

Universal Declaration on Methamphetamine Policy

This Declaration integrates the principles of public health, social justice, and evolving human rights standards while acknowledging the legal tensions with the current international drug control conventions.

Preamble

Recognizing the global challenge posed by methamphetamine use, including addiction, health risks, and the disproportionate harm caused by its criminalization. Acknowledging the failure of punitive approaches to mitigate methamphetamine-related harms and the urgent need for evidence-based, public health-centered policies. Reaffirming the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals to make informed choices about their bodies and access supportive healthcare without fear of stigma or persecution. Understanding that harm reduction strategies and necessary regulation can reduce the health, social, and economic harms associated with methamphetamine use while fostering safer communities. We, the undersigned, present this Universal Declaration as a foundation for addressing methamphetamine use through compassion, science, and justice.

Section I: Fundamental Rights and Non-Criminalization

Article	Title and Content	Citation Justification
Article 1	Right to Health-Based Policy and Bodily Integrity Policies concerning psychoactive substances must uphold human dignity and the right of every individual to bodily integrity and to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
Article 2	Decriminalization of Personal Use The use or possession of methamphetamine for personal consumption shall not be treated as a criminal offense. States have a duty to repeal such punitive laws to reduce incarceration, discrimination, and barriers to health services.	UN System Common Position on Drug Policy and International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy
Article 3	Right to Health and Harm Reduction States must commit the maximum available resources to ensure access to a continuum of comprehensive,	ICESCR and Prohibition on Torture or Inhuman/Degrading Treatment (ICCPR, Article 7)

Article	Title and Content	Citation Justification
	voluntary , evidence-informed health services, including harm reduction programs and mental health support, without discrimination. Compulsory drug treatment is prohibited.	
Article 4	Right to Scientific Progress Governments shall fund and support independent research into the effects, treatment, and regulation of methamphetamine use to ensure all policies are evidence-based and consistent with the right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications.	ICESCR

Section II: Public Health and Access

Article	Title and Content	Citation Justification
Article 5	Medical and Safe Access States must ensure the availability of methamphetamine for legitimate medical and scientific purposes. Where unregulated illicit markets pose a significant risk to life, controlled models for the provision of pharmaceutical-grade supply shall be explored as an urgent, life-saving harm reduction measure.	1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (Preamble and Article 4) and Right to Life
Article 6	Public Health Regulation The production and distribution of methamphetamine for non-medical purposes shall be strictly controlled within a legal framework to ensure safety and quality control. Governments shall implement educational campaigns to provide accurate, non-stigmatizing information on risks and benefits, prioritizing prevention	UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders

Article	Title and Content	Citation Justification
	for children and youth.	
Article 7	Equitable Access Policies must ensure equitable access to all regulated health services related to methamphetamine, prioritizing underserved and vulnerable populations.	International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy

Section III: Social Justice and Accountability

Article	Title and Content	Citation Justification
Article 8	Reparative Justice and Equality States must take effective measures to rectify the disproportionate harms caused by punitive drug policies, particularly in marginalized and racialized communities. This includes mechanisms for expunging or sealing criminal records for minor drug offenses and providing reparative justice.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and ICCPR
Article 9	Freedom from Discrimination and Stigma People who use drugs, or who have substance use disorders, must be protected from all forms of discrimination in healthcare, employment, housing, and education. Stigma shall be actively combated as a barrier to the realization of the right to health and social inclusion .	ICCPR and ICESCR
Article 10	International Cooperation and Accountability Nations shall collaborate on evidence-based approaches, sharing best practices and resources. Independent bodies shall oversee the implementation of this declaration, monitoring the public health and societal impacts of new policies, and ensuring continuous evaluation.	Charter of the United Nations (Articles 55 and 56) on universal respect for human rights

Conclusion

This Universal Declaration calls for a paradigm shift in how methamphetamine use is addressed globally. By focusing on harm reduction, evidence-based regulation, and human rights, we can create safer, healthier communities while upholding the dignity and autonomy of all individuals. Together, let us move beyond punitive measures and embrace a compassionate, evidence-based approach that prioritizes health, equity, and justice.

Signed,

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