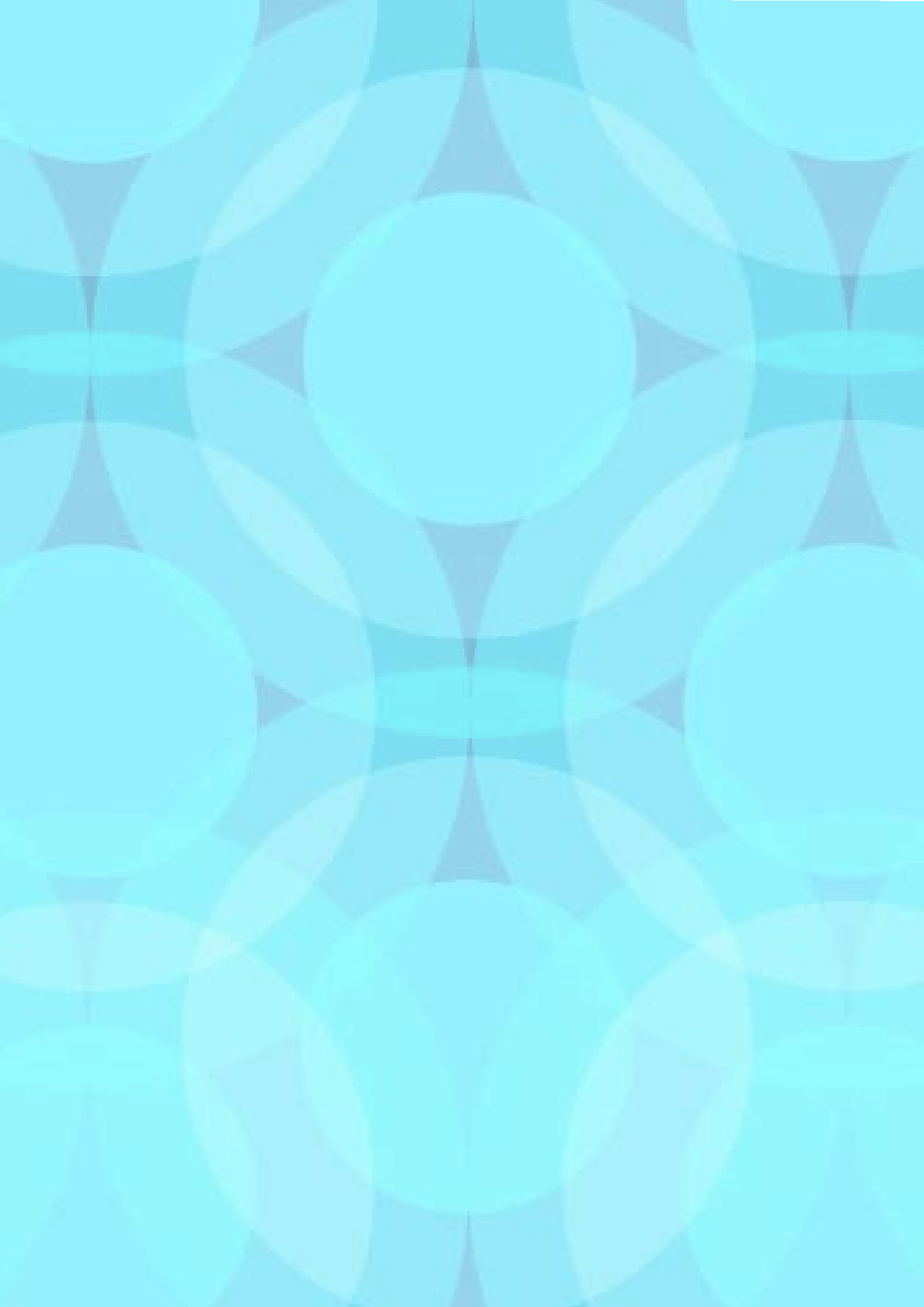


# **PROGRESS REPORT**

**2017-2018**

**DECEMBER 2018**





## Message from the Executive Director



It been another tremendous year for the IDPC network, in an increasingly complex political environment where the space for civil society continues to shrink in the face of rising populism in many parts of the world. In these challenging times, IDPC's core mandate of empowering and strengthening our network of civil society organisations in advocating for the reform of damaging drug policies and for the human rights of those affected is more critical than ever.

History has shown us that civil society that is empowered and informed is fundamental for fighting inequality, injustice and spearheading transformative social change. Civil society actors hold a mirror up to governments, reflecting back to them the real impact of policy decisions on people and communities. The watchdog role of civil society in being vigilant in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation cannot be underestimated if the interests of society's most marginalised are to be central to decision making processes. The IDPC Secretariat remains deeply committed to our core mandate and will continue to work alongside our members and partners to fight for civil society space in drug policy forums at the national, regional and UN levels.

Reform-orientated civil society has made important strides in recent years and this success has been built upon increasing international solidarity, shared objectives, collaboration and networking. The drug policy reform movement, while still relatively young, has gained in strength, diversity, visibility and credibility – and the recent momentum of the 2016 UNGASS has been a major catalyst for this. There is now solid and fertile ground on which the movement can continue to grow. Drug policy reform is increasingly seen as one of the key social justice issues of our times and new actors from different disciplines and sectors are joining the calls for change.

One of the results of sustained advocacy is the increasingly fractious international drug policy debate in the lead up to the next major inflexion point in global drug control – the Ministerial Segment planned for March 2019, where governments will define the direction of the next phase of international drug policy. At the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the remnants of the so-called Vienna consensus have been difficult for member states to piece back together as they struggle to reach common positions on critical drug policy issues. The significant ground made during the 2016 UNGASS on human rights in particular has become anathema to several less progressive governments and there is significant push back. This poses challenges on the drug policy reform front to ensure that the gains made at the

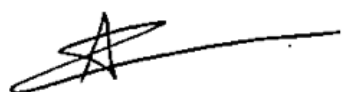
2016 UNGASS are not reversed. Given this new reality, we convened our first ever 'Civil Society Strategy Forum' in Berlin last February that brought together 40 members from across the network to jointly plan and strategize ahead of 2019. This meeting's key outcome is the [IDPC Asks for the 2019 Ministerial Segment](#).

In the meantime, national reforms – both positive and negative – are happening at an ever-faster pace. While more jurisdictions are scaling up innovative harm reduction interventions, and are considering decriminalisation, allowing medicinal cannabis, and legally regulating cannabis for adult recreational use, others are scaling up draconian "war on drugs" approaches with devastating consequences. Extrajudicial killings have reached an alarming 27,000 in the Philippines, and disturbingly Bangladesh and Indonesia have started to follow suit. On the other side of the world, following recent elections, Colombia and Brazil are reverting back to severely punitive approaches towards drug cultivation, trafficking and use. In the United States, the number of overdose deaths reached a record 71,000 in 2017 and the political will to scale up harm reduction services in response is desperately lacking.

It is a mixed picture of both progress and regression in drug policy developments over the last year. In these uncertain times, IDPC's role in promoting positive drug policy reforms, and providing a space for discussion, strategizing, support and collaboration for our members and partners remain pivotal. The [Support. Don't Punish campaign](#) has become an invaluable tool for showing international solidarity for reform from across the spectrum of the drug market – people who use drugs, those in recovery, people who have been disproportionately sentenced for low-level and non-violent drug crimes, farmers of crops deemed illicit as well as advocates from diverse disciplines. The [2017 Global Day of Action](#) was the largest yet, with hundreds of inspiring and creative events held across the globe towards changing the discourse around drugs from South Africa all the way to Japan, the UK, Colombia and Australia.

In these coming years, reform-orientated civil society effort must continue to 'beat the drum', speak truth to power and leverage the growing international solidarity on this critical social justice and human rights issue.

For this year's Progress Report, we have decided to switch to a new format, providing monthly highlights to showcase some of the most exciting and impactful advocacy events and activities from the IDPC membership. I hope you will enjoy reading it!



**Ann Fordham**  
Executive Director



### May 2017

Solidarity to inspire courage and hope against the war on drugs



### July 2017

Strengthening the foundations: IDPC's governance review



### September 2017

Breaking the myths about drugs and drug use



### November 2017

Influencing Europe's drug policies through the Civil Society Forum on Drugs



### January 2018

Promoting the rights of women drug offenders at the UN in Geneva



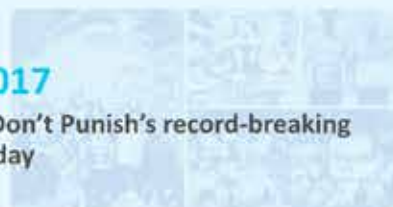
### March 2018

Leveraging collective influence at the service of international drug policy reform



### April 2017

More than the sum of its parts: IDPC's Latin American network influences CICAD



### June 2017

Support. Don't Punish's record-breaking fifth birthday



### August 2017

Strengthening capacities: IDPC's drug policy 'Train the trainers' workshop in South Africa



### October 2017

Advocating for harm reduction: Experts meet to influence global debates on drug use



### December 2017

Calling for better indicators to evaluate global drug policies



### February 2018

'The road to 2019': A Global Civil Society Strategy Forum in Berlin

## About us

The [International Drug Policy Consortium](#) (IDPC) is a global network of more than 170 NGOs that comes together to promote open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at the national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harm.

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.

## Our goals

IDPC's vision is that national and international drug policies are grounded in the principles of human rights and human security, social inclusion, public health, development and civil society engagement. To achieve this goal and inform our overall advocacy strategy, we have elaborated a theory of change which include [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.

## Our policy principles

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

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

# April 2017

## More than the sum of its parts: IDPC's Latin American network influences CICAD

[Latin America](#) remains the region with the highest representation in IDPC's global network, with 39 member organisations. The dynamism of the drug policy debate in Latin America is reflected by a strongly engaged, credible and coordinated civil society, who continues to weather substantial obstacles whilst seeking new and innovative paths. The IDPC network provides a platform for regional members to exchange ideas, explore synergies and collectively tackle challenges in ways that maximise value for all involved. To do so, the network hosts quarterly regional calls, meetings at key events and a regional mailing list.

A key achievement of our networked efforts has been the progressive expansion of civil society participation at the regular sessions of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). A sub-commission of the Organisation of American States, CICAD is the Western hemisphere's main multi-lateral drug policy forum. Until recently, the engagement of NGOs in this forum was mostly limited to informal parallel events held at the margins of the official proceedings of the meeting. The network's concerted insistence in the importance of civil society participation, spearheaded by members such as Intercambios, MUCD, WOLA, ACEID, Dejusticia and Equis Justicia Para las Mujeres led to a breakthrough in November 2016, with the [first official civil society dialogue](#) at CICAD's 60th regular session. On 24-26 April 2017, at the 61st meeting of CICAD in Washington DC, a second dialogue was held with civil society on '[Drug policy indicators: Measuring Progress with a focus on individuals](#)', and co-sponsored by MUCD and WOLA. Other network members, including the Drugs, Security and Democracy Program of the SSRC, Equis Justicia Para las Mujeres, and Intercambios contributed to an enriching and well-attended debate with government representatives on the need to consider indicators to measure the impact of drug policies on the health, safety, development and human rights of individuals and communities, taking into account a gender perspective.

While challenges remain in terms of engagement (e.g. civil society were not given an official mechanism to participate in the design of the new CICAD Plan of Action for 2016-2020), the consolidation of a civil society dialogue at the heart of CICAD's regular sessions, as well as more civil-society-inclusive language in the [latest hemispheric Plan of Action](#), exemplifies the power and potential of cooperation and concerted advocacy efforts at the regional level.



Lisa Sanchez presenting at civil society event at the 61st CICAD meeting

Credit: CICAD website

# May 2017

## Solidarity to inspire courage and hope against the war on drugs

In early 2017, at the request of network members and allies in South East Asia, IDPC organised a regional civil society strategy consultation to discuss potential responses to stem the violent [war on drugs in the Philippines](#) and its negative influence in the region. The meeting was urgent, as Cambodia had just launched its own war on drugs and Indonesian drug enforcement officials were considering similar responses. Delegates from civil society, donors and UN experts (including the UN Special Rapporteur for extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnès Callamard) discussed the need to counter the dehumanising narratives underpinning these crackdowns, and the potential of engaging regional and international policy processes to galvanise solidarity and pressure against human rights violations.

This strategic consultation set the foundations for 'Drug issues, different perspectives', the first [drug policy forum](#) of its kind organised by the University of the Philippines and the FLAG anti-death penalty taskforce in May 2017. IDPC's Philippine member organisation, NoBox Transitions, supported the organisation of the forum and facilitated the dissemination of IDPC's report [A public health approach to drug use in Asia: principles and practices for decriminalisation](#) to inform discussions.

In the same week, IDPC and the India HIV/AIDS Alliance organised a consultation of civil society stakeholders on potential priorities and actions to advocate for alternatives to the drug war. Participants agreed that awareness-raising and training on evidence-based understandings on drugs, drug use and harm reduction was needed amongst influential stakeholders in government and society – leading IDPC to develop a brand new [Training Module](#) seeking to break the myths about drugs and drug use (see [below](#)). Furthermore, the group identified gaps in knowledge regarding the imprisonment of people charged for drug offences and their treatment by the criminal justice system, an obstacle to advance advocacy efforts towards decriminalisation.

In an effort to contribute to closing this gap, IDPC has continued working on the issue of women, incarceration and drug policy in South East Asia. Implemented in collaboration with Ozone Foundation (Thailand), LBH Masyarakat (Indonesia) and NoBox Transitions (the Philippines), this project seeks to collect qualitative data on women imprisoned for drug offences in the region and, ultimately, develop joint advocacy actions to reduce detention, imprisonment and the application of the death penalty for low-level drug offences.

This is only a snapshot of the inspiring work being done by IDPC's members in Asia. As the war on drugs continues to be waged in Asia, the IDPC network will continue to strengthen our ties to promote drug policies that reduce harms and protect the human rights of affected communities across the region.



Credit: Support. Don't Punish

Support. Don't Punish action in the Philippines

# June 2017

## Support. Don't Punish's record-breaking fifth birthday

The [Support. Don't Punish](#) campaign is a unique global platform for grassroots-centred social mobilisation. Its continued expansion is a testament to the campaign's galvanising role in advocating for harm reduction and drug policy reform. As the host of the campaign, IDPC has dedicated important efforts to nourish the campaign's vast network of local partners and to ensure the success of this collective effort.

This year's high point for the campaign was the celebration of its [fifth Global Day of Action](#). On 26 June 2017, thousands of people across 205 cities in 93 countries took part in a broad range of innovative, diverse and vibrant actions, including concerts, large public protests, seminars and radio shows, street art, sports matches and meetings with policy makers. In the United Kingdom, students from the University of East London ran an information stand outside a busy shopping centre to inform the public about harmful drug policies and the '[Rat Park](#)' experiments of the 1970s. In India, colleagues embarked on a 470-kilometre motorcycle outreach tour with photoshoots. In Paris, people who use drugs opened a mock '[drug store](#)'. In [Mauritius](#), there was a silent protest in front of Parliament, and meetings with religious leaders.

In early 2017, [Netchange](#) conducted an evaluation of the campaign that provided valuable insights and recommendations to increase its reach and effectiveness. In response to these, we tweaked some internal processes, developed new tools and resources, and increased the organisation's capacity to bring about improvements. Chief among the latter was the creation of a [Campaigns & Communications Officer](#) role, in charge of developing and coordinating the delivery of a revamped campaign



strategy. Ensuring dedicated resource to the campaign within the IDPC Secretariat will bolster the campaign's reach and visibility in the coming years.

We continue to explore new ways and collaborations to strengthen this worldwide movement and invite you to follow campaign developments through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and the [campaign newsletter](#), and to communicate with us via [e-mail](#) and [Slack](#).

## July 2017

### Strengthening the foundations: IDPC's governance review

IDPC's [Board of Directors](#) is comprised of [eight prominent individuals](#) from all over the world with extensive experience in a broad range of issues of relevance to the work of IDPC; from criminal justice reform, to public health advocacy, community mobilisation and international diplomacy. The Board plays a fundamental role in the network's [governance](#) structure and provides crucial support to the Executive Director. The Board is in constant dialogue with both the [IDPC Secretariat](#), through quarterly meetings; and the membership at large, through the [Members' Advisory Council](#).

In July 2017, the Board held its annual face-to-face-meeting in Houston, United States. After six years of service to the Board, including as Chair of the Board in his final year, Ross Bell (New Zealand Drug Foundation) passed the leadership baton to Alison Holcomb (American Civil Liberties Union – ACLU) who is the current Chair. Donald MacPherson (Canadian Drug Policy Coalition) was elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

In July, the Board discussed progress against IDPC's Strategy, the organisational finance and budget, and the work implemented by IDPC over the past year. Crucially, the Board also kick-started a governance review process to add clarity



to the role and responsibilities of the Directors, to improve the Board's effectiveness, to confer further stability to the network's governance architecture, and to better highlight the critical role played by the membership in IDPC's governance structure. This included a decision to rename IDPC's Strategic Sub-Committee to the Members Advisory Council, and to expand the Council to three new seats for the Middle East/ North Africa, South Asia and Youth. This process continued throughout the year with consultations with the IDPC team and Board members, culminating in a dedicated Governance workshop in November 2017. The review process concluded the following year, with the approval of over a dozen revised or new foundational documents that will contribute to the network's sustainability for the years to come.



Face-to-face meeting of the IDPC Board

## August 2017

### Strengthening capacities: IDPC's drug policy 'Train the trainers' workshop in South Africa

A key element of IDPC's strategy is to help build the capacity of advocates worldwide to promote drug policy reform. The challenge is that the existing demand from around the world far exceeds what the small IDPC Secretariat can deliver by ourselves. But beyond this issue, we are keen to support local advocates to develop their own workshops, to better respond to local needs and realities.

This is one of the main reasons why we have been actively exploring various 'Train the Trainers' models in recent years to empower drug policy reform leaders from various countries to deliver their own capacity building events in their country or region. Over the years, IDPC has developed a 'Drug Policy Advocacy Training Toolkit', which was designed as an open access and multi-lingual resource for all civil society partners to use. Our 'Train the Trainers' initiatives focus on explaining how to use and adapt the Toolkit, and provide practical advice and recommendations on how to organise a workshop on drug policy and harm reduction advocacy.

In August 2017, IDPC hosted a 'Train the Trainers' workshop in the margins of the excellent SA Drug Policy Week organised by the TB/HIV Care Association in Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop brought together 22 civil society participants from Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe – as well as representatives from the African Union. The workshop focused on the art of good facilitation, and how to deliver the Toolkit modules related to the current drug control system, harm reduction, effective drug policies, and civil society engagement. Participants got to deliver activities to the rest of the group throughout the two days, and the workshop feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Following the event, several participants reported that they had used the Training Toolkit themselves in subsequent events.

Based on the previous 'Train the Trainers' event held in Bali (Indonesia) in September 2016, this was the first time that IDPC had delivered such a workshop in Africa. It was followed-up in April 2018 with a dedicated workshop for Francophone African civil society in Dakar (Senegal), and we will continue to explore possibilities to roll-out further events across Africa to meet the needs of local civil society groups.



Credit: Jamie Bridge (IDPC)

Participants at IDPC Train the Trainers workshop, Cape Town

providers for people who use drugs). The event brought together participants mainly from Southeast Asia and sectors including legal service provision, human rights advocacy, community organisations and academia. The main objective of the workshop was to provide introductory training on topics such as drugs, drug use and dependence, harm reduction, decriminalisation and legal assistance for people who use drugs. To help mobilise and strengthen advocacy for humane and harm reduction alternatives to the Philippines war on drugs and its flow-on effects to other countries in the region, the majority of participants came from the Philippines, which enabled further strategizing for follow-up actions when they returned home.

A new module of our IDPC Training Toolkit for drug policy advocacy was prepared for this workshop, providing introductory training on evidence-based understanding about drugs and drug use. The module was delivered by two trainers from the Asian Network of People who Use Drugs. Cathy Alvarez, a previous trainee of IDPC and current regional coordinator for the 'Women, Incarceration and Drug Policy in Southeast Asia' project, delivered a session on the decriminalisation of drug use, based on another newly released training module: Decriminalisation and diversion in Asia. The workshop was held at the margins of the 6th Asia Pro Bono Conference.

Sharing his experience at the workshop, one of the participants said:

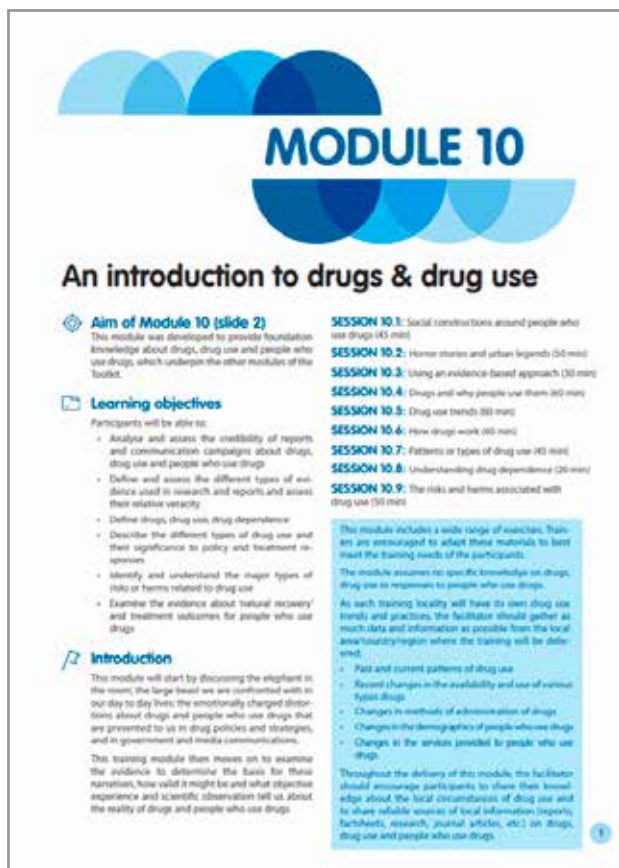
*“ From the perspective of a Philippine delegate, the workshop proceedings addressed two gaps that are found in the country's community-based drug rehabilitation movement – education and a unified understanding...!”*

## September 2017

### Breaking the myths about drugs and drug use

Following a regional civil society consultation in early 2017, a regional training workshop was held in Malaysia in September by IDPC, BABSEACLE (an IDPC member based in Chiangmai, Thailand, and promoting community legal education and pro bono legal assistance for vulnerable populations) and PBN4U (a network of legal service





*“Through collaboration and discussion, delegates gained a broader awareness of the current situation of the drug issue at both the local and international level. While the Philippines has dominated the international headlines, it is not the only country in the ASEAN region that is currently faced with similar challenges... [V]arying levels of expertise on the concepts of harm reduction made the workshop discussion engaging and informative. As a platform for candid discussion, the workshop promoted an atmosphere where delegates could attempt to reach a mutual understanding.”*

## October 2017

### Advocating for harm reduction: Experts meet to influence global debates on drug use

On 4-6 October 2017, IDPC co-hosted an Expert Group Meeting on harm-reduction responses for people who use stimulant drugs. Organised as part of the [Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development \(GPPDD\)](#), the meeting brought together participants from around the world, including government officials, UN representatives, civil society members, academics and community leaders. It was the fourth of a series of multi-stakeholder expert meetings on development and harm reduction convened by GPPDD. In an area of policy saturated by stigma and political inertia, engaging in partnerships that value and promote objective and open debate on both the effectiveness of harm reduction and the potential of new approaches is critical.

In addition, in a global context where drug use patterns are fast evolving, the event aimed to share best practice examples of innovative approaches to harm reduction for stimulant drug use. The event underscored the urgent need for harm reduction scale up and funding, and highlighted the importance of creating enabling environments for their deployment – including removing criminalisation and punishment of people who use drugs and addressing stigma and discrimination. The conclusions and key recommendations of the workshop were presented as an [official contribution](#) to the debates of the 61st Session of the UN Commission of Narcotic Drugs (CND).



Credit: Ann Fordham (IDPC)

## November 2017

### Influencing Europe’s drug policies through the Civil Society Forum on Drugs

IDPC has been a member of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD), an [expert group of the European Commission](#), for over eight years. The CSFD which serves as the official NGO engagement mechanism in EU processes on drugs, and its membership – which is renewed every three years – includes 45 NGOs from different European countries and thematic focus. The last annual meeting of CSFD members for the period 2015-2018 was held in November 2017 in Brussels.

Over the past three years, IDPC has led a working group, within the CSFD, which aims to influence EU positions on drugs in international forums, including around the UNGASS and its follow-up. This has enabled the CSFD to directly feed into the statements and positions of the EU, especially in the post-UNGASS meetings, and during CND negotiations. Regular contacts with the European Commission and various EU Presidencies have also greatly consolidated the relationship between civil society and EU officials on drugs issues.

Each annual gathering of the CSFD includes a joint meeting with EU government officials involved in drugs issues via the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (known as the HDG). With the negotiations starting on the 2019 Ministerial Segment on drugs, the IDPC-led working group had a key role to play in setting the tone and contents of the meeting.

The November meeting was a perfect opportunity to present the CSFD recommendations for the [2019 Ministerial Segment](#), highlighting the need for meaningful civil society and UN agency participation, and pushing for a strong focus



Civil Society Forum on Drugs presentation at the Horizontal Drugs Working group meeting

Credit: Marie Nougier (IDPC)

In response, the UNODC agreed to share the letter with the participants of an [expert meeting](#) on the ARQs held in January 2018 – although civil society representatives were not invited to attend the meeting. The UNODC also held an [NGO briefing on the ARQ](#) at the margins of the 61st session of the CND, at which various IDPC members and partners raised issues to be considered for a new ARQ. The IDPC network will continue to push for more meaningful civil society engagement in the ARQ review process going forward – in particular in light of the 2019 Ministerial Segment which will define the direction of global drug control for the next decade.

on health, human rights and development. The issue of identifying better indicators by which to evaluate progress in global drug policy (see [below](#)) also featured high on the list of themes discussed with the HDG, and the CSFD was invited to attend the next HDG meeting of January 2018 to share its [analysis](#) of possible new ways of evaluating the impacts of global and European drug policies, in line with the UNGASS Outcome Document and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## January 2018

### Promoting the rights of women drug offenders at the UN in Geneva

In January 2018, IDPC and the [Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales](#) (CELS, Argentina) were invited to the strategy meeting of the [Working Group on the Prevention of Discriminations against Women in Practice and in the Law](#) of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR). As the membership of the Working Group had just been renewed, this meeting was a key opportunity to feed into the priorities of the Group for the next three years. IDPC and CELS – the only NGO speakers invited to present on a specific theme – discussed the discriminatory impact of drug policy and incarceration on women.

Recognising and addressing the vulnerabilities faced by women in drug policy – particularly their overincarceration for drug offences – is at the core of [IDPC's advocacy](#). In Latin America, the proportion of women imprisoned for drug offences is particularly high, sometimes reaching 75 to 80% of all women incarcerated. Those found in prison are low-level, non-violent, first time offenders, generally single mothers and heads of households in situation of vulnerability. Repressive drug policies have only served to exacerbate their poverty and marginalisation.

IDPC has collaborated closely with the Washington Office on Latin America, CELS and DeJusticia (Colombia), as well as a group of advocates, researchers and policy makers. Together, we embarked in a number of [advocacy activities](#) across Latin America, which have included the production of a [Guide](#) to policy makers with recommendations on gender-sensitive drug policy reforms, [innovative examples](#) of good practice, the production of [photo essays](#) to show the human face of the issue, and a number of meetings and dialogues with policy makers to share experiences and identify reform opportunities.

It was within that framework that we met with the OHCHR Working Group. We were delighted to hear, a few months after the strategy meeting, that the Working Group had decided to draft their next thematic report on '[Women deprived of liberty](#)'. We will continue to work with the Working Group to ensure that the issue of drug policy and women features within their priorities for the years to come.

Credit: Marie Nougier (IDPC)

## December 2017

### Calling for better indicators to evaluate global drug policies

In the autumn of 2017, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) kicked off the process of revising its main data collection tool on drugs – the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ). The ARQ is sent each year to governments worldwide to gather the information that is then used by the UNODC to produce its World Drug Reports. As part of the ARQ review process, the UNODC launched a call for on-line feedback by governments, UN agencies and civil society.

Although IDPC sent some feedback through the online questionnaire, we also decided to send more detailed inputs to the UNODC in a [letter](#) signed by 177 NGOs. The letter called for more collaboration in data collection across all relevant UN agencies – especially those focusing on human rights, health and development issues – and for better civil society inclusion in the ARQ review process. The letter also offered detailed inputs on key themes and indicators that should be covered in the revised ARQ, covering topics from the UNGASS Outcome Document and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Angela Me (UNODC) at the NGO Briefing on the ARQ



# February 2018

from 20 countries: Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK and the USA.

## 'The road to 2019': A Global Civil Society Strategy Forum in Berlin

In March 2019, member states will come together to reflect on the ten-year lifespan of the 2009 UN Political Declaration and Plan of Action on drugs. A year ahead of this important milestone, IDPC convened a Global Civil Society Strategy Forum in order to refine our headline 'asks' for 2019, and a roadmap of key events and landmarks over the coming year. The event gathered 37 civil society representatives

The Forum allowed IDPC Members to engage in frank discussions about what could (and could not) be realistically achieved at the 2019 Ministerial Segment, and to map out the key advocacy messages and opportunities. The two-day meeting – held immediately following the [Brandenburg Forum on Drug Policies and Development](#) that is hosted by Germany, the Netherlands, TNI and IDPC – was a chance to reflect on the gains and frustrations from the 2016 UNGASS, to discuss the latest geo-political dynamics at the UN, and to brainstorm what 'wins' might look like in 2019. The event was

**IDPC ASKS FOR THE 2019 MINISTERIAL SEGMENT**

- ASK 1: DRUG-FREE WORLD TARGETS**  
↓  
MEANINGFUL TARGETS
- ASK 2: REFLECT THE IMPACTS OF DRUG POLICIES ON:**  
HEALTH  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PEACE & SECURITY
- ASK 3: REFLECT THE REALITIES ON THE GROUND (BOTH POSITIVE & NEGATIVE)**
- ASK 4: END PUNITIVE APPROACHES. PUT COMMUNITIES FIRST!**  
"Drugs have destroyed many lives, but wrong government policies have destroyed many more"  
Kofi Annan

International Drug Policy Consortium (2018) IDPC asks for the 2019 Ministerial Segment June 2018 [http://idpc.net/library/IDPC-asks-2019\\_ENGLISH.pdf](http://idpc.net/library/IDPC-asks-2019_ENGLISH.pdf)



Group photo at the IDPC pre-CND Orientation Meeting

characterised by one participant as ‘a key milestone for CSOs to strategize and share information’.

The Forum led to the publication of [IDPC's Asks for 2019](#) – a set of concrete expectations of member states from the IDPC network:

1. Move away from ‘drug-free world’ targets.
2. Meaningfully reflect the impacts of drug policies on health, human rights and development.
3. Reflect the realities of drug policies on the ground – the ‘elephants in the room’.
4. End punitive approaches and put people and communities first.

We are committed to continuing to find ways to bring together our network in these kinds of settings to allow for joint collaboration and strategizing which also foster solidarity across the diverse membership. The wealth of knowledge and experiences across the IDPC membership is an incredible collective asset, and we are always seeking to maximise our combined impact. Moving forward from the February 2018 meeting, IDPC has continued to monitor developments in Vienna through our [CND Blog](#), and holds regular coordination teleconferences with key global partners to discuss the collective advocacy approaches.

## March 2018

### **Leveraging collective influence at the service of international drug policy reform**

The 61st Session of the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) (CND) took place between 12 and 16 March, in Vienna. IDPC’s long-term engagement with this forum exemplifies the dual mission of the Secretariat: to influence policy-making processes and to empower our membership to do so.

With over 90 organisations and their 326 delegates in attendance, the Session provided an incredible opportunity for reform-minded organisations to collectively hone advocacy strategies for maximum effect. IDPC’s support in this regard is critical. Prior to the meeting, IDPC provided key resources, information and spaces to build the membership and allies’ capacity to navigate the forum. These included funding for two IDPC members from the Global South to attend the CND; a [Global Civil Society Strategy Forum](#) to discuss key priorities; a series of [multilingual webinars](#), produced with the invaluable support of the membership; an [introductory video](#) to the CND’s functioning and avenues for engagement; and a preparatory Special Alert. On the eve of the meeting, IDPC also held its biggest-to-date pre-CND Orientation meeting.

During the Session itself, targeted Daily Digests kept members informed of upcoming opportunities, debates and key events (including 26 side events co-sponsored by IDPC’s Secretariat and membership). Regional and thematic meetings (Latin America, Asia, Support. Don’t Punish) helped members touch base, exchange experiences and plan further synergies. As ever, the [CND Blog](#) provided live updates of the proceedings, covering a record-breaking 52 events thanks to the invaluable collaboration of the network and allies. Finally, within the framework of [GPDPD](#), the [CND App](#) was developed and deployed, facilitating navigation and engagement with the debates for over 400 users.

As IDPC’s Executive Director put it in her [debrief blog](#): ‘This year it truly felt that the long-standing efforts to improve civil society engagement and visibility at the CND were starting to pay off’. IDPC is proud of the undeniable contribution that our 177-strong membership has made toward this achievement.

## 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



Donald MacPherson  
Vice Chair, Canada



Dr Mary Chinery-Hesse  
Ghana



Kathryn Leafe  
New Zealand



Julita Lemgruber  
Brazil



Valentin Simionov  
Romania



Vicki Hanson  
Jamaica



Rupert Markland  
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. This larger group contains 14 members: two Board members and 12 representatives from different regions or constituencies who are directly elected by IDPC members. More information, and detailed biographies, can be [found here](#).



Ernesto Cortés (ACEID, Costa Rica) & Isabel Pereira (Dejusticia, Colombia)  
Latin America and the Caribbean



Bikas Gurung (ANPUD, Thailand) South Asia



David Otiashvili (Alternative Georgia) Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Sofia Galinaki (Diogenis, Drug Policy Dialogue, Greece) Western and South East Europe



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



Michael Ninburg (World Hepatitis Alliance, USA) International organisations



Penelope Hill (Harm Reduction Australia) Oceania



Richard Elliott (Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network) North America



Ricky Gunawan (LBH Masyarakat, Indonesia) Asia



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



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



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



Kathryn Leafe (NZNEP, New Zealand) IDPC Board Member



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## Volunteers

Thanks to our interns Adrián Freire Rodríguez, Ava Berry, Janet Wong, Jorge Daniel Diaz and Margarita Alcántara Alcalá, whose work was critical to the smooth running of the IDPC Secretariat between April 2017 and March 2018.

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Maria-Goretti Ane  
**Consultant for Africa**



Heather Haase  
**Consultant for New York**



Dave Bewley-Taylor  
**IDPC Associate**



Oliver Stevens  
**Communications Consultant**  
(until September 2017)

## Donors

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- 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
- Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPDPD), funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Robert Carr Networks Fund (RCNF)
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, via the India HIV/AIDS Alliance and KANCO
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNAIDS
- World Health Organisation

## IDPC Members<sup>1</sup>

### 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. Medecins du Monde
16. Penal Reform International
17. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
18. Transnational Institute
19. Women's Harm Reduction International Network
20. World Hepatitis Alliance
21. Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
22. Youth Rise

### Western Europe

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

### South East Europe

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

1. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

- 67. Viktorija
- 68. YCC Juventas

### **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

- 69. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice
- 70. Alliance for Public Health
- 71. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association
- 72. Galiu gyventi - "I Can Live" Coalition
- 73. Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
- 74. Polish Drug Policy Network
- 75. PREKURSOR
- 76. Turkish Green Crescent Society

### **Latin America**

- 77. Acción Andina - Bolivia
- 78. Acción Semilla Boliviana
- 79. Acción Técnica Social
- 80. Andean Information Network
- 81. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
- 82. Asociación de Estudios del Cannabis del Uruguay
- 83. Asuntos del Sur
- 84. Brazilian Drug Policy Platform
- 85. Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad
- 86. Centro de Estudios en Seguridad Ciudadana
- 87. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales
- 88. Centro de Investigación Drogas y Derechos Humanos
- 89. Centro de Respuestas Educativas y Comunitarias A.C
- 90. Colectivo por Una Política Integral Hacia las Drogas
- 91. Colegio Médico de Chile
- 92. Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
- 93. Conectas
- 94. Corporación Humanas Chile
- 95. Corporación Humanas Colombia
- 96. Ecuador Cannábico
- 97. Elementa, Consultoría en Derechos
- 98. Espolea
- 99. Equis Justicia Para las Mujeres
- 100. Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma
- 101. Guyanese Association of Harm Reduction
- 102. Iglesia Evangélica Protestante de El Salvador
- 103. Iniciativa Negra por Uma Nova Política sobre Drogas
- 104. Institute for Land Work and Citizenship
- 105. Intercambios
- 106. Intercambios Puerto Rico
- 107. International Centre for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service
- 108. México Unido Contra la Delincuencia
- 109. Nierika AC

- 110. Observatorio de cultivos y cultivadores declarados ilícitos
- 111. Plataforma COLI – Coca Orgánica, Libre e Informada
- 112. Prolegal/Proderechos
- 113. Psicotropicus
- 114. Puente, Investigación y Enlace
- 115. Red Americana de Intervención en Situaciones de Sufrimiento Social
- 116. Red Chilena de Reducción de Daños
- 117. Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos
- 118. Viva Rio
- 119. Washington Office on Latin America

### **North America**

- 120. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
- 121. Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy
- 122. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
- 123. Drug Policy Alliance
- 124. Harm Reduction Coalition
- 125. Help Not Handcuffs
- 126. Institute for Policy Studies
- 127. Pivot Legal Society
- 128. StoptheDrugWar.org

### **East and South East Asia**

- 129. 12D
- 130. Asia Catalyst
- 131. Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs
- 132. BABSEACLE
- 133. Indonesian Association of Addiction Counsellors
- 134. Indonesian Coalition for Drug Policy Reform
- 135. Indonesian Harm Reduction Network (Jangkar)
- 136. LBH Masyarakat
- 137. Malaysian AIDS Council
- 138. Persuadaraan Korban Napza Indonesia (PKNI)
- 139. PSI Thailand Foundation
- 140. Rumah Cemara (Indonesia)
- 141. Supporting Community Development Initiatives (Vietnam)
- 142. Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group
- 143. NoBox Transitions Foundation (Philippines)

### **South Asia**

- 144. Drug Policy Advocacy Group
- 145. India HIV/AIDS Alliance
- 146. Lawyers Collective
- 147. Ozone Foundation
- 148. Society for the Promotion of Youth & Masses



## Oceania

149. Australian Drug Foundation
150. Drug Policy Australia
151. Harm Reduction Australia
152. New Zealand Drug Foundation
153. New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme
154. Penington Institute

## Caribbean

155. Caribbean Drug Abuse Research Institute
156. Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral

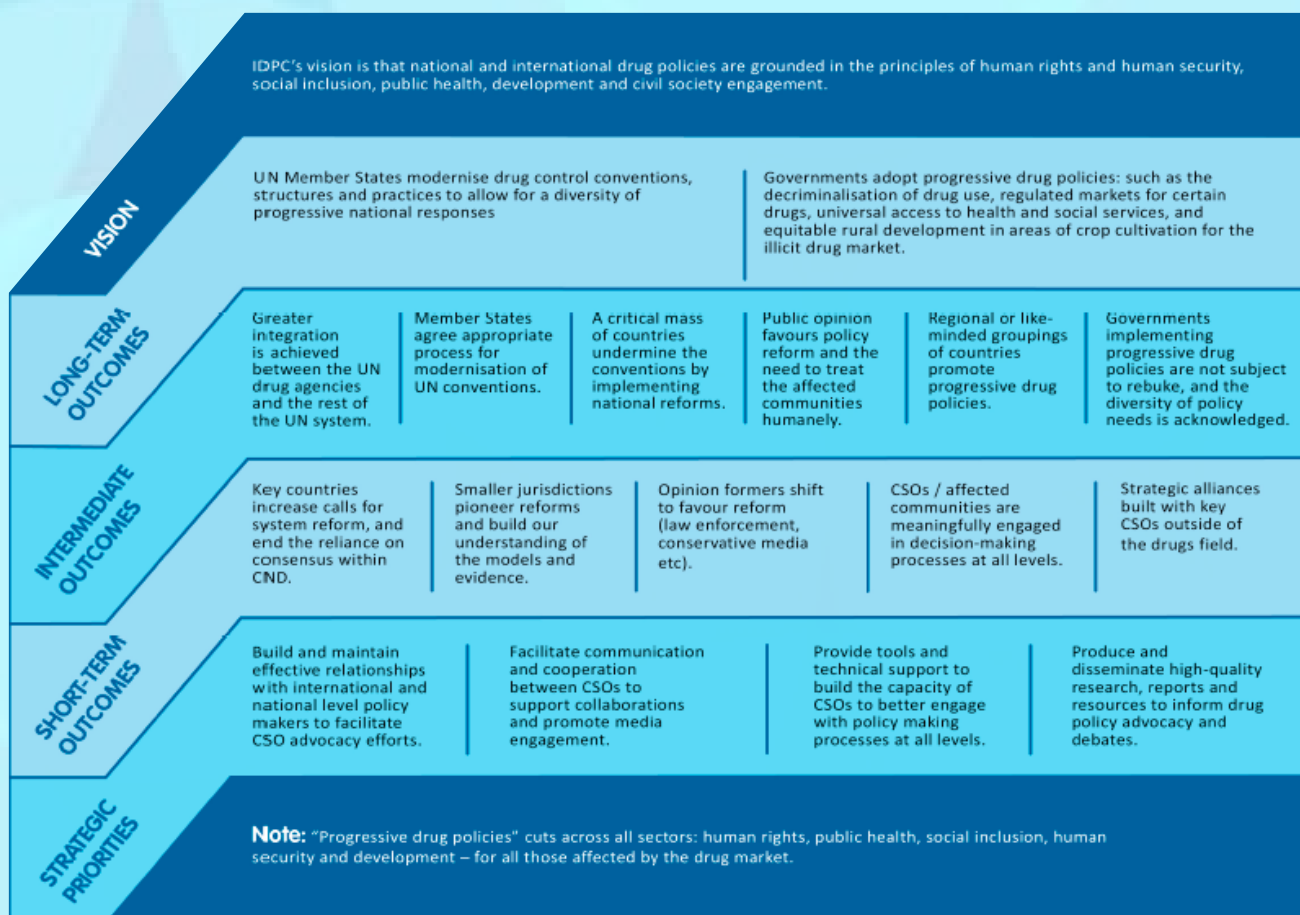
## Middle East/North Africa

157. Al-Maqdese for Society Development
158. Association de Lutte Contre le Sida
159. Association Tunisienne de Prévention de la Toxicomanie
160. Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Network
161. National Rehabilitation Centre
162. Regional Arab Network against AIDS
163. Skoun Lebanese Addiction Centre

## Sub-Saharan Africa

164. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
165. Association Sénégalaise pour la Reduction des Risques Infectieux chez les Groupes Vulnérables
166. Collectif Urgence Toxida
167. Foundation against Illicit Drug and Child Abuse
168. Foyer du Bonheur
169. Kenyan AIDS NGOs Consortium
170. Perle Sociale ONG
171. PILS
172. TB/HIV Care Alliance
173. Uganda Harm Reduction Network
174. Union contre la Co-infection VIH/ Hépatites/Tuberculose
175. West Africa Civil Society Initiative
176. West Africa Drug Policy Network
177. Youth RISE Nigeria
178. Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network

## IDPC's theory of change



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 2017 and March 2018.

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