

Universal Declaration on the Decriminalization of Drugs in Canada

Preamble

Recognizing the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world,

Acknowledging the failures of the "War on Drugs" and its adverse impact on public health, human rights, and socio-economic conditions,

Affirming the necessity of a compassionate, health-centered approach to drug policy that respects the autonomy and dignity of individuals,

Determined to reduce the harms associated with drug use and to foster an environment of support, recovery, and well-being,

We, the undersigned, hereby declare the following principles and actions to decriminalize all drugs in Canada.

Article 1: Right to Personal Autonomy

1. Every individual has the right to personal autonomy and bodily integrity, including the choice to use substances.
2. The state shall not impose criminal penalties for the possession, use, or personal cultivation of drugs.

Article 2: Health-Centered Approach

1. Drug use shall be addressed primarily as a public health issue rather than a criminal justice matter.
2. Comprehensive harm reduction services, including needle exchange programs, supervised consumption sites, and drug testing services, shall be widely accessible.
3. Evidence-based treatment and support services, including addiction counseling, rehabilitation, and mental health care, shall be made available to all who seek them.

Article 3: Protection of Human Rights

1. Individuals shall not be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or discrimination based on their drug use.
2. Measures shall be taken to ensure that drug policies do not disproportionately impact marginalized or vulnerable communities.

Article 4: Education and Prevention

1. Public education campaigns shall be conducted to provide accurate information about the risks and effects of drug use.
2. Prevention programs shall be implemented, focusing on the social determinants of health and addressing underlying issues such as poverty, trauma, and lack of opportunity.

Article 5: Regulation and Control

1. The state shall establish a regulated market for the production, distribution, and sale of drugs to ensure safety, quality control, and the prevention of youth access.
2. Revenues generated from the regulated market shall be reinvested into public health initiatives, education, and community development programs.

Article 6: International Cooperation

1. Canada shall engage in international cooperation to promote drug policy reform and harm reduction strategies worldwide.
2. The country shall advocate for a shift in global drug policy towards decriminalization and health-centered approaches.

Article 7: Implementation and Oversight

1. A national task force shall be established to oversee the implementation of this declaration, including representatives from health, law enforcement, civil society, and affected communities.
2. Regular reviews and assessments shall be conducted to ensure the effectiveness of decriminalization policies and to make necessary adjustments based on emerging evidence.

Conclusion

By adopting this Universal Declaration on the Decriminalization of Drugs in Canada, we commit to transforming our approach to drug policy, prioritizing the health, rights, and dignity of all individuals. We affirm our dedication to creating a compassionate,

equitable, and just society that supports the well-being and autonomy of its members.