC, Open Society Foundations, Bogotá, Colombia
- \* Tera Hurst, Executive Director, Oregon Health Justice Recovery Alliance, Portland, OR

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## Will Drug Checking Save Us?

Palo Verde C

In the midst of an ongoing overdose crisis and with widespread regulated safer supply still far on the horizon, the harm reduction practice of drug checking — testing a substance for adulterants — has gotten a whole new shine. In the past few years, the available technology has expanded. And in the U.S., there has been a huge increase in government funding for the practice. More people and places than ever before are doing drug checking — but is such a rapid expansion a good thing? How can we best take advantage of the growing support while maintaining quality and consistency in the practice? What is there to learn from regions that have a longer history of drug checking under their belt? And how do we balance building drug checking infrastructure while still pushing for transformative change in access to drugs?

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Jennifer Carroll, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, NC State University, Durham, NC

- \* Rae Elkasabany, FTIR Program Coordinator, DanceSafe, Baltimore, MD
- \* Yarelix Estrada, Special Projects Coordinator (NYDOHMH) Drug Checking Advisor (Remedy Alliance/For the People), Remedy Alliance/For the People and NYDOHMH, Astoria, NY
- \* Traci Green, Professor, Brandeis/Brown University, Wayland, MA
- \* Alejandra Medina, Advocacy Advisor, Échele Cabeza, Bogota, Colombia
- \* Samuel Tobias, Graduate Research Assistant, British Columbia Centre on Substance Use, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- \* Kenneth Washington, Assistant Director Recovery Services, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston, MA

## Book Talk – In Their Names: Hierarchy of Harm

Yucca

This conversation with the author of *In Their Names* interrogates how the political call to help victims in the 1980s was co-opted and contorted into a demand for bigger bureaucracies and more incarceration, cementing the longstanding chasm that often exists between survivors and the legal system. This conversation centered on the personal experiences of Shakyra Diaz and Branda Glass will explore how the pervasive myth that mass incarceration benefits victims obscures recognition of what most victims actually need, including addressing trauma – and how this failure drives the cycle of subsequent violent crime.

- \* Lenore Anderson, Author of *In Their Names: The Untold Story of Victims' Rights, Mass Incarceration, and the Future of Public Safety*, Oakland, CA

In Conversation with:

Shakyra Diaz, Chief of Federal Policy, Alliance for Safety and Justice, Cleveland, OH

Brenda Glass, Founder, Brenda Glass Trauma Center, Cleveland, OH

## Fundraising Tips, Strategies, and Wisdom from the Field

Willow

You save lives and fight for liberation everyday — and you need to raise funds to pay for it. But how do you go about getting that money? Where do you find donors? What motivates people to give? What about giving circles and philanthropic networks? How can you build a relationship with a foundation? Should you have a gala? Crowdfunder? What should you prioritize? And how can you finally get over your aversion to even asking people for money? Come to this session to learn from expert fundraisers and philanthropists — and bring your questions for an extended Q-and-A session.

Moderator:

Paul Dana, Managing Director, Development & Political Strategy, Drug Policy Alliance, Brooklyn, NY

- \* Nancy Fishman, Senior Director, Schusterman Family Philanthropies, New York, NY
- \* Zach Ford, Managing Director of Strategic Growth, VOCAL-NY, Brooklyn, NY
- \* Viri Hernandez, Executive Director, Poder in Action, Phoenix, AZ
- \* Britt Rollins, CEO, National Psychedelics Association, Portland, OR

## Beyond Commercialization: How Regulation Can Create Legal Access and Safer Supply Without Big Business

Cholla

Addressing access for people who use drugs is a key decision involved in drug policy reform, especially as governments continue to pass laws that decide who is legally allowed to produce and distribute drugs. Although emerging drug markets in the U.S. and Canada have been largely characterized by their high barriers and domination by for-profit entities, a spectrum of options exist to facilitate safer access to drugs. How are communities addressing safer access in the absence of regulated access? How do alternative access models address harm reduction? What are the limitations of alternative access models?

Moderator:

Jason Ortiz, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Last Prisoner Project, West Hollywood, CA

- \* Ann Fordham, Executive Director, International Drug Policy Consortium, London, United Kingdom
- \* Òscar Parés, Deputy Director, ICEERS, Barcelona, Spain
- \* Stephen Rolles, Senior Policy Analyst, Transform Drug Policy Foundation, London, England
- \* Shaleen Title, Founder & Director, Parabola Center for Law and Policy, Malden, MA

# Friday, October 20

## Evening Session



### Break

4:00pm – 4:30pm



### Breakout Sessions

4:30pm – 6:00pm

#### **Combatting Drug Panics in Congress: How Law Enforcement, the Media, and Lawmakers Perpetuate Fear-Based Drug Policy**

Palo Verde A

From marijuana to crack cocaine to fentanyl, U.S. drug policy has often been grounded in fear, myths, and racism. This has resulted in steep government investments in draconian and punitive drug policies at the expense of public health. What role do law enforcement and the media play in shaping the drug policy narrative? How do these narratives impact federal drug policy? How can we center evidence and science-based drug policy in the midst of hysteria?

Moderator:

Maritza Perez Medina, Director, Office of Federal Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.

- \* Brandon del Pozo, Assistant Professor, Brown University, Cold Spring, NY
- \* Julieta Martinelli, Senior Producer and Reporter, Futuro Media, Atlanta, GA

#### **When Facts Fail: The Promises and Perils of Research in Drug Policy Reform**

Palo Verde B

This panel will examine the strengths and limitations of drug research in advancing policy reform. While evidence-driven policy has been a hallmark of the drug policy reform movement, “facts and stats” often fail to move people. Panelists will explore: When and how is research useful? How can research complement other kinds of arguments, like those driven by values or narratives? What are the benefits and dangers of research-driven policy and how do systematic biases and problems with drug research shape those? When we rely on research what kinds of evidence gets privileged and what might be gained or lost?

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Jules Netherland, Managing Director, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

- \* Ricky Bluthenthal, Professor/Associate Dean for Social Justice, Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- \* Shaquita Borden, Director, Research and Evaluation, Women With a Vision, New Orleans, LA
- \* Alex Gertner, Psychiatry Resident, University of North Carolina Hospitals, Carrboro, NC
- \* Morgan Godvin, Research Associate, The Action Lab, Portland, OR

- \* Saba Rouhani, Assistant Professor, Center for Anti-racism, Social Justice and Public Health, New York University, New York, NY

#### **Street-Based Harm Reduction Outreach to Combat “Public Disorder”**

Palo Verde C

Adopting street-based harm reduction approaches to health and safety is a necessary tool to combat the narrative on “public disorder,” impacting several cities and jurisdictions across the country and world. Creative, innovative, and life-affirming care centering the individual’s humanity and dignity over failed carceral approaches are key to push against these harmful policies to the communities we serve. However, the ability to provide such care requires knowing the needs of the community and the ability to tailor services. Providing access to critical care and support — while working with local policymakers and local agencies to minimize the risks of violence, trauma, discrimination, criminalization, and further exploitation — can be transformative. What are the approaches being taken and how can we reclaim the narrative on the role of harm reduction and centering the humanity of people who use drugs?

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Jaime Arredondo, Canada Research Chair on Substance Use and Health Systems/Scientist, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR)/Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

- \* Lourdes Angulo, Director, Integración Social Verter A.C., Mexicali, Mexico
- \* Braunz Courtney, Executive Director, The HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC), San Leandro, CA
- \* Tamara Oyola-Santiago, Program Leader, Bronx Móvil, Bronx, NY

#### **We Never Get Anywhere But Mad: Building Racial Equity Caucuses in the Southwest**

Yucca

Check it out. Brown face in a white space, even if the work we do is really dope. Then some shit happens, “Racial Equity Discussion” pops up on your calendar, you know how it goes. A bunch of complaining about who had the nerve to say what. Not to say we don’t need the space, but what next?

On our own, we don’t have critical mass. But together, we can influence not only how our own organizations implement racial equity, but how all of the Southwest can do it together. In this workshop we’ll design, plan, and commit to a standing racial equity caucus structure in the Southwest.

This is a POC-only space.

Trainers:

- Bianca Shell, Deputy Director, Sonoran Prevention Works, Phoenix, AZ
- Valerie Martinez, Outreach Program Director, Sonoran Prevention Works, Phoenix, AZ

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## Drug Testing in Employment: Narrative Change and Policy Shift

Willow

Reagan's renewed war on drugs and imposition of harsh "drug-free workplace" rules promoted the belief that people who use drugs are not fit for employment, despite the lack of any research connecting drug use to work performance. Those beliefs still persist today, impacting employment policies in profound ways, through tactics such as unannounced drug testing and discrimination against employees with a drug arrest or conviction record. How can we see these policies as a broader economic justice issue, given the impact on upward mobility for certain populations? What would an evidence-based, compassionate, and effective response to workplace drug use look like instead?

Moderator:

Aliza Cohen, Research Coordinator, Department of Research and Academic Engagement, Drug Policy Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

- \* Roberta Meyers, Vice President of State Strategy & Reentry, Legal Action Center, New York, NY
- \* Jeremy Milloy, Associate Professor, Wayne State University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- \* Lindsey Richardson, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

## The Rise of Authoritarianism and Extremism in the Name of the Drug War

Cholla

Governments around the world have used the drug war as a pretext to erode civil liberties and dramatically expand police powers. Brazil, Hungary, Mexico, the Philippines, and Singapore provide vivid and alarming examples of how drug prohibition can grease the slide towards authoritarianism. Panelists in this session will explore the role that prohibition plays in corrupting democratic values and propping up and legitimizing extremist leaders.

Moderator:

Alejandro Madrazo, Academic Director, Talisis, Aguascalientes, Mexico

- \* Cathy Alvarez, Executive Director, StreetLawPh, Moalboal, Philippines
- \* Kokila Annamalai, Community Organiser, Transformative Justice Collective, Singapore, Singapore
- \* Balazs Denes, Executive Director, Civil Liberties Union for Europe, Berlin, Germany
- \* Giselle Florentino, Executive Coordinator, Iniciativa Direito à Memória e Justiça Racial, Nova Iguaçu, Brazil
- \* Catalina Pérez Correa, Professor & Researcher, CIDE, Aguascalientes, Mexico



## Karaoke Night!

8:00pm – 11:00pm | Show Room

# Saturday, October 21

## Morning Session



### Continental Breakfast

9:00am – 10:00am | Acacia Ballroom & Event Lawn



### Breakout Sessions

10:00am – 11:30am

#### The Controlled Substances Act: Reform or Abolish It?

Palo Verde A

Since its passage, the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) has been used to criminalize millions of marginalized people, restrict research that might prove medicinal benefits, and establish the U.S. as a leader in international drug control. The time has come to try an approach to drugs that is grounded in science, health, and human rights. How might reforms to the CSA's scheduling scheme change our country's response to drugs? Can we imagine a classification model that could be helpful rather than harmful? What might reform or abolition of the CSA mean for drug policy across the world?

Moderator:

Hanna Sharif-Kazemi, Policy Coordinator, Office of Federal Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

- \* Taled El-Sabawi, Assistant Professor of Law, Florida International University, Chesterfield, MO
- \* Ann Fordham, Executive Director, International Drug Policy Consortium, London, United Kingdom
- \* Alex Kreit, Director, Center on Addiction Law and Policy, Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law, Cincinnati, OH

#### The Deadly Game of Drug War Whack-A-Mole: Responding to the Ever-Changing Drug Supply

Palo Verde B

Increased enforcement, doubling down of interdiction efforts, and enactment of harsher penalties has caused a massive shift in the drug supply. Fentanyl dominates today's opioid supply and new — often more unpredictable and potent — psychoactive drugs like xylazine, nitazene analogs, and etizolam continue to emerge. How does drug prohibition create this unregulated supply? What does the drug supply look like in different regions of the United States and along the U.S.-Mexico border, and how are people on the ground responding? What do these changes mean for the future of drugs, harm reduction, and drug policy reform?

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Yarelix Estrada, Special Projects Coordinator (NYDOHMH) Drug Checking Advisor (Remedy Alliance/For the People), Remedy Alliance/For the People and NYDOHMH, Astoria, NY

- \* Alfonso Chávez, Coord. Reducción de daños, PrevenCasa A.C., Tijuana, Mexico
- \* Nabarun Dasgupta, Senior Scientist, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

- \* Blake Joachim, Harm Reduction Specialist, Outside In, Portland, OR
- \* Terrell Jones, Advocacy & Community Engagement Manager, OnPoint NYC, New York, NY
- \* Clare Schmidt, Drug Checking Technical Lead, Remedy Alliance, Minneapolis, MN
- \* Rafael Torruella, Executive Director, Intercambios Puerto Rico, Fajardo, Puerto Rico

#### Dangers of Corporate Capture of Emerging Markets

Palo Verde C

The momentum to regulate cannabis in jurisdictions around the world is rapidly growing. Maximizing the benefits of cannabis legalization while preventing or minimizing corporate capture is a thorny issue to navigate. This session will feature a diverse group of experts who will discuss proactive strategies to ensure that the harms and inequities stemming from prohibition are not replicated in regulation models. The panel will also explore how to prioritize people over profits and what social equity could look like on a global level.

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Lisa Sanchez, Director General, Mexico United Against Crime (MUCD), Mexico City, Mexico

- \* Charif Adardak, Chairman, Moroccan Observatory for the Legalization of Cannabis, Targuist, Morocco
- \* Maria-Goretti Ane, Africa Consultant, International Drug Policy Consortium, Accra, Ghana
- \* Shaleen Title, Founder & Director, Parabola Center for Law and Policy, Malden, MA
- \* Maria Alejandra Vélez, Professor, Center of Studies on Security and Drugs (CESED) Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

#### Beyond Housing First: Limitations, Gentrification, and Visibility

Willow

The war on drugs has created a culture that sentences under-resourced people who use drugs to unstable housing through zero-tolerance policies by landlords and public housing exclusion practices. Even suspected drug use can lead to people becoming unhoused and a cascade of other harm. Visible street homelessness is a lightning rod for blame in communities across the country, with increased attempts at criminalizing unhoused people conflating lack of housing with drug use, mental health needs, and public disorder. How can our advocacy guard against playing into the desire to remove unhoused people from public spaces? What do transitional housing opportunities look like in the era of extreme gentrification? How do we center people's autonomy in the face of ramped up involuntary treatment/civil commitment?

Moderator:

Nadja Eisenberg-Guyot, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Columbia University, Brooklyn, NY

- \* Oscar Arrellano, Harm Reduction Program Manager, SSG-HOPICS, Los Angeles, CA
- \* Ryan McNeil, Associate Professor, Medicine, Public Health & Anthropology, Yale University/Director of Harm Reduction Research, Yale Program in Addiction Medicine, New Haven, CT
- \* Taylar Nuevelle, Executive Director, Who Speaks For Me?, Washington, D.C.
- \* Daniela Rojas Molina, Legal Coordinator, Temblores ONG, Bogotá, Colombia

### **The Pueblo's Budget Campaign: The Fight to Defund Phoenix Police and Build a Budget for the People**

Cholla

Phoenix is facing a multitude of intersecting crises, including rampant police violence and criminalization, increasing homelessness, and a severe lack of mental health and substance use resources. Since 2017, Poder In Action has been fighting to increase investments in preventative and life-affirming resources through decreasing the Phoenix police budget and reducing the role of police in directly-impacted communities. In a political landscape filled with right-wing council members and middle-of-the-road Democrats parading as progressive, how do we not only build a community driven People's Budget, but also get it implemented?

Presenters:

Isabel Garcia, Community Safety Strategist, Poder In Action, Phoenix, AZ

Stephani Gonzalez Espinosa, Campaign Manager, Poder In Action, Phoenix, AZ

### **Moving Beyond Alternative Sanctions: Assessing the Harms of Non-Criminal Punishment**

Agave

As decriminalization bills emerge throughout the United States, approaches vary in how to move beyond carceral sanctions. Some proposals would replace incarceration with civil fines, dissuasion commissions, mandatory assessments, or other types of diversion. What are the harms of sanctions beyond the threat of incarceration? What are the strategic and policy considerations for various models? How can we build systems that balance ending prohibition and stigma, centering personal autonomy, and prioritizing health, all while continuing progress in the political sphere? Panelists will explore the opportunities and challenges of moving beyond carceral and non-criminal sanctions, and what lies ahead.

Moderator:

Niamh Eastwood, Executive Director, Release, London, United Kingdom

- \* Nuno Capaz, Director, CDT Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
- \* Jerome Mangelinckx, Senior Researcher, Research Center on Drugs and Human Rights, Huarán, Cusco, Peru
- \* Louis Reed, National Director, Fines and Fees Justice Center, Oakville, CT
- \* Caitlin Shane, Lawyer (Drug Policy), Pivot Legal Society, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- \* Theresa Vezina, Executive Director, Vermont CARES, Burlington, VT



**Break**

11:30am – 12:00pm

# Saturday, October 21

## Afternoon Session



### Breakout Sessions

12:00pm – 1:30pm

#### For Better or Worse? How Reform and Regulation Impact Drug Criminalization and Enforcement

Palo Verde A

Although drug policy reforms are driven in large part due to efforts to end drug criminalization and its harms, many of the very reforms that establish policies that create legal access for some continue criminalization for those involved in unauthorized activity. How do laws that establish regulations for drug access and trade address unlawful activity and impact law enforcement? How should communities that establish laws and regulations to address drug access and trade respond to unlawful activity? What impact have recent drug policy reforms had on the criminal legal disparities experienced by Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and other underserved communities?

Moderator:

Diane Goldstein, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership, Las Vegas, NV

- \* Chelsea Higgs Wise, Executive Director, Marijuana Justice, North Chesterfield, VA
- \* Paulo Pereira, Associate Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), São Paulo, Brazil
- \* Lisa Sanchez, Director General, Mexico United Against Crime (MUCD), Mexico, Mexico
- \* Sirine Shebaya, Executive Director, National Immigration Project (NIPNLG), Washington, D.C.

#### Cashing in on the Drug War in Daily Life: Following the Money and Motivation of the Drug War Profiteers Outside of the Criminal System

Palo Verde B

Budgets for drug war policing and the costs of incarceration have been well-studied and challenged. But many of the additional layers of money flows associated with the drug war remain hidden even as their economic toll on people's lives is devastating. What insidious fees and penalty charges are levied on parents who are investigated for drug use? Who's profiting from the background check industry that flags past drug involvement for landlords and employers? What are the profit centers within the drug treatment and rehab landscape? Who pockets the cost of algorithms and other surveillance tech?

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Melissa Moore, Director, Civil Systems Reform, Drug Policy Alliance, Santa Monica, CA

- \* Monica Ault, New Mexico State Director, Fines and Fees Justice Center, Santa Fe, NM
- \* Colleen Daniels, Deputy Director, Harm Reduction International, London, United Kingdom

\* Julita Lemgruber, Coordinator, Center for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

\* Hina Naveed, Attorney, Law Office of Hina Naveed, PLLC., Staten Island, NY

\* Eliza Wheeler, Co-Director, Remedy Alliance/For the People, Berkeley, CA

#### Advances in Health and Harm Reduction Services and Persisting Barriers

Palo Verde C

Much has changed in harm reduction since 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic led to relaxed rules for methadone and buprenorphine access. The first U.S. overdose prevention centers opened in NYC, and Rhode Island is close to do so soon. One formulation of naloxone was approved for over-the-counter access. Despite some progress, much more is needed to expand access to health and harm reduction services. How can access to methadone and buprenorphine improve? Can we better facilitate getting naloxone into the hands of people who need it? Can people who sell drugs be harm reduction providers? What's next for overdose prevention centers? And what other innovations are needed?

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Grant Smith, Deputy Director, Office of Federal Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance, Silver Spring, MD

- \* Dennis Bailer, Overdose Prevention Program Director, Project Weber/RENEW, Central Falls, RI
- \* Philomena Kebec, Economic Development Coordinator, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Odanah, WI
- \* Liz Samuels, Associate Professor-in-Residence, UCLA Emergency Medicine, Pasadena, CA
- \* Kailin See, Senior Director of Programs, OnPoint NYC, New York, NY
- \* Louise Vincent, Executive Director and Leadership Team, NC Survivors Union/National Survivors Union, Greensboro, NC

#### Drug Policy in Disasters and Other Trying Contexts

Willow

What does drug policy work look like in conflict-torn areas, climate disasters, pandemics, and other trying contexts? What strategies do reform advocates use to adapt to these challenges? This session will feature reformers from diverse regions who are advocating for humane drug policies or implementing effective, health-centered approaches in complicated contexts.

Moderator:

Clemmie James, Senior Policy & Campaigns Officer, Health Poverty Action, London, United Kingdom

- \* Christopher About Martin, Executive Director, Kuza Trust, Nairobi, Kenya
- \* Magdalena Dąbkowska, Drug Policy Program Coordinator, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Warsaw, Poland
- \* Max Demchenko, Consultant, Charitable Association Light of Hope, Poltava, Ukraine

# Saturday, October 21

## Evening Session

- \* Orzala Nemat, Researcher, Humanitarian Policy Group, London, United Kingdom
- \* Nang Pann Ei Kham, Coordinator, Drug Policy Advocacy Group (DPAG), Yangon, Myanmar
- \* Elivanda Sousa, Coordinator, Redes da Maré, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### **The Intersections of Drug Policy, Policing, and Border Militarization in the Borderlands: Challenging the Dangerous Rhetoric of the War on Drugs** Cholla

This panel will delve into the critical issues surrounding drug policy, policing practices, and border militarization in Arizona. The discussion will shed light on the adverse consequences of these policies on marginalized communities in the Southwest. Guiding questions will explore alternative approaches to drug policy, strategies to address racial disparities in policing, consequences of border militarization, tactics to challenge harmful rhetoric, and the global context of drug policy and cross-border collaboration.

Moderator:

Amber Maiberger, Chair and Finance Coordinator, Shot in the Dark, Phoenix, AZ

- \* Tripti Choudhury, Wednesday Mesa Site Lead, Shot in the Dark, Mesa, AZ
- \* Lu Funk, Executive Director, Cochise Harm Reduction, Bisbee, AZ
- \* Maddy Perry, Sunday Tempe Site Lead, Shot in the Dark, Tempe, AZ

### **Radicals, Resistance, and Rebellion: Lessons from Civil Disobedience and Direct Action** Agave

This panel will explore lessons from social movements that have used civil disobedience and direct action tactics to promote change. Panelists will explore questions such as: What can we learn from such tactics? How could it impact our work to reform drug policy? How can or should the harm reduction movement, which started as a form of civil disobedience, avoid the pitfalls of becoming more professionalized and coopted? Should the drug policy reform movement employ some of these strategies for change, and if so, for what issues and in what settings?

Moderator:

Kenyon Farrow, VP, Policy, Point Source Youth, Cleveland Heights, OH

- \* Deon Haywood, Executive Director, Women With A Vision, New Orleans, LA
- \* Laura Thomas, Sr Director of HIV & Harm Reduction Policy, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, San Francisco, CA



## Lunch

1:30pm – 3:00pm



## Breakout Sessions

3:00pm – 4:30pm

### **Power Structures of Drug Trade Economies** Palo Verde A

The illegal drug trade continues to expand across the globe and an increasingly toxic drug supply continues to kill hundreds of thousands of people every year, despite efforts to prohibit and criminalize illicit drug economies. Empowering those who are involved in the illegal drug trade to transition to legal trade requires a deeper understanding of the economic conditions and policy decisions that impact drug market participation and control. What are the economic and social factors that drive participation in the illegal drug trade? Who is most harmed and benefited by current market dynamics? What legal, economic, and social conditions are needed for individuals to transition out of the illegal drug trade? How can reform create opportunities for economic justice for individuals criminalized for participation in the drug trade?

Moderator:

Daniel Brombacher, Head, Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GDPDP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Berlin, Germany

- \* Philasande Mahlakata, Project Coordinator at UmziMvubu Farmers Support Network, South Africa
- \* Isabel Pereira-Arana, Drug Policy Area Coordinator, Dejusticia, Bogotá, Colombia
- \* Richard Wallace, Founding Executive Director, Equity And Transformation, Chicago, IL
- \* Luciana Zaffalon, Executive Director, JUSTA Platform, São Paulo, Brazil

### **Early Insights and Critiques of Psychedelic Regulation: Who's Benefiting from the Psychedelic Renaissance?** Palo Verde B

Oregon and Colorado passed laws allowing for therapeutic psychedelic access in restricted circumstances. The FDA has approved clinical trials involving psychedelics for treating various conditions. As therapeutic access to psychedelics opens up, we must evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this approach and whether other forms of regulated access are necessary. What are the benefits and drawbacks of the medical/therapeutic access models and how can these work within the U.S.'s broken health care system? What lessons from medical and recreational marijuana legalization can be applied to psychedelics? What voices have not been represented in regulation conversations? What do effective regulatory systems look like? How do we prevent the forces of capitalism from coopting psychedelic access?

Livestream available. Spanish interpretation available.

# Saturday, October 21

## Evening Session (Continued)

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Moderator:

Cat Packer, Director, Drug Markets and Legal Regulation, Drug Policy Alliance, Washington, D.C.

- \* Hadas Alterman, Director of Government Affairs, American Psychedelic Practitioners Association, Brooklyn, NY
- \* Angela Carter, Transformational Change Maker, Community Weaver, 3 Raccoons in a Trench Coat, The Universe, Portland, OR
- \* Daniel Garcia, Attorney, People of Color Psychedelic Collective, Colorado Springs, CO
- \* Bia Labate, Executive Director/ Anthropologist, Chacruna Institute, San Francisco, CA

### Immigration in the Age of Fentanyl: How the Overdose Crisis is Fueling Xenophobia and Racism and Undermining Sanctuary Policies in the U.S.

Palo Verde C

With the surge of people losing their lives to the overdose crisis, policymakers throughout the U.S. are seeking to address it through criminalization and stigmatization, often recycling harmful and failed drug war strategies. Non-citizens and immigrant communities also face the added threat of immediate deportation, undermining the already fragile safety net for non-citizens. Jurisdictions like San Francisco are threatening to roll back key protections for non-citizens such as sanctuary policies and ICE/Police collaboration limits. This panel will discuss the impact of these policies on immigrant and vulnerable communities, the role that the media is playing in furthering the criminalization of these communities, and the need to develop a coordinated strategy to preserve key protections for immigrants.

Spanish interpretation available.

Moderator:

Jasmine Tyler, Associate Teaching Professor of the Practice and Executive Director, Policy Innovation Lab, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

- \* Carolina Canizales, Texas Senior Strategist, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Antonio, TX
- \* Angela Chan, Assistant Chief Attorney, SF Public Defender's Office, San Francisco, CA
- \* Laura Guzman, Executive Director, National Harm Reduction Coalition, San Leandro, CA

### Until We Reckon: Forging the Path for Conversations on Violence and Drug Policy Reform

Willow

For decades, most drug policy reforms have underscored a dichotomy between non-violent and violent offenses. It has been a winning strategy — but only for certain people and not without long-term costs. These include curtailing our chances of ending mass incarceration, which depends on tackling violent crime too; amplifying the underlying racist tropes that divide the worthy from the unworthy in public discourse and the policy that comes of it; and limiting how our movements can learn from and support each other. But with major backlash from criminal justice and harm reduction wins, can we afford to do this now? Can we afford not to? Where do we start? What do we have to change? Who are the credible messengers? What's at risk if and when we bring violence into the conversation?

- \* Danielle Sered, Author of *Until We Reckon* and Executive Director of Common Justice, Brooklyn, NY

In Conversation with:

Kassandra Frederique, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY

### At a Crossroads: Black Harm Reduction and Recovery

Cholla

Harm reduction and recovery are often framed as being in tension or as conflicting approaches. The perceived divide can be perpetuated given the lived reality of targeted policing, mass incarceration, civil punishment, and systemic anti-Black racism — driving hesitation within some segments of the community to engage around the drug war. This inter-community conversation will explore the conflicts, contradictions, and specific dynamics of what's been considered off-limits. How do we challenge misinformation that has driven stereotypes among Black people about drug use and impacts within the Black community? How can we highlight the more comprehensive understanding that many already share?

- \* Tracie Gardener, Vice President of Policy Advocacy, Legal Action Center, New York, NY

In Conversation with:

Philip Rutherford, Chief Operating Officer, Faces & Voices of Recovery, Washington, D.C.

Joyce Rucker, Black Harm Reduction Network, New York, NY



### Break

4:30pm – 5:00pm



### Closing Plenary

5:00pm – 6:00pm | Show Room

## Community Sessions

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Community Sessions are a space for conference attendees to organize meetings or workshops, give presentations or curate a panel discussion, or host a film screening.

### Thursday October 19

#### **Salud en la Calle bajo un Estatus Colonial/ Street Medicine as a Colonial Status**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde A

Please join us to discuss how the Colonial status and the capitalist system affect access to different kinds of health services. This session will explore barriers to providing street medicine in Puerto Rico including Colonist Status, not being recognized as part of a system, and low funding. And we'll discuss recommendations for changes to drug policy in Puerto Rico that can help provide easy access to health care services and the importance of including Street Medicine as part of the continuum of care. This session is going to be in Spanish.

#### **Labor of Love: Elevating the Expertise & Needs of Peer Harm Reduction Workers Using PhotoVoice**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde B

A research team of two graduate students from Columbia School of Social Work and six members from the Peer Network of New York (PNNY) will share their project, Labor of Love: Elevating the Expertise & Needs of Peer Harm Reduction Workers Using PhotoVoice. PhotoVoice is a valid research method that uses photography to shed light on a community's needs and assets. Using this participatory action research approach, this project aims to support equity in harm reduction for peer workers with lived/living experience of criminalized drug use.

#### **Practicing Harm Reduction Therapy in the Middle of the Failed Drug War and Prohibition**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde C

This meeting will feature harm reduction psychotherapy as a viable treatment option for drug use, not just quit now and forever approaches, while navigating the obstacles that the failed drug war has instituted and imposed on people who use drugs. It will explore how therapy and social services play a critical role in social justice and practicing harm reduction psychotherapy is a form of activism.

#### **Focusing on the Criminalization of Women and Gender Diverse People Who Use Drugs and Survive Multiple Situations of Violence and Vulnerability**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Agave

Based on the Metzneres model, the objective of the session is to reflect on how to facilitate — from a gender, intersectional, and harm reduction perspective — navigation through the criminal system and reduce the impact of the barriers to access to rights that the system itself imposes, while at the same time trying not to contribute or feed its functioning.

#### **Alliance for Collaborative Drug Checking (ACDC) Meetup and Strategic Planning Meeting**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Yucca

The Alliance for Collaborative Drug Checking (ACDC) was established in 2019 as a hub for learning, developing, and improving drug user-facing, harm reduction-based drug checking. We are spectrometer technicians, syringe service providers, chemists, psychonauts, researchers, and people who use drugs from many different countries. We will share experiences, lessons learned, training materials, and drug checking implementation strategy with the overarching goals of working toward safe supply and supporting bodily autonomy by increasing informed consumption of substances. This meeting is an opportunity for the members of ACDC to gather in-person and discuss topics relevant to the current developments and future direction of drug checking across the Americas as well as globally.

#### **High Privilege, High Barrier: When a Substance Use Professional Sought Care for Fentanyl**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Willow

Fentanyl has compounded challenges to accessing care for Opioid Use Disorder, adding chaos to already fragmented and high-barrier systems. This conversation between harm reductionists and friends will describe the challenges as one sought care for their problematic fentanyl use, including overlapping cycles of shame, anxiety, and fear of failure. Despite advancements in telehealth access and harm reduction approaches, unprecedented challenges persist.

#### **Building a Network to Challenge Exports of the U.S. Drug War**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Cholla

Are you working to promote humane and just drug policies and concerned about the role of the U.S. in exporting the drug war? Want to connect with others working to mitigate the impact of these policies and ultimately reshape them? Please join us at this community session to network with others, share your thoughts, and hear about the local impacts of U.S. drug policies in regions around the world.

#### **Network of Drug Researchers with Lived Experience (NDRLE)**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Willow

This session is open to any researchers or students attending the conference who use drugs or identify as someone in recovery. Disclosing as a drug user in any context, but especially in academic settings, involves navigating complex personal and social politics, including privilege and risk; objectivity vs. participatory experience; silence vs. voice and agency; stigma

(Continued on next page)

## Community Sessions (Continued)

and drug exceptionalism; and legal, professional, and social consequences, among many potential issues. Experience with drug use also shapes the kinds of research questions we ask, how we engage people who use drugs in research, how we understand research outcomes, and how those outcomes are likely to be accepted by the academic community as well as the public and policymakers. In this community session, attendees will be encouraged to share their own experiences and discuss how they navigate these issues in their work. They will be offered an opportunity to join the Network of Drug Researchers with Lived Experience (NDRLE) to stay connected.

### Trail of Truth National Memorial and Movement

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Cholla

In 2022, Truth Pharm took their Trail of Truth memorialization and movement building event to Washington, D.C., where over 1200 loved ones were memorialized and people attended from 23 states. Join this community session to learn more about the Trail of Truth and its goal to create the "AIDS Quilt moment" of the overdose epidemic.

### Come Back When You're Sick:

#### Syringe Access in Arizona Pharmacies

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Palo Verde C

In Fall 2022, a secret shopper syringe buy study was conducted with 55 pharmacies in 3 Arizona counties geomapped to within 2 miles of drug coping areas. This CBPAR-oriented study was part of the ASAP project (Access to Syringes at Pharmacies (NIDA, Meyerson (PI)). People with lived/living drug use experience developed the methodology, were field investigators, and interpreted the data. Join us to learn about this study. An open access publication and map will be available by the meeting time.

### Collective Knowledge in Nontraditional Spaces: Education, Research, and Outreach Strategies for REFORMers

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Yucca

As drug policy reform efforts come to fruition, both in the U.S. and globally, there are a plethora of approaches to teaching, research, and public education across multiple institutions and organizations. By bringing together educators, researchers, and activists attending REFORM, we can collectively share what education and outreach strategies look like across our diverse contexts and communities, swap resources, foster connections among those doing aligned work, and create a network of critical educators who are on the frontlines of moving the reform conversation forward. Taking a participatory and conversational approach, we include in our meeting a semi-structured series of discussion prompts, interactive activities, and breakout groups. We especially hope that those doing research, teaching, and advocacy in nontraditional settings and underrepresented communities will attend.

### First in the Nation: Minnesota's Unexpected Leap Into Progressive Harm Reduction

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Palo Verde A

At this session, Harm Reduction Sisters and others will introduce a grassroots model of harm reduction policy and advocacy that begins with people with lived experience and those who serve them. This meeting will focus on the power of individual and collective voices of substance users and how to frame a winning policy narrative that navigates substance use and racial stigmas with evidence-based and gold-standard strategies. Minnesota's first-in-the-nation legalization of all drug paraphernalia and all drug residues is precedent-setting and a model of community-led advocacy. Minnesota's success in the 2023 legislative session was largely due to the authenticity, transparency, and fortitude of a BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, Physician and Harm Reduction/Substance Use coalition. We aim to give back what we've learned so fellow advocates and policy writers can be successful in their respective campaigns.

### Harm Reduction:

#### The Slaughter and the Resurrection of the Peer Workforce

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Palo Verde B

As long as harm reduction has been a movement, we have heard people say peers are the backbone of not only the organization but also of the movement. Even though peers are acknowledged as being crucial to the elimination of HIV, HCV, and other issues that affect our community, policy and practice rarely reflects that. Peers have been exploited and pushed to the side. And peers who are 25-30 years into harm reduction are still undervalued and disrespected, and the term has been coopted so much that anyone can be a peer with no regard to the person's background. During this session we will have a presentation about the peer workforce which came from a focus group discussion facilitated by Jose Martinez (NHRC) & Ivette Chavez (The Giving Back Foundation). After the short presentation we will have a panel/community discussion around peer issues and ways we can show up as the harm reduction community to put peers on the platforms they deserve to be on. This panel will have peers from around the country speaking on their experience and guiding individuals who have experience with peers.

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## Friday October 20

### **Drug-Induced Homicide: Countering the Power of Parent-Formed “Fentanyl Poisoning” Organizations Partnering with Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, the DEA, and Politicians in Establishing More Punitive Drug Laws**

7:00am – 8:30am • Palo Verde B

The panel participants will present information about parent-formed organizations and their partnerships that are driving the adoption of more punitive drug laws. Panelists will discuss their personal experiences in opposing these organizations and the laws they support and will provide examples of effective strategies for opposing these laws. Panel members and the audience will discuss strategies for moving forward in opposition to this threat to drug policy and harm reduction.

### **Hep Free AZ – Hepatitis C Elimination in Arizona**

7:00am – 8:30am • Willow

The Hep Free AZ Coalition is a grassroots advocacy group co-facilitated by Southwest Recovery Alliance, Arizona Department of Health Services, and Arizona Liver Health. During the meeting, key updates on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hepatitis C will be shared along with resources for those looking to get involved.

### **Removing State and Federal Obstacles to Harm Reduction Organizations Seeking to Save Lives in Their Communities**

7:00am – 8:30am • Cholla

During this session, a policy analyst at the Cato Institute will share research regarding how state and federal drug paraphernalia laws and the federal "crack house statute" stand in the way of people implementing harm reduction programs in their communities. They will also discuss politically realistic state and national level reform proposals and share experiences working on these proposals with state and federal legislative staff. This will be an educational and strategic session with a conversational and exploratory format.

### **Thinking Outside the Box: A Harm Reduction Love Story**

7:00am – 8:30am • Yucca

Harm reduction programs are some of the most scrutinized and stigmatized programs in the country. Most of us hear frequently we are enabling drug use, sex work, etc. In addition to this, we have little to no funding support. The reality is we have very few harm reduction programs across the country set up for specific populations although there is a ton of research to back having culturally and population specific harm reduction programs. We will be sharing our journey, lessons learned, and challenges. According to the CDC, "research shows that new users of Syringe Services Programs (SSP) are five times more likely to enter drug treatment and about three times more likely to stop using drugs than those who don't use the programs." Yet, there are only a few young adult specific harm reduction distribution programs in the United States.

And there are only a handful of culturally specific harm reduction organizations. If harm reduction does so much good, why is there a lack of programs specific to populations? Hint: It has to do with the stigma attached to drug use and the nonprofit industrial complex. We will be exploring the major gaps we are seeing in harm reduction efforts and how you can implement this knowledge in your own community. We will also have ample time for Q&A.

### **Grassroots Organizing Workshop: Building Power in Community Through Organizing, Policy, and Direct Services**

7:00am – 8:30am • Palo Verde A

Members of the Cannabis Equity IL Coalition will share lessons learned and best practices for organizing a grassroots nonprofit working to repair the harms from the war on drugs and invest in communities most impacted. We will cover topics like community organizing strategies, policy advocacy, fundraising and nonprofit admin, and more. We hope to empower attendees to engage with their communities and build the necessary organizational infrastructure to challenge the status quo. A specific emphasis will be on organizers and community members in states where cannabis is legal, or likely to become legal, as we will also speak about utilizing legalization momentum for good.

### **Integracion de psicodelicos en la reduccion de daños para usuarios de opiaceos / Integration of Psychedelics into Harm Reduction for Opiate Users**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Agave

Join us for an open conversation on the integration of psychedelics in the context of harm reduction with opiate users. We will be sharing and analyzing personal experiences, emerging practices out in the community, and recent studies on the topic.

### **Data, Technology, and Power!**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde A

How do we use databases to mobilize people to action? How do we use technology not to harm or steal our information, but to bring people together and transform society? Join us to explore these questions and more.

### **Peer Network of New York Presents Peer / Harm Reduction Workforce Report "Equity and Inclusivity"**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Willow

Attend this community session to hear Peer Network of New York discuss the findings in their report "Equity and Inclusivity" and present their recommendations.

## Community Sessions (Continued)

### **Syndemic Care is Connected Care: Addressing Infectious Disease & Drug User Health Care Through a Community Lens**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Cholla

In recent years, it has become increasingly common to see public health officials situating the response to a broad range of infectious disease and drug user health-related crises within the context of a syndemic approach, acknowledging the interconnectedness of these issues and the necessity of addressing them as a collective, rather than in isolation. Unfortunately, much of the discussion of a syndemic approach to HIV, viral hepatitis, STI, and overdose crises remains stuck in a didactic and patriarchal framework that is the default in many public health interventions and which prioritizes the input and attitudes of professional experts over the experiences and stated desires of those who are directly impacted. In this community session, we will highlight relationships between national, state, and local infectious disease and drug user health organizations to work with people who use drugs to center community needs in syndemic approaches to these intersecting public health challenges.

### **The FDA Crusade to Schedule Kratom**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde C

Briefing on the attempts by the FDA to schedule and criminalize kratom consumers in the U.S.

### **Exploring Sustainable Approaches to Drug Policy Reform in Africa**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Yucca

The purpose of this significant gathering is to bring together policymakers, researchers, activists, and community leaders to collaborate and implement impactful changes in drug policies throughout the continent. Through the utilization of innovative and proven techniques, we strive to transform the current paradigm to prioritize public health, uphold human rights, and promote sustainable socio-economic growth. To drive economic development, we need to consider alternative development models like sustainable agriculture to fight drug production and trafficking. Our goal is to empower local communities by exploring innovative strategies that create economic opportunities, promote social inclusion, and reduce the impact of the illicit drug market on vulnerable populations. Additionally, we must foster international collaboration by building networks of collaboration and support between African countries, international organizations, and civil society groups working on drug policy reforms. Through sharing experiences, knowledge exchange, and joint advocacy efforts, we can increase our collective impact and contribute to global discussions on drug policy reform.

### **Rising Voices:**

#### **The Role of Young Activists in Drug Policy Reform**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde B

The Paradigma Coalition was founded in 2016 as a global youth coalition pushing for a new drug policy paradigm. Comprising over fifteen organizations worldwide, the group ensures youth representation in international drug policy discussions. In 2023, the Coalition held discussions at the 66th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Harm Reduction Conference in Melbourne. These two Paradigma meetings brought together young people working in drug policy reform and harm reduction to discuss what we are all working on and our focuses for the CND or HR23 Conference and strategize for our movement with people from all over the world. This ensured that we had a united voice going into these discussions, and allowed those not yet aware of the global movement to find out about what we do and how to be part of this voice internationally. This Paradigma community session is an opportunity to continue the dialogue and engage young activists from the U.S. and Latin America.

### **Evidence Ambassadors: Utilizing Data and People with Lived Experience to Advocate for MOUD Accommodations and Evidence-Based, Patient-Centered Care**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Palo Verde B

The Evidence Ambassador project came from the recommendations by the Drug Policy and Advocacy Board in Arizona in partnership with Sonoran Prevention Works after conducting a research study assessing COVID MOUD accommodations and provider compliance. The Evidence Ambassadors are taking to the streets to advocate for the extension of the MOUD accommodations provided during COVID, along with evidence-based care, compassionate, empathetic, and empowered care, and provider accessibility and accountability. This meeting will be used to provide the data from the studies conducted and get feedback from people with lived experience and practice in impacting change for PWUD on the current ways being used to advocate for these accommodations and to provide further recommendations on other ways to effectively utilize the data and Evidence Ambassadors.

### **Conversation: Building Safer Consumption Spaces with Abolitionist Principles, within Prohibition & State Surveillance**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • Yucca

Cranstoun, the UK Harm Reduction and Social Justice charity; Release, the UK experts on drugs and drug laws; Metzineres from Barcelona, who provide safe spaces for woman and non-gender conforming people who use drugs surviving multiple situations of violence; Support Don't Punish, the global advocacy campaign for drug policies based on health and human rights; and the USA National Survivors Union invite you into this conversation about the threat of medicalisation and institutionalization of harm reduction specifically through overdose prevention sites. In this community space we are particularly interested to hear from those impacted by prohibition and the war on drugs. We wish to provide room to

confront the protocolization of harm reduction and the limitations in asking for permission, including the risks of our movement losing its capacity for disobedience. Our goal is to discuss the anti-prohibition movement and the risks that exist in promoting harm reduction as solely a starting point towards abstinence, and to have a broader conversation on promoting the wellbeing of people impacted by the drug war. In questioning if, we do a disservice to the harm reduction approach and people who use drugs when we engage in the paternalistic. We will employ an intersectional critique of health systems and modern-day surveillance of differently oppressed communities through state medical and social care apparatuses. With harm reduction services being largely “professionalised” and isolated from a social justice framework, how do we build alliances and strategies designed and delivered by people who use drugs for people who use drugs that responds to their diversity?

### **Harm Reduction as a Tool Against Intersectionality: Towards a Decoloniality HR Concept for Latin America**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • *Agave*

Harm reduction conceptualization has commonly focused on pragmatic health interventions to cope with immediate harmful effects of drug consumption in people who don't desire or can't stop use, for example, opioid overdose and HIV prevention. Latin America's drug problems reveal social, economic, and political instabilities and violent security policy (war on drugs) as examples of barriers to implement good practices of harm reduction based on evidence. Furthermore, oppressive systems and colonialities present themselves as structural and superimposed on the ways in which drugs affect the Latin American population and problems with drug use seem to be intrinsically related to prejudices related to gender, race, sex, social class, geographical location, and more. Join this session to learn how Latin America can move toward harm reduction that is decolonized and intersectional.

### **What's Next for Methadone in the U.S.?**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • *Cholla*

SAMHSA's new rules for opioid treatment programs represent a significant step for improving methadone access. But clients still go to an OTP, most of them daily, to get their medication. This panel will discuss alternative approaches to methadone delivery, provide an update on the federal policy landscape, and inform attendees about a revolutionary effort to transform methadone delivery being led by current and former clients, researchers, providers, and drug user activists.

This session will include the following brief presentations, with the majority of time dedicated to questions and discussion:

- \* International Models of Methadone Delivery - Frances McGaffey, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- \* The Methadone Reform Landscape in Washington - Libby Jones, Global Health Advocacy Incubator
- \* A Vision to Free Methadone - Aaron Ferguson, National Survivors Union, National Coalition for the Liberation of Methadone

### **Drug-Induced Homicide Laws: What People Who Use Drugs Need to Know**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • *Willow*

Criminal prosecutions for drug-induced homicide (DIH, also called death by distribution in some states) are increasingly common criminal justice responses to a fatal overdose. Many drug user unions have organized to fight these laws at the policy level. But how can people who use drugs advocate for themselves and others who are charged with DIH — or possibly prevent DIH charges in the first place? This community gathering is an opportunity to learn how and why prosecutors pursue DIH cases, talk to professionals who are familiar with the legal and evidentiary systems upon which DIH cases are based, and discuss key strategies for defending against DIH charges. Most public defenders lack this specialized knowledge in defending against DIH charges. For this reason — and many more — drug user education and advocacy on these topics is crucial for protecting community members who may be charged. This will also be a place to ask questions, find answers, and learn about tools and resources that can be taken back to your own community to advocate against DIH laws, help community members protect themselves against DIH charges, and effectively advocate for those who are charged.

### **Tracking Opioid Settlements in Appalachia**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • *Palo Verde C*

Connect with folks from the Appalachian region and hear updates about how the 13 states of Appalachia have been managing and spending their opioid settlement funds.

### **Higher Power Film Screening Directed by Dewey Ortiz, Runtime: 1:03:43**

6:30pm – 8:00pm • *Palo Verde A*

Higher Power is a feature-length documentary exploring Washington, D.C.'s fight for cannabis legalization as part of a larger push for self-governance and statehood. Part advocacy doc, part travelogue and celebration of Black Washingtonian culture, Higher Power highlights local residents looking to create prosperity and nab a piece of the American Dream while trapped in a political system that denies its citizens the fundamental right to self-rule. The film screening will be followed by a moderated Q&A with the filmmakers. For more info, visit [www.higherpowerfilm.org](http://www.higherpowerfilm.org).

## Community Sessions (Continued)

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### Saturday October 21

#### **Ending the Drug War: Reimagining Law Enforcement and Public Safety**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde A

The purpose of the workshop session is to educate conference attendees about how to reduce the footprint of law enforcement in our communities. It will also focus on how to educate the residents of our communities and neighborhoods on these strategies as a model of public safety.

#### **Building a National Movement to End the Drug War**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde B

This workshop will bring together organizers from VOCAL-New York, VOCAL-Texas, and VOCAL-Kentucky to hold a collective conversation on different strategies and initiatives around the country to organize people who use drugs, as well as those who struggle with homelessness and histories of incarceration, to build a national movement. The organizers invite other organizations and individuals to attend to present on what's happening in their cities and states and explore how we can weave our efforts together to build national power.

#### **Resumes for Hookahs**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Sunset Boardroom

Are you looking for work outside of the life? Wondering how you can describe sex work or side hustle on a resume? This session is for you! Lunchtime Resume + Cover Letters for Hookers is for anyone with "lived experience" who wants to apply for a stipend position, internship, fellowship, or staff job and could use a lift on what employers are likely to call back for an interview. This lunchtime session will share a template Cover Letter and Resume participants can refer to on their job hunt. Presentation will also cover top Do's and Don'ts in a phone screen or job interview.

#### **National OPC Advocates Meeting**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Cholla

In-person meeting of the bi-monthly National OPC Advocates calls convened by DPA. A chance to meet fellow OPC advocates in-person, share updates, and continue strategizing how to expand OPC access across the U.S.

#### **Sex Workers Making Change**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Yucca

This caucus will bring together sex workers rights activists and allies of the decriminalization movements.

#### **Safe Consumption Sites in the Global South: A Path Forward**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Willow

SCS are a public health intervention that has focused mostly in the Global North. Join a set of community organizations that have created these models in low-resource settings in Colombia and Mexico.

#### **Swallow THIS: A Documentary About Methadone & COVID-19 - A Film Screening & Discussion #freemethadone**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Palo Verde C

This is a documentary screening to be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers and other stakeholders.

#### **Peer Led Harm Reduction in the College Setting**

1:00pm – 2:30pm • Agave

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss how college students are implementing harm reduction on college campuses.

**Exhibitors will be located in  
The Acacia Ballroom throughout  
the duration of the conference.**

**Stop by their booths to  
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ActBlue

A New PATH: Moms United to End the War on Drugs

Cato Institute

Community Medical Services

DanceSafe

Florida Harm Reduction Collective

Harm Reduction Circle

Harm Reduction Legal Project

Hotties of Harm Reduction

Last Prisoner Project

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies

Parabola Center for Law and Policy

Phoenix Language Justice Collaborative

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- Americans for Safe Access
- Awe Foundation
- Brooklyn Psychedelic Society
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- Chacruna Institute
- Chapel of Sacred Mirrors (CoSM)
- Church of the Eagle and Condor
- Church of the People for Creator and Mother Earth
- Colorado Proposition 122
- Clarity Project
- DC Initiative 81
- DanceSafe
- Denver Wellness and Discovery Center
- DRC Net
- DRK Beauty
- Drug Policy Alliance
- Enthea
- Erowid Center
- Femtheogen Collaborative
- Fireside Project
- Freedom to Operate
- Fruiting Bodies Collective
- Grof Legacy Training
- Harvard Divinity School (Transcendence and Transformation Project)
- Healing Advocacy Fund
- Health Equity Program
- Heffter Research Institute
- Heroic Hearts Project
- How We Heal
- Huichol Center for Cultural Survival and Traditional Arts
- Indigenous Medicine Conservation Fund
- Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative
- Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas
- InnerTrek
- International Center for Ethnobotanical Education Research & Service (ICEERS)
- Ligare
- MIND Foundation
- Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS)
- Nautilus Sanctuary, Inc.
- New Approach
- North Star Project
- NYU Langone Health Psychedelic Medicine Research Training Program
- Open Foundation
- Oregon Measure 109
- Oregon Measure 110
- Oregon Psilocybin Society
- Plant Medicine Coalition
- Plant Medicine Foundation
- Plant Medicine Healing Alliance
- POC Psychedelics Collaborative
- Porta Sophia
- Psychedelic Science Funders Collaborative
- Right to Try
- Roland R. Griffiths Ph.D. Professorship Fund
- Roots to Sky Sanctuary
- The Ancestor Project
- The Hope Project
- Sacred Garden Community Church
- Sacred Plant Alliance
- Sage Institute
- Shefa
- Sheri Eckert Foundation
- Sia: The Comanche Nation Ethno-Ornithological Initiative
- Society for Psychedelic Outreach Reform and Education (SPORE)
- Spearitwurx
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy International
- Temple Mother Earth
- Thank You Life
- TheraPsil
- Transcendence Film
- UMIYAC - United Indigenous Medics of Yahe Amazon of Colombia
- Unlimited Sciences
- Usona Institute
- Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions (VETS)
- Veterans of War
- Zendo Project

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Overdose Awareness Day event in Newark, New Jersey on August 31, 2022



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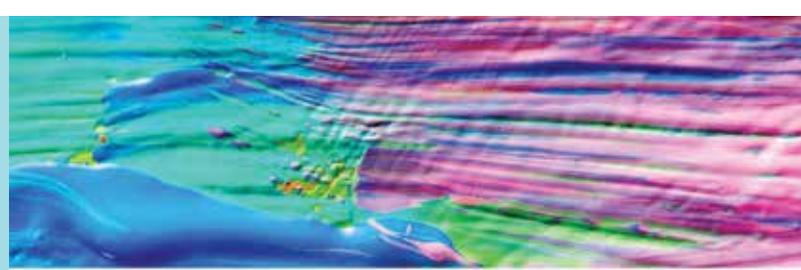
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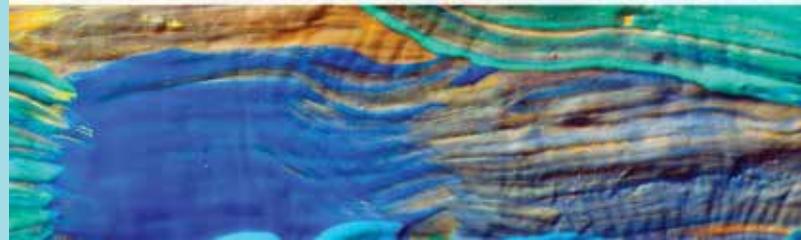
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- Issue Areas**
- Income and Poverty
  - Health Insurance
  - Education and Language
  - Housing
  - Testing page
  - Child Wellbeing
  - Democracy and Voting
  - Employment
  - Digital Technology
  - Demographics
  - Transportation

- Comparison Groups**
- Racial and Ethnic Groups
  - Latino Descent Groups
  - Sex
  - Citizenship
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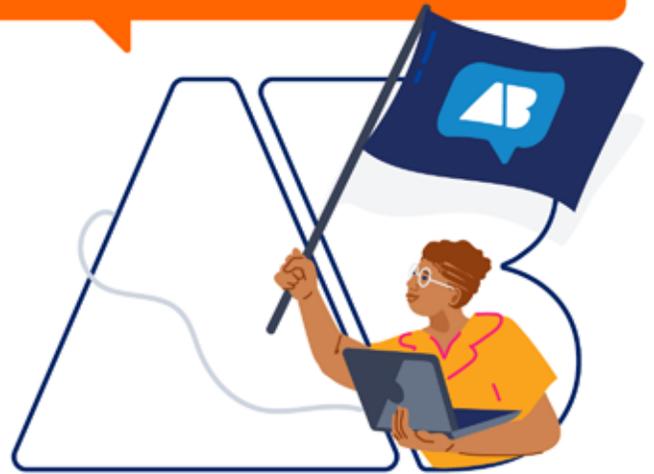
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## GAMING

- 1 CASINO FLOOR
- 2 HIGH LIMIT SALON
- 3 CASHIER
- 4 PLAYERS CLUB
- 5 SHUTTER'S HIGH LIMITS SLOTS
- 6 PROMOTIONS CENTER
- 7 BETMGM SPORTSBOOK
- 8 TOPGOLF SWING SUITE

## RESTAURANTS

- 9 FULLHOUSE CAFÉ
- 10 LING AND LOUIE'S
- 11 FATBURGER
- 12 AROMA COFFEE & PASTICCERIA
- PRIME LOCATED IN THE SUNRISE TOWER ON THE 11TH FLOOR

## BARS/LOUNGES

- 13 OASIS POOL BAR
- 14 THE RIVER BAR
- 15 SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE
- 16 NIGHTCAP LOUNGE
- 17 RESORT BAR
- 11VEN LOCATED IN THE SUNRISE TOWER ON THE 11TH FLOOR

## VENUES

- 18 YUCCA
- 19 WILLOW
- 20 CHOLLA
- 21 AGAVE
- 22 PALO VERDE BALLROOM
- 23 OCOTILLO
- 24 IRONWOOD
- 25 BUSINESS CENTER
- 26 ACACIA BALLROOM
- 27 THE SHOWROOM
- 28 SUNSET BOARDROOM

## RESORT

- 29 RESORT LOBBY
- 30 GIFT SHOP
- 31 FITNESS CENTER
- 32 SUNSET TOWER
- 33 SUNRISE TOWER
- 34 OASIS POOL
- 35 SERENITY POOL



ESCALATOR



ELEVATOR

# Notes

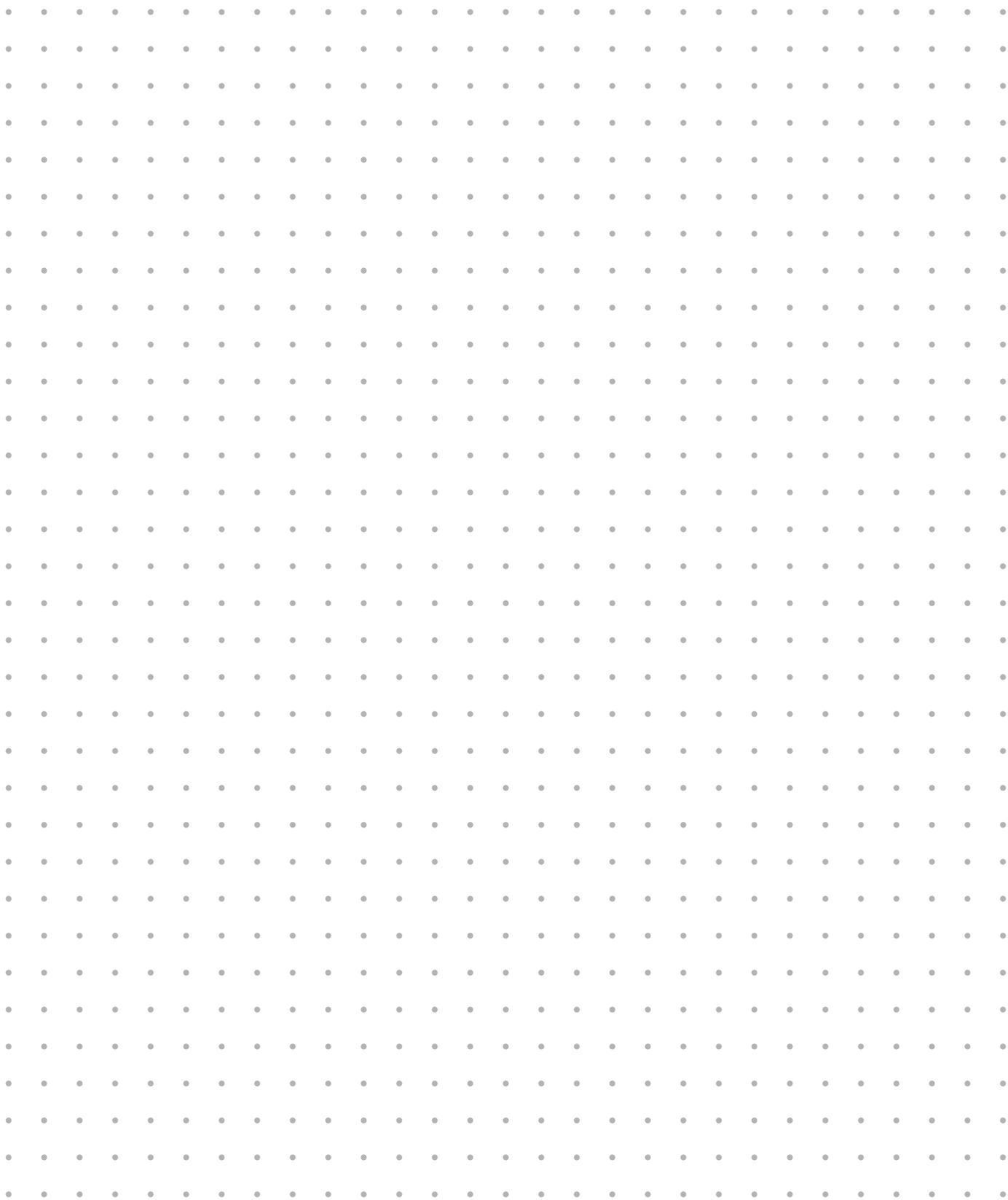
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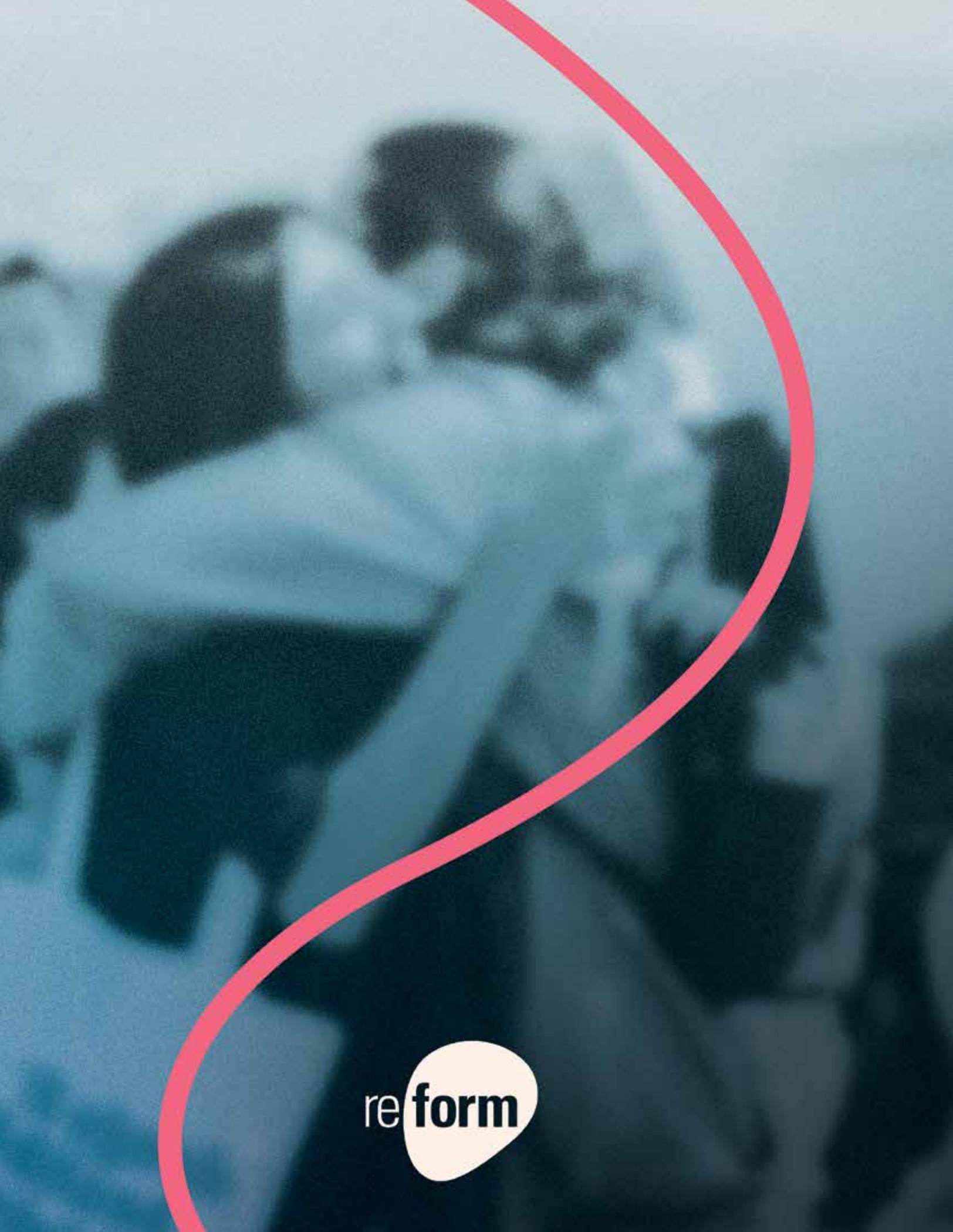
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# Notes

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