

PROGRESS REPORT

2018-2019

SEPTEMBER 2019



Table of contents

Message from the Executive Director	3
About IDPC	5
Looking back at IDPC's 2018 Members Survey	5
April 2018: Building civil society capacity to promote reform in Francophone Africa	7
MAY 2018: Condemning human rights atrocities in Bangladesh	7
JUNE 2018: SDP Global Day of Action	8
JULY 2018: Advocating for women's rights in the criminal justice system	9
AUGUST 2018: Highlighting abuses against people who use drugs at the UN Committee against Torture	9
SEPTEMBER 2018: [Net]working	10
OCTOBER 2018: Taking stock of the lost decade in global drug policy	10
NOVEMBER 2018: Influencing the WHO's review of cannabis and tramadol	11
DECEMBER 2018: Building partnerships for change: The Expert Group Meeting on harm reduction	12
JANUARY 2019: Civil society collaboration on harm reduction	12
FEBRUARY 2019: Civil society advocating for drug policy reform in Europe	13
MARCH 2019: An ever-growing movement for reform at the UN in Vienna	13
Our Publications	15
Our Board of Directors	19
Our Members Advisory Council	19
Our volunteers	20
Our donors	21

Foreword



Welcome to our latest Progress Report which chronicles another remarkable year for IDPC. The most critical highlight is our civil society shadow report, *Taking Stock: A Decade of Drug Policy*, which we produced together with many IDPC members and partners from around the world. We undertook this ambitious report to address the lack of a formal

review by governments, or the UN, of progress towards the goals and targets set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on drugs to significantly reduce or eliminate the global drug market by 2019.

The report attracted widespread global media attention and helped to secure the comprehensive 'stock-taking' language in the [2019 Ministerial Declaration](#) by not allowing governments to shy away from the inconvenient truth of a growing global drug market despite the billions invested to eliminate it. The first report of its kind in UN drug control fora, it represented a watershed moment of civil society creating crucial accountability in the UN debate on drugs and consolidated the IDPC network's role as watchdog in this space.

The drug policy reform movement continues to strengthen and diversify with many new players joining the calls for a serious re-think of repression and punishment as instruments of drug control. Repressive drug control measures are increasingly being understood as a form of state violence that serves to deepen and entrench structural inequalities which has garnered stronger interest in challenging current drug policies from other social movements such as those working on racial inequality, women's rights, indigenous rights, LGTIQ+ rights to prison abolition and beyond. Building cross-movement solidarity on key human rights and social justice issues is more important than ever in the current troubling geo-political context and will be a core focus of the IDPC Secretariat in the coming years.

This year, I am pleased to share this foreword with Alison Holcomb, Chair of IDPC's Board of Directors and Bikas Gurung, Asia representative on IDPC's Members Advisory Council, who give their reflections on the past year for the network. We hope you enjoy reading this Progress Report!

In solidarity,

Ann Fordham
Executive Director



The global war on drugs violates human rights through myriad methods on multiple fronts. It resists science and defeats compassion by dividing our communities and marginalizing our brothers and sisters. The sheer scale, adaptability, and malignance of the war discourage even the most steadfast of caregivers and advocates. Within this darkness, IDPC weaves a net of hope and inspiration. The IDPC team shares high-quality information and ideas with people around the globe and deftly builds collective power through connection. They have a sharp and unwavering focus on the long-term goal of international treaty reform, achieved through strategic deployment of resources to grow their partners' impact with individual states. The success of *Taking Stock*, IDPC's shadow report to the United Nations' 2019 assessment of the past decade of global drug policy, is a testament to the effectiveness of the organisation's approach and the growth of the network's power. It is an honor and, frankly, a thrill to have a front row seat to IDPC's work.

Alison Holcomb
Chair, IDPC Board of Directors



It has been a trialling year for our communities of people who use drugs in South and Southeast Asian countries. The 'war on drugs' has compelled us to witness a traumatic environment, in which state-sanctioned violence, abuse, detentions, forced displacement, disappearances and even extrajudicial killings of our communities have been spreading across nations and regions. In this context, platforms for community-led and civil society organisations to coalesce, strategise and resist oppression are more vital than ever. As the South Asia representative to the IDPC Members Advisory Council, I am proud of the work and level of effort that IDPC has put as a global membership-based network of organisations for drug policy reform. In May 2018, ANPUD and IDPC co-signed a [statement](#), supported by 188 NGOs, urging international authorities to condemn human rights violations perpetrated in the name drug control by the government of Bangladesh. Both the UNODC and the INCB have since produced statements in reference to the Bangladesh crackdown underscoring the need for drug control policies to abide by international law. Similar collaborations between ANPUD and IDPC took place on the Philippines war on drugs in 2016 and 2017, not to mention the joint submission made for Cambodia and Vietnam to the Universal Periodic Review in 2018. As injustices and silence continue to grow across the region, so does our unrelenting fight to bring the perpetrators to justice, and our commitment to the movement and united actions.

Bikas Gurung
Asia representative, IDPC Members Advisory Council



About IDPC

The [International Drug Policy Consortium](#) (IDPC) is a global network of more than 180 NGOs that come together to promote supports evidence-based drug policies grounded in evidence, health, human rights, development and social inclusion at the national and international level.

We intervene at two levels in the decision-making process. Firstly, we facilitate networking and collaboration between civil society stakeholders, and seek to empower civil society and the most affected populations to better engage with and influence policy making processes. And secondly, we also engage directly in high-level policy making processes by providing analysis and expertise to governments and UN agencies on effective and more humane drug policy options.

IDPC members agree to promote [five core policy principles](#) in our advocacy work with governments and international agencies. Drug policies should:

1. be developed through an objective assessment of priorities and evidence
2. be undertaken in full compliance with international human rights law
3. focus on reducing the harmful consequences rather than the scale of drug use and markets
4. promote the social inclusion of marginalised groups, and not focus on punitive measures towards them
5. be developed and implemented based on open and constructive relationships with civil society.

To inform our overall advocacy strategy, we have elaborated a theory of change which includes [four strategic priorities](#):

- **Priority 1:**
Engage with governments at national, regional and international level to influence drug policies
- **Priority 2:**
Facilitate NGO communications and cooperation
- **Priority 3:**
Build the capacity of NGOs to better engage in drug policy advocacy
- **Priority 4:**
Produce high-quality multilingual drug policy resources.

Looking back at IDPC's 2018 Members Survey

For the last three years, the IDPC Members Survey has taken stock of progress and challenges in national drug policy debates worldwide. Among other indicators, the survey tracks perceptions of key influential stakeholders on drug policy, awareness and uptake of key IDPC resources, and the health of civil society participation and engagement domestically. Crucially, the survey provides an opportunity for the IDPC membership to exchange information and provide feedback on the work of the Secretariat.

This year, the survey was completed by 67 organisations from 47 countries, which accounted for 37% of the membership.

Below, we provide a brief overview of some of the responses received in relation to key perceived positive and negative drug policy reforms that took place over the past year or in the coming year.

Progress

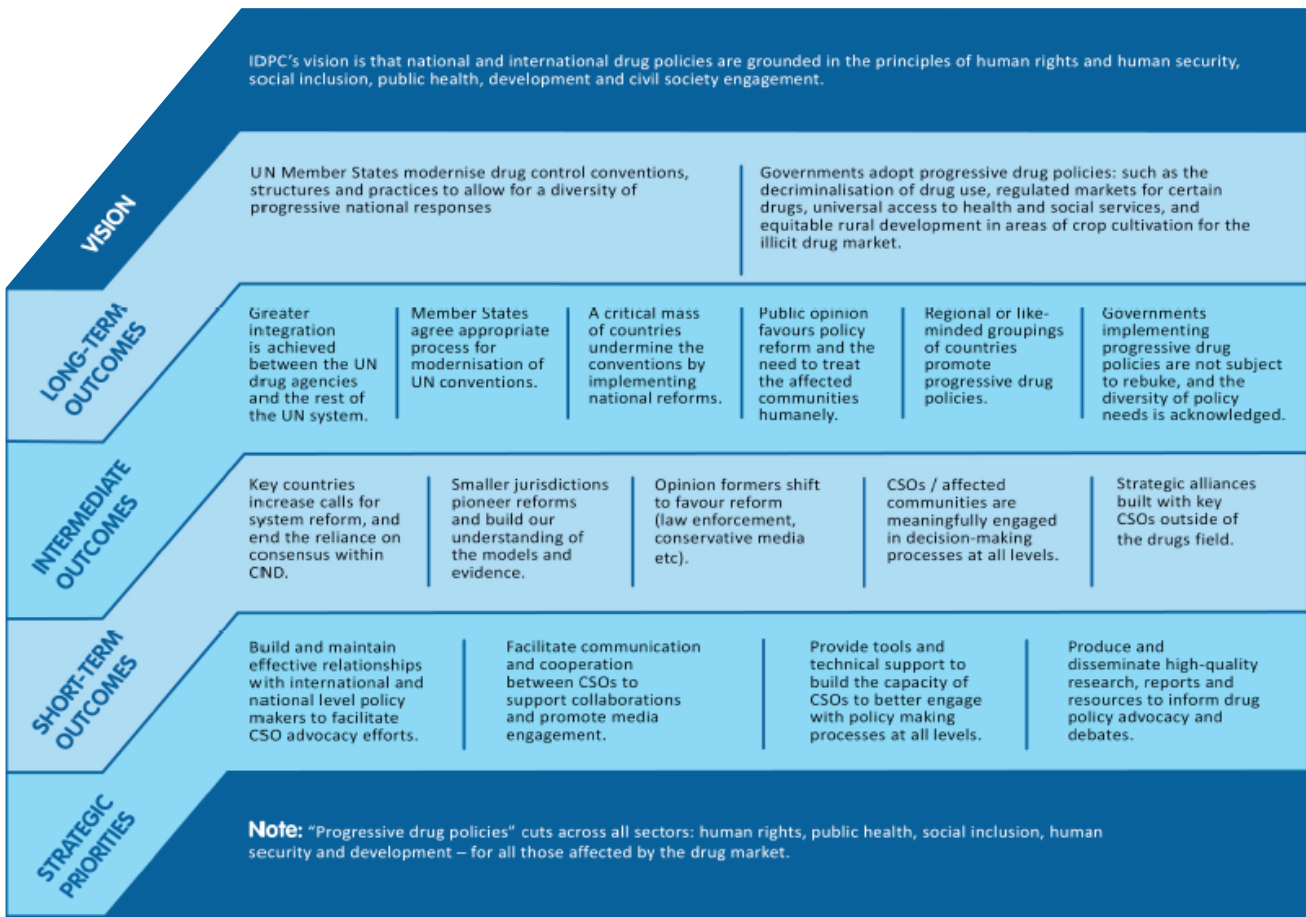
Most responses in this section focused on **harm reduction** reforms, welcoming the implementation of projects by the Global Fund (e.g. Albania, Burkina Faso, Tanzania), by states (e.g. Colombia, Ukraine) and the key role of community members in deploying services (e.g. EECA region). Respondents also praised advances in the roll-out of 'novel' harm reduction initiatives, such as safer consumption sites (e.g. Belgium, Canada, Greece) and drug checking services (e.g. Argentina, Australia, United Kingdom), as well as in the expansion of naloxone provision (e.g. Australia, Canada, Lebanon).

A significant number of responses highlighted promising **cannabis-related reforms**. These included the coming into effect of the legal regulation of adult use (e.g. Canada, California); the expansion of these systems (e.g. Uruguay); court decisions paving the way for decriminalisation and legal regulation (e.g. Mexico, South Africa); regulation bills tabled before parliaments (e.g. Kenya, Portugal, United States); and a growing salience of the intersections between social justice and cannabis policy reform. Respondents also highlighted medical cannabis systems being fleshed out, to different degrees, in Colombia, Chile, Germany, Greece, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Zimbabwe.



Civil society representatives at the 62nd session of the CND

Credit: Juan Fernandez Ordoñez, IDPC



Members also highlighted moves towards auspicious reforms in relation to the **criminal justice system**. For instance, responses reported models of decriminalisation adopted as the official position of two major political parties in Canada, implemented at the local level in the UK and [partially] enacted in Georgia as a result of a decision by the Constitutional Court. While other reforms diverting people who use drugs away from the criminal justice system were also noted (e.g. New Zealand, Chile and Ivory Coast).

Finally, respondents highlighted innovative gender-specific responses by the State (e.g. Chile, Costa Rica) and by service providers (Barcelona, Spain); as well as the involvement of affected populations in decision making processes (e.g. Canada, Malaysia).

Setbacks

The majority of responses discussing negative reforms concerned an **increased burden of punishment** on people involved in informal drug markets. These ranged from normative and rhetorical changes with impact on policing practices (e.g. Argentina, Colombia), to net-widening reforms (e.g. France, Kyrgyzstan), to increased penalties or the creation of new types of offences (e.g. Australia, United States, Uruguay), to plans to [re-]instate the **death penalty** for drug offences (e.g. the Philippines, Sri Lanka).

Measures targeting people who grow crops deemed illicit (e.g. Colombia) and people who use drugs in situations of great vulnerability (e.g. Australia) were also highlighted, as were moves to [further] **militarise drug control efforts** (e.g. Argentina, Mexico).

A substantial amount of responses also noted regressive moves with regard to **harm reduction**, including political pushback

at the national and local levels (e.g. Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Canada – Ontario), as well as the negative impact of austerity measures (e.g. Italy, Puerto Rico, Switzerland) and the retreat of the Global Fund (e.g. EECA region).

Shrinking civil society space

Considering international developments regarding the state of civil society and civic freedoms, and as suggested by the [IDPC Members Advisory Council](#), this year a new module was added to the IDPC Members Survey to gauge changes in the conditions in which civil society organisations operate.

For the majority of respondents, there have not been major significant changes to the legal/policy framework in this regard. However, a few respondents flagged regressions in countries including Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. In terms of concrete obstacles, respondents highlighted laws that impose sanctions for criticising the police or the government, or that restrict demonstrations in the public space.

When it comes to non-legal barriers to the enjoyment of civic freedoms, including government-sanctioned harassment, respondents flagged obstacles in Belarus, Colombia, Hungary, Georgia, Indonesia, Italy, Myanmar, Nigeria, Tanzania and the United States. Most of these impediments are, by and large, imposed by the state, particularly against organisations that work on human rights (e.g. Brazil, Zimbabwe), or that criticise the government (e.g. Brazil, Nigeria). Yet it is worth noting that, in some cases, non-state actors can also act as powerful opponents of civic freedoms, as is the case of drug-trafficking/criminal networks (e.g. Colombia).

April 2018

Building civil society capacity to promote reform in Francophone Africa

In April 2018, IDPC organised a 'Training of Trainers' workshop on drug policy advocacy in francophone Africa, in Dakar, Senegal. Funded by a small grant from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the training was co-organised in collaboration with the Gaston Berger University in Saint Louis, Senegal. Drawing lessons from similar workshops held previously in Bali and South Africa, the event was split into two key moments.

The first two days consisted in an intensive 'training of trainers' workshop involving four carefully selected drug policy advocates from Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Morocco. This included discussions on practical and logistical issues to consider when organising a training, moderating skills and how to use the [IDPC Drug Policy Advocacy Training Toolkit to organise advocacy trainings tailored to different audiences](#).

In the following two days, an advocacy training was delivered to 20 participants from all over francophone Africa, and co-facilitated by the four drug policy advocates trained during the first part of the event. The training focused on a general introduction to drugs, the international drug control system, options for reform, advocacy for harm reduction and how to engage in the Support. Don't Punish campaign.

The event showcased the growing interest for such trainings (with more than 90 applications received), as well as the success of this new capacity building model which IDPC hopes to replicate in the future, in partnership with other NGO partners.



Participants at the Training of Trainers event in Dakar

May 2018



Bangladeshi police

Credit: Nahid Sultan / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 4.0

Condemning human rights atrocities in Bangladesh

In response to the drug war launched in Bangladesh in May 2018, and waged in a manner reminiscent of the Philippines anti-drugs campaign, IDPC and the Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD) put together an [NGO sign-on letter](#) calling on the UN drug control bodies to take urgent action to prevent further deaths and human rights violations in Bangladesh. By the time the letter was sent in June 2018, with 188 NGOs signing on, over 130 people had been killed during anti-drug operations and more than 13,000 people arrested for alleged drug offences.

As in the Philippines, Bangladeshi police were reporting that the killings of suspected 'drug dealers' had happened during 'gunfights' with rival gangs or law enforcement officers acting in self-defense during anti-drug operations. At the same time, health and harm reduction services for people who use drugs were closed down by law enforcement officers, and some clients disappeared. The Bangladesh Government also introduced a bill to impose the death penalty for drug offences. This violent and abusive approach to eradicating



Credit: Marie Nougier / IDPC

drug markets has been spreading in the region, as seen in varying forms in the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

On the same day our letter was released, the [OHCHR issued a statement](#) condemning the alleged extrajudicial killings in Bangladesh which helped draw more [media attention](#) to the issue. [Reuters reported on our letter](#) as well. UNODC had released a [\(weak\) statement](#) on the situation in Bangladesh before our letter was released, and did not appear to take any stronger actions afterwards. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) only seemed to issue a public statement condemning the killings in Bangladesh [through their Annual Report 2018](#) released in March 2019, while also calling for the abolition of the death penalty at the [South Asia regional launch](#) of that report.

Such actions and responses are critical to supporting ongoing advocacy against the deliberate use of violence and human rights violations against people suspected of drug offences, for example as part of an election campaign. These condemnations need to be sustained and scaled up in the face of the spreading contagion of the Philippines war on drugs in the region.

raise awareness among the media and the public about the need for reform.

The campaign's yearly high point is its Global Day of Action, a worldwide explosion of creativity and solidarity that, on or around [26th June 2018](#), translated into a broad range of activities joined by thousands of participants in a record-breaking 234 cities of 98 countries! The activities organised included a [street art](#) outreach event in Bogotá (Colombia), a [demonstration](#) at the UN headquarters in New York (United States), a [press conference](#) in Parliament in Rome (Italy), a [float parade](#) in downtown Freetown (Sierra Leone), and a [silent march](#) of remembrance in Kathmandu (Nepal).

As the hosts of the campaign, IDPC was proud to support local partners' mobilisation in all corners of the world through the provision of 90 small grants, prioritising initiatives in the Global South, from low/middle-income countries and from networks of disproportionately affected populations (people who use drugs, sex workers, young people). Financial contributions were supplemented with in-kind support, through the provision of materials (including the delivery of 50 packages of campaign goodies), a media advisory, editing, translations, among others.

Throughout the year, the campaign also hosted or joined 14 events, connecting with activists from across the globe through capacity-building workshops, as well as outreach photo booth stands and presentations at conferences. Support. Don't Punish organised its first [Communications workshop](#) in Southeast Asia, in collaboration with the [Rights Reporter Foundation](#), activating participation and cementing relationships with local partners from the region.

We continue to explore new ways and collaborations to strengthen this worldwide movement and invite you to follow campaign developments through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), the campaign [newsletter](#) and our newly-launched [Instagram](#) account. You can also communicate with us via [email](#) and [Slack](#).

June 2018

SDP Global Day of Action

[Support. Don't Punish](#) is a global grassroots-centred initiative in support of harm reduction and drug policies that prioritise public health and human rights. The campaign rejects the so-called 'war on drugs', understood as norms and practices that perpetuate the repression and oppression of people who use drugs and other populations in situations of vulnerability. Instead, the campaign seeks to put harm reduction on the political agenda by strengthening the mobilisation capacity of affected communities and their allies, open dialogue with decision makers and



Credit: Various

July 2018



Credit: Mary Catherine Alvarez

Session on drug laws with peer paralegal aides inside a women's prison in Cebu, Philippines

Advocating for women's rights in the criminal justice system

In 2013, the [UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#) estimated that globally one in five prisoners were incarcerated for drug offences. Although women continue to represent a minority of prisoners worldwide, the proportion of women incarcerated for drug offences is significantly higher than that of men, with the highest percentages to be found in Latin America and Southeast Asia. In countries like Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, the Philippines and Venezuela, more than 60% of women in prison are incarcerated for a drug offence. In Thailand, this proportion reaches 82%.

Since 2015, IDPC has been working together with the [Washington Office on Latin America \(WOLA\)](#), [Dejusticia](#), and the [Organisation of American States' Inter-American Commission on Women](#) to improve understanding and stimulate dialogue amongst policy makers about the [specific vulnerabilities](#) faced by women imprisoned for drug offences and the disproportionate impact of punitive drug policies on women more broadly.

From 2016, IDPC extended work on this topic to [Southeast Asia](#) with an OSF-funded project involving country partners in Thailand (Ozone Foundation), Indonesia ([LBH Masyarakat](#)) and the Philippines ([NoBox Philippines](#)). The ultimate objective of both projects is to dramatically reduce the numbers of women incarcerated for drug offences, including those on death row, and to raise the voices of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women.

Under this project, in July 2018 NoBox Philippines organised a workshop gathering several civil society organisations



Credit: LBH Masyarakat

Workshop organised by LBH Masyarakat on women and incarceration

working on different issues (ie. women's rights, children's rights, and prison reform) to introduce them to the needs and concerns of women charged with drug offences, and present their research on the topic. Similar consultations and workshops were organised by partners in Thailand and [Indonesia](#), with participants expressing interest in learning more about a topic that was new to them and a desire to continue working on the issue. Research was also published on the vulnerabilities and needs of women incarcerated for drug offences in [Indonesia](#), the [Philippines](#) and [Thailand](#).

In the coming year, the projects in Latin America and South-east Asia will continue to empower the voices of affected women in national, regional and global forums, and promote responses to improve the conditions of women in prison and reduce the incarceration rate of women.

August 2018

Highlighting abuses against people who use drugs at the UN Committee against Torture

In August 2018, IDPC participated in a workshop organised by Penal Reform International on behalf of the UN Committee against Torture (CAT). The workshop was part of the CAT's three-week long session. At the time of the meeting, the CAT was composed of experts from China, Colombia, Denmark (Chair), France, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Russia, Tunisia and the USA.

The workshop aimed to showcase the situations of vulnerabilities of a number of specific groups in detention, including women, children, LGBTI, ethnic minorities, people who use drugs and life-timers. Twelve speakers coming from NGOs and academia, UNODC, the European Court of Human Rights and a doctor intervened during the session. IDPC highlighted the many vulnerabilities faced by people who use drugs and drug offenders in prison, and presented [cases of torture](#) that people who use drugs are facing around the world.

In a welcome move, the [CAT's conclusions](#) on Russia, which was being reviewed during the August session, expressed concerns over the lack of availability of opioid substitution therapy in the country, as well as the practice by the police of using withdrawal pain among people dependent on opioids to elicit confessions. These key issues were highlighted during the workshop – and have been the focus of constant NGO advocacy over the past few years, in particular from the Andrey Rylkov Foundation and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.



Credit: Penal Reform International

Speakers at the workshop on people deprived of liberty at the UN Committee against Torture



Credit: Juan Fernandez Ochoa (IDPC)

[Net]working

In September, the IDPC Blog hosted two posts that focused on Trump's [Global Call to Action on the world drug problem](#). One of them, penned in collaboration with colleagues from the [Drug Policy Alliance](#), the [Transnational Institute](#) and [WOLA](#), highlighted the procedural and substantive problems concerning the document's preparation and 'endorsement'. The [second blog post](#) shed light on the conflicting rationales behind the Call and the recent report by the Global Commission on Drug Policy on the regulation of currently-scheduled substances for non-medical purposes. These updates received almost 1,600 combined views and, to some extent, exemplify what our external communications work seeks to achieve.

As per our Communications Strategy for 2017-2020, our external communications focus is fourfold:

- To raise awareness about drug policy developments and the importance of reform, highlighting often overlooked linkages with issues of absolute importance, such as public health, development and human rights.
- To leverage the most constructive aspects of multilateral drug policy governance to ensure accountability and support norms, narratives and practices that depart from criminalisation and punishment.
- To act as a sounding board for knowledge and evidence-based reform-orientated messages and learning, prioritising the voices of those most affected and of the IDPC membership.
- To facilitate and support IDPC members' engagement with the public and the media.

External and internal communications are two sides of the same coin, which is why we also dedicate substantial efforts to the latter, through regular and targeted messages, closed social media groups and mailing lists (regional and thematic), quarterly Members Updates, calls and face-to-face meetings.

October 2018

Taking stock of the lost decade in global drug policy

In October 2018, IDPC launched its landmark 'Taking stock: A decade of drug policy – A civil society shadow report'. As the international community was set to meet in March 2019 to take stock of the past decade and discuss the future of global drug policy, the objective of the report was to assess progress made against the targets set out in 2009 and the broader priorities of the UN to protect human rights, advance development and promote peace and security. The report featured prominently in the media, with highlights in CNN, Newsweek, Le Figaro, El Espectador, The Inquirer and many others.

This report was made possible thanks to the contributions, feedback and comments received by over 45 civil society representatives from the IDPC network and beyond – and we cannot thank them enough for their help and support! The report was first launched at the UN headquarters in Vienna – while the discussions on the future of global drug policy were in full swing. The report was subsequently



Credit: Marie Nougier, IDPC

Launch of the global shadow report in Geneva

launched in New York (in partnership with the International Peace Institute and the Social Science Research Council) and Geneva (in collaboration with the Global Commission on Drug Policy, Le Temps and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies).

In recognition that Asia has borne the brunt of some of the worst human rights consequences of repressive drug policies, IDPC produced a shadow report specifically focused on the region. 10 years of drug policy in Asia: how far have we come? A civil society shadow report was launched on the World Day of Social Justice in February 2019, in Delhi in collaboration with the India HIV/AIDS Alliance. The launch event helped to provoke dialogue on the impacts of drug policy, as well as the origins of prohibition, and the need for countries to forge their own path based on their own traditions, know-how and circumstances.

Positively, the report had a major impact on the negotiations of the [2019 Ministerial Declaration](#), forcing the UN to face a reality that they could no longer ignore. This, and sustained advocacy throughout the negotiations of the Declaration led to the inclusion, in the final declaration, of an entire paragraph laying out the many challenges faced by the international community in tackling the illicit drug market – including the significant health harms, human rights concerns and development aspects highlighted in IDPC’s shadow reports.



Credit: Marie Nougier, IDPC



Credit: India HIV/AIDS Alliance

Launch of the Asia-focused shadow report in Delhi

November 2018

Influencing the WHO’s review of cannabis and tramadol

The Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) of the World Health Organization (WHO) held its [41st meeting](#) in Geneva in November 2018. The ECDD is mandated by the UN drug conventions to conduct scientific reviews of substances, assessing their public health risks and therapeutic uses, and to recommend their assignment to the appropriate levels of control in the drug control treaties. The Committee’s recommendations therefore have significant impacts on public health and the availability of medicines, particularly in the Global South.

The most important substances reviewed by the 41st Expert Committee were cannabis, tramadol and pregabalin. Although the Expert Committee meets behind closed doors, it is customary for civil society and affected groups to present inputs and recommendations to Committee members at the opening session of their meeting.

IDPC was among 14 civil society representatives selected to speak at the opening session of the 41st session, with our advocacy focus being on [cannabis and tramadol](#). We argued that tramadol remains a vital medicine in the Global South, and that access should not be impeded by the imposition of international controls. With respect to cannabis we argued that classification in Schedules 1 and 4 was a historical error that should be urgently corrected.

There were many fears among civil society that the ECDD might recommend the scheduling of tramadol, especially considering the amount of pressure exerted by various countries and the UN drug control bodies on the WHO to do so. It was therefore very much [welcome](#) that the Expert Committee [recommended](#) to the CND that tramadol should remain under observation, but not be internationally controlled owing to its medical importance in the Global South. On cannabis, the Committee [recommended](#) that it be removed from Schedule 4 of the 1961 Convention, and that pharmaceutical preparations of cannabis should be included in Schedule 3 of the 1961 Convention. However, the ECDD also recommended the continued inclusion of cannabis in the strictest schedule of the 1961 Convention – a decision that was [criticised](#) by many civil society representatives.

IDPC has engaged with the ECDD on several occasions in the past, especially on [tramadol](#) and [ketamine](#). As discussions



Credit: Kenzi Rihoulet

Civil society representatives at the opening session of the ECDD session, November 2018

progress at the CND on the WHO recommendations around cannabis, and as some member states continue to exert pressure on the ECDD around tramadol scheduling, we will continue our constructive engagement with the WHO in the months ahead.

other regions, including from national government agencies, civil society and communities of people who use drugs, we discussed the latest developments, research and good practices related to harm reduction at the global and regional levels, with a specific focus on Asia, the use of stimulant drugs and the need to engage families of people who use drugs. The EGM has proven to be an important forum for vital stakeholders to advance dialogue on harm reduction to ensure coordinated attention to priority and emerging issues.

January 2019

Civil society collaboration on harm reduction

The [Robert Carr Fund](#) is an innovative mechanism to support international and regional civil society networks in the area of HIV. Through both activity and core funding, the Fund focuses on improving services, capacity and policy environments for 'inadequately served populations' such as people who use drugs. IDPC has been privileged to receive support in every round since the Fund was established in 2012 – including as the 'lead applicant' for a new three-year grant that started in January 2019.

The grant is for the '[Harm Reduction Consortium](#)' – in which IDPC, [HRI](#), [Youth RISE](#), the [Women and Harm Reduction International Network](#), the [Eurasian Harm Reduction Association](#), the [Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association](#), and the [European Network of People who Use Drugs](#) come together to promote harm reduction responses and policy reforms, as part of a project entitled 'We will not end AIDS until we adopt harm reduction and end the war on drugs'. While IDPC receives the funds, it onward grants the lion's share to these partners for a wide range of different activities.

Over the next three years, and building on the success of previous Robert Carr Fund grants, the Harm Reduction Consortium will focus on a series of collaborative objectives:

- A global initiative to help strengthen the messaging and 'storytelling' around harm reduction and drug policy reform
- Coordinated advocacy around key UN structures such as the CND
- Coordinated advocacy and information sharing at key HIV-related fora (including the International Harm Reduction Conference)

December 2018

Building partnerships for change: The Expert Group Meeting on harm reduction

As a technical partner in the Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPPDD), a project implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), IDPC has co-organised two Expert Group Meetings on Harm Reduction (EGM): in Berlin, Germany, in February 2016, and then in Bangkok, Thailand, in October 2017.

These important forums brought together governments, UN agencies, academics and civil society, including people who use drugs, in a confidential setting to further develop the discourse on various aspects of the harm reduction response. The EGM in 2017 led to a Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) [Conference Room Paper](#) on the importance of harm reduction for people who use stimulant drugs, which was presented as a formal input to the 61st session of the CND by Germany.

The third EGM on harm reduction held in Bangkok in December 2018 was co-hosted by GPPDD, Germany's Drug Commissioner's Office, the Thai Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Harm Reduction International (HRI), and IDPC. Together with participants from several countries throughout Asia and



Credit: GIZ

Participants at the EGM held in December 2018 in Bangkok



Kick-off meeting of the Harm Reduction Consortium, January 2019, London

- The global [Support. Don't Punish](#) campaign
- Capacity building, including on governance and fund-raising.

Each partner also develops their own annual work plans and activities relating to their mandate. For IDPC, this includes media training workshops, engagement with the UN Universal Periodic Review, and the creation of a 'global decriminalisation map' in 2019. The Consortium will also continue to provide small onward grants to local partners to strengthen their own advocacy capacity and work.

IDPC's role as 'lead applicant' and coordinator for the Consortium fits perfectly within our commitment to support networking and capacity building for our members. It is one of several examples whereby the IDPC Secretariat has been able to perform this important role – allowing our partners to access crucial funding.

February 2019

Civil society advocating for drug policy reform in Europe

IDPC continues to play a key role within the [EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs](#) (CSFD) – an expert group of the European Commission and the official civil society engagement mechanism with EU institutions on drug-related issues. The CSFD [membership](#) was renewed for three years in 2018, and a new Core Group (the executive body of the CSFD) was elected – every member of which being an IDPC member: [Fédération Addiction](#) (chair), [Diogenis](#) (vice-chair), [Youth Organisations for Drug Action](#), [Utrip](#), [Correlation European Harm Reduction Network](#) and IDPC itself.

Within the CSFD, IDPC is responsible for coordinating a working group on the EU and international drug policy matters. A great part of our advocacy via the CSFD over the past year has focused on offering [inputs and recommendations](#) to the EU on the 2019 UN Ministerial Segment – recommendations

which were very much aligned with IDPC's [own recommendations](#) for the high-level event.

In February 2019, the CSFD – represented by IDPC and [Fédération Addiction](#) – was invited to present the Forum's recommendations on the Ministerial Segment to the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG), composed of EU drug coordinators. This was a key opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions on the CSFD's position and red lines on the Ministerial Declaration.

Following the meeting, and for the first time in the history of the CSFD, two members of the Forum (represented by IDPC and [Fédération Addiction](#)) were funded to attend the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its Ministerial Segment. The CSFD, represented by [Katrin Schiffer](#) of the [Correlation European Harm Reduction Network](#), was also invited to speak at the [high-level side event](#) organised by the EU Romanian Presidency on overdose prevention among people using opioids. At the CND, CSFD members also had the opportunity to meet with the EU delegation and each EU member state representative in charge of negotiating resolutions at the CND.

This year was particularly fruitful for consolidating our relationship with the EU and strengthening our engagement with EU member states. At a time when key allies from Latin America have reverted back to a war-on-drugs approach, this type of collaboration is all the more important and we will continue to nurture it in the months ahead.

March 2019

An ever-growing movement for reform at the UN in Vienna

The [62nd session of the CND](#) was particularly important for the reform movement as UN member states met to take stock of the past ten years of global drug control and define what would come next. Unsurprisingly, almost 500 NGOs were in attendance at the CND and its Ministerial Segment held from 14th to 22nd March 2019.



Bilateral meeting between the CSFD and the EU delegation at the 62nd session of the CND

Credit: Proyecto Hombre



Credit: Marie Nougier, IDPC

Civil Society representatives address the CND plenary. From left to right: Julián Quintero (ATS – Colombia), Kathryn Leafe (NZNEP – New Zealand), Ann Fordham (IDPC Secretariat), Ruth Birgin (WHRIN – Global), Benjamin Phillips (Harm Reduction Coalition – US).

For IDPC, the CND remains a key moment for advocacy, but the Commission also plays an important role as a convening space for NGOs to strategise on global drug policy. As always, IDPC facilitated NGO participation in the UN event, providing financial support, logistical information, strategic advice via [advocacy tools](#) and [webinars](#), IDPC members meetings (for Latin America, Africa and Asia) and communications via live blogging on the [CND Blog](#) in partnership with various IDPC members, the [CND App](#), and dissemination on [social media](#). We held our annual pre-CND orientation meeting for over 75 NGO representatives, enabling the network to coordinate on key advocacy messages, planned NGO statements in the Plenary session, and how to best feed into the negotiations of draft CND resolutions. While the IDPC Secretariat was involved in the organisation of [nine side events](#), IDPC members co-organised [more than 30 events](#) this year on a number of topics related to drug policy reform, harm reduction, civil society engagement, and more. Via the Civil Society Task Force, IDPC also helped to coordinate NGO statements at the Ministerial Segment. And as the outcome of the Ministerial Segment was made clear, IDPC coordinated a [public statement](#) on what we believed were the main wins and failures of the new global drug policy timeline running from 2019 to 2029.

Another key role for IDPC at the CND is to ensure that the voices of those most affected by punitive drug policies are being heard. As a large part of our work this year focused on women incarcerated for drug offences, we supported two formerly incarcerated women to attend the CND, enabling them to meet with government representatives, UN officials

and civil society to share their story and present their recommendations for reform.

Positively, NGO engagement with policy makers at the CND has greatly improved, with various civil society being involved in government delegations, others meeting regularly with government officials, and many seizing every opportunity to contribute to the positions held by their governments in Vienna.

However, despite the increasingly vibrant and progressive civil society voice at the CND, NGOs were faced with significant pressure, threats and intimidation this year – mainly from security at the Vienna International Centre. Having already been on high alert following a small and peaceful civil society protest in front of a stand praising the Philippines’ war on drugs in the building, security responded with a disproportionate and unnecessary strong hand in reaction to a group photo that the IDPC Secretariat had organised for the [Support. Don’t Punish](#) campaign a few days later, on the basis that holding a picture of a person with a Support. Don’t Punish logo constituted a ‘protest’. Meanwhile, our Brazilian NGO colleagues were faced with repeated threats and acts of intimidation from their government during side events focusing on the worrying militarisation of drug policies in Latin America. These are stark reminders that while civil society space at the CND is tolerated and has largely improved over the past decade, more remains to be done to ensure that the voices of civil society and those most affected by repressive drug control are truly heard and represented in UN debates on drugs.



Credit: Juan Fernandez Ochoa (IDPC)

‘Family photo’ at the IDPC pre-CND Orientation Meeting

IDPC's Publications



The 'Vienna consensus' stifles progress on UN drug policy

IDPC acknowledges the [limited] progress contained in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, whilst decrying the lack of a genuine evaluation of the past decade of global drug policy.



10 years of drug policy in Asia: How far have we come? A civil society shadow report

IDPC evaluates the impacts of drug policies implemented in Asia over the past decade, assessing progress made towards international and regional goals and concluding on the need to move away from damaging drug-free goals.



Civil society contribution to the 50th session of the UN Statistical Commission

Civil society organisations call on the UN Statistical Commission to contribute to the improvement of the ARQ, including by promoting collaboration with relevant UN agencies.



Drug policy in India: Key developments since the UNGASS 2016

IDPC outlines the key drug policy developments in India since the UNGASS Outcome Document was adopted in 2016.



IDPC analysis of the UNODC World Drug Report 2018

IDPC discusses the alarming negative health impacts related to drug use described in the 2018 World Drug Report, but also the woefully inadequate provision of a range of scientifically proven interventions worldwide.



IDPC progress report 2017-2018

IDPC's progress report summarises another tremendous year for the network, highlighting challenges for civil society engagement across the world.



On the road towards the 2019 Ministerial Segment (Versions 1 and 2)

IDPC outlines the key issues for consideration by member states as they reflect on what has been achieved since the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the implications for the next phase of the international drug policy regime.



Women, incarceration and drug policies in South East Asia : Promoting humane and effective responses – Policy guides for Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand

IDPC provides an overview of the situation of women incarcerated for drug offences in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, exploring avenues to reduce incarceration and increase living standards for those in prison.



Contribution to the 41st WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence

IDPC provides recommendations on both tramadol and cannabis, in an effort to inform the discussions at the WHO's ECDD meeting in November 2018.



Medicinal cannabis policies and practices around the world

IDPC and MUCD provide an overview of the key models of medicinal cannabis regulation across the globe.



Women deprived of liberty: Joint submission to the OHCHR Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women

This joint paper provides the latest available data on women incarcerated for drug offences in Latin America, highlighting the human rights challenges they face in the criminal justice system.



IDPC response to the INCB Annual Report for 2017

IDPC analyses the 2017 INCB Annual Report, paying special attention to its foreword, its thematic chapter on treatment, as well as the issues of health, human rights and cannabis policies.



3rd Brandenburg Forum on Drugs and Development Policies 'The run-up towards 2019'

The 3rd Brandenburg Forum report outlines the discussions held by 56 experts from 15 countries on the state and direction of the global drug control regime in view of the 2019 Ministerial Segment.



Integration of harm reduction into drug rehabilitation programmes in Indonesia

This policy paper outlines barriers for the integration of harm reduction into rehabilitation services in Indonesia and proposes policy recommendations to surpass them.



IDPC asks for the 2019 Ministerial Segment

Developed in collaboration with the IDPC network, these policy asks call on member states to move away from drug-free targets, embed drug policy in wider UN priorities, reflect realities from the ground, and end punitive approaches.



The 2018 Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Report of Proceedings

IDPC offers an analysis of the key issues discussed at the 61st session of the CND.



IDPC submission for the OHCHR report on UNGASS and human rights

IDPC reviews the intersections between human rights and drug control as enshrined in the UNGASS Outcome document, offering recommendations for a better coordination of these two spheres of international cooperation.



ASEAN and HIV prevention amongst people who inject drugs: The need for an effective and sustainable response

IDPC analyses some of the most concerning risks, and offers recommendations for the consideration of policy makers in ASEAN.



Promoting harm reduction and community-based treatment to ensure a health-based response to drug use in Cambodia

This paper analyses existing policies related to harm reduction in Cambodia, as well as the challenges to, and opportunities for, improvement to reduce health and socio-economic harms.



Kalusugan sa kulungan: Examining the policy for people living with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C in Philippine prisons

This paper provides an analysis of critical public health problems for the Philippine prison population in relation to HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, and offers recommendations for addressing these 'twin epidemics'.

IDPC's Board

The Board of Directors comprises eight appointed Directors and is responsible for the financial and legal oversight of the organisation. More information, and detailed biographies, can be [found here](#).

Alison Holcomb
Chair, USA



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UK



IDPC's Members Advisory Council:

The [Members Advisory Council](#) of the Board is responsible for the strategic direction and work plans of the Consortium. It contains 15 members: two Board members and 13 representatives from different regions or constituencies who are directly elected by IDPC members:



Bikas Gurung (ANPUD, Thailand)
South Asia



Ciarán Weir (Youth Organisations
for Drug Action, Ireland) Youth



David Subeliani (Eurasia Harm
Reduction Association, Georgia)
Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Fatima Asouab (MENAHRRA, Lebanon)
Middle East and North Africa



Isabel Pereira (Dejusticia, Colombia)
Latin America and the Caribbean



Michael Ninburg (World
Hepatitis Alliance, USA)
International organisations



Pedro Arenas (OCCDI, Colombia)
Representative of farmers
of crops deemed illicit



Penelope Hill (Harm Reduction
Australia) Oceania



Ricky Gunawan (LBH
Masyarakat, Indonesia) Asia



Ruth Birgin (INPUD, UK)
Representative of people
who use drugs



Scott Bernstein (Canadian Drug
Policy Coalition) North America



Shaun Shelly (TB/HIV Care Association,
South Africa) Sub-Saharan Africa



Sofia Galinaki (Diogenis, Drug Policy Di-
alogue, Greece) Western and South East
Europe



*Kathryn Leafe (NZNEP, New
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Volunteers

Thanks to our interns Vinnie Collins, Daniel Chandley, Daniel Romans-Hay, Mia Cagliaris, Bianca Filipoiu and Esther Wahome, whose work was critical to the smooth running of the IDPC Secretariat between April 2018 and March 2019.

Donors

Between April 2018 and March 2019, IDPC received the valuable financial support of:

- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, via the India HIV/AIDS Alliance and KANCO
- Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPPD), managed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Open Society Foundations – Global Drug Policy Program, International Harm Reduction Development Program, Human Rights Initiative
- Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response (PITCH), funded by the Dutch Government via the International HIV/AIDS Alliance
- Robert Carr Fund
- Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
- UNAIDS
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- World Health Organization

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Global

1. AIDS Foundation East-West
2. Drugs, Security and Democracy Program of the Social Science Research Council
3. Global Exchange
4. Health Poverty Action
5. Human Rights Watch
6. International AIDS Society
7. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
8. International Centre for Science in Drug Policy
9. International Harm Reduction Development Program
10. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies
11. International HIV/AIDS Alliance
12. International Network of People of Who Use Drugs
13. LSE IDEAS International Drug Policy Project
14. Mainline
15. Médecins du Monde
16. Penal Reform International
17. Reprieve
18. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
19. Transnational Institute
20. Women's Harm Reduction International Network
21. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
22. World Hepatitis Alliance
23. Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
24. Youth Ris

Western Europe

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27. AKZEPT
28. Ana Liffey Drug Project
29. Association Française de Réduction des Risques
30. Autosupport des usagers de drogues
31. Beckley Foundation
32. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
33. Correlation European Network on Social Inclusion and Health
34. Drug Text Foundation
35. European Network of People Who Use Drugs
36. Fachverband Sucht
37. Federacion Andaluza ENLACE
38. Fédération Addiction
39. Federation Bruxelloise Francophone des Institutions pour Toxicomanes (FEDITO BXL)
40. Finnish Association for Humane Drug Policy
41. Forum Droghe
42. Gadejuristen (the Street Lawyers)
43. Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions
44. Norwegian Association for Humane Drug Policies
45. Norwegian Association for Safer Drugs Policies
46. Release
47. Réseau Français de Réduction des Risques
48. Rights Reporter Foundation
49. Scottish Drugs Forum
50. STEPS for people
51. Transform Drug Policy Foundation
52. Trimbos Instituut
53. Unión de Asociaciones y Entidades de Atención al Drogodependiente
54. Utrip
55. Youth Organisations for Drug Action

South East Europe

56. Aksion Plus
57. Association Margina
58. Association Prevent
59. Association Terra Croatia
60. Diogenis, Drug Policy Dialogue in South East Europe
61. Drug Policy Network South East Europe
62. Greek Drug and Substitute User Union
63. Healthy Options Project Skopje
64. Initiative for Health Foundation
65. NGO 4 Life
66. NGO Veza
67. Praksis
68. Re Generation
69. Romanian Harm Reduction Network

1. As of 31st March 2018

70. South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction Treatment Network
71. Viktorija
72. YCC Juventas

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

73. Alternative Georgia
74. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice
75. Alliance for Public Health
76. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association
77. Galiu gyventi - "I Can Live" Coalition
78. Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
79. Polish Drug Policy Network
80. PREKURSOR
81. Turkish Green Crescent Society

Latin America and the Caribbean

82. Acción Andina - Bolivia
83. Acción Semilla Boliviana
84. Acción Técnica Social
85. Andean Information Network
86. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
87. Asociación de Estudios del Cannabis del Uruguay
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107. Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma
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129. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
130. Drug Policy Alliance
131. Harm Reduction Coalition
132. Harm Reduction Nurses Association
133. Help Not Handcuffs
134. Institute for Policy Studies
135. Pivot Legal Society
136. StoptheDrugWar.org

East and South East Asia

137. 12D
138. Asia Catalyst
139. Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs
140. BABSEACLE
141. Indonesian Association of Addiction Counsellors
142. Indonesian Coalition for Drug Policy Reform
143. Indonesian Harm Reduction Network (Jangkar)
144. LBH Masyarakat
145. Malaysian AIDS Council
146. Persuadaraan Korban Napza Indonesia (PKNI)
147. PSI Thailand Foundation
148. Rumah Cemara (Indonesia)
149. Supporting Community Development Initiatives (Vietnam)
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- 165. Association Tunisienne de Prévention de la Toxicomanie
- 166. Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Network
- 167. National Rehabilitation Centre
- 168. Regional Arab Network against AIDS
- 169. Skoun Lebanese Addiction Centre

Sub-Saharan Africa

- 170. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
- 171. Association Sénégalaise pour la Reduction des Risques Infectieux chez les Groupes Vulnérables
- 172. Collectif Urgence Toxida
- 173. Foundation against Illicit Drug and Child Abuse
- 174. Foyer du Bonheur
- 175. Kenyan AIDS NGOs Consortium
- 176. Perle Sociale ONG
- 177. PILS
- 178. REVS PLUS
- 179. TB/HIV Care Alliance
- 180. Uganda Harm Reduction Network
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- 182. Voices of Community Action and Leadership (VOCAL-KE)
- 183. West Africa Civil Society Initiative
- 184. West Africa Drug Policy Network
- 185. Youth RISE Nigeria
- 186. Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network

Supported by grants from:



The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs that promotes 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 harms. IDPC members have a wide range of experience and expertise in the analysis of drug problems and policies, and contribute to national and international policy debates. IDPC offers specialist advice through the dissemination of written materials, presentations at

conferences, meetings with key policy makers and study tours. IDPC also provides capacity building and advocacy training for civil society organisations.

This Progress Report provides monthly highlights to showcase some of the most exciting and impactful advocacy events and activities from the IDPC membership between April 2018 and March 2019.

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