

IDPC PRIORITIES FOR 2008

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs and professional networks that specialise in issues related to illegal drug production and use. The Consortium aims to promote objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harm. It disseminates the reports of its member organisations about particular drug-related matters, and offers expert consultancy services to policymakers and officials around the world.

IDPC members share a wide range of expertise in developing, advising on and reviewing drug policies. They bring together the latest research and programme expertise, and work constructively with governments and international agencies to refine and improve policies in this complex and politically sensitive field. A list of current members of the Consortium is attached below.

Throughout 2008, the Consortium will clearly focus much of its work on the United Nations review of the global drug control system, in which the international community will review progress achieved against the objectives they agreed in 1998 – to significantly reduce the supply of, and demand for, illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine and cannabis. As governments develop their positions and proposals to be presented to a high-level political meeting in early 2009, we will provide advice and analysis that supports the development of humane and effective policies and programmes. Our positions will be summarised in an advocacy guide, that will update governments and NGOs on the review process, and summarise the IDPC positions on what we consider to be the key issues for the review – refocusing policies from tackling market scale to reducing market consequences; a new approach to source countries; ensuring cohesion between drug control and human rights obligations; and reform of the relevant UN structures.

2008 also sees the mid-term review of the European Union Drug Strategy. The 27 member states of the EU are aiming to complete a review of progress over the last 4 years, and agree an action plan for the next 4 years, by the end of the year. The Consortium and its members will work closely with the Commission, the European Parliament, and national capitals to ensure that the review continues the process of improvement in Europe-wide co-operation and cohesion in drug policy, and tackles the remaining challenges – such as variable implementation of demand reduction activities, and the lack of data and strategic oversight regarding supply reduction activities – with transparency and commitment.

While there are no specific regional drug strategies in Latin America or Asia that are being reviewed in 2008, the Consortium will be increasing its work in these regions to encourage governments to work together to develop sophisticated shared strategies that find the correct balance between drug control, public health and human rights obligations. We will also prioritise the provision of advice and support to NGOs in these regions to help them play a stronger role in influencing the drug policy debates in their countries.

Essential to all of this work is the development of constructive and respectful relationships between IDPC members and policymakers in national governments and international agencies. We will make the expertise of our members available to officials and politicians to advise on, and provide background material for, the policy decisions that they have to make. Throughout the year, we will be organising a number of visits to national capitals during which our experts will attend briefing meetings with key decision makers, and host workshops for policymakers, academics and NGOs with an interest in these issues. If you wish to arrange an IDPC delegation visit to your country, contact Genevieve Horwood at gh@internationaldrugpolicy.net.

IDPC MEMBERSHIP (AS AT NOVEMBER 6th 2008)

AKZEPT, Germany
Andreas Papandreou Foundation (APF)
Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN), Thailand
L'Association Nationale des Intervenants en Toxicomanie et Addictologie (ANITEA), France
Australian Drug Foundation (ADF), Australia
The Beckley Foundation, The United Kingdom
Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy (CFDP), Canada
CDARI (Caribbean Drug Abuse Research Institute), Saint Lucia
Correlation Network, Europe
Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG), Ireland
Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), USA
DrugScope, The United Kingdom
Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN), Europe/Asia
European Network on Drugs and Infections, Europe
Prevention in Prison (ENDIPP), Europe
Forum Droghe, Italy
Groupement Romand D'Études des Addictions, Switzerland
Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), Hungary
Indian Lawyers Collective, India
Intercambios, Argentina
International Harm Reduction Development (IHRD), Global
International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA), Global
New Zealand Drug Foundation (NZDF), New Zealand
Release, The United Kingdom
Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses, India
South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction, Europe
Treatment Network (SEEAN), Slovenia
The Federation of European Professionals, Europe
Working in the Field of Drug Abuse (ERIT), The United Kingdom
Transnational Institute, The Netherlands
Turning Point, Australia
Viva Rio, Brazil
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Latin America

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