

Universal Declaration on Drugs

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Preamble

Recognizing that the global war on drugs has led to widespread human rights violations, mass incarceration, economic inequality, and public health crises, we, the signatories of this Universal Declaration on Drugs, affirm a new approach that prioritizes harm reduction, regulation, and respect for individual and cultural freedoms.

Acknowledging that prohibitionist policies have disproportionately harmed marginalized communities, indigenous peoples, and those living in poverty while failing to reduce drug-related harms, we declare an end to the punitive drug war and commit to evidence-based, just, and humane policies.

Understanding that drugs have been used for medicinal, spiritual, and recreational purposes throughout human history, we affirm the right of individuals and communities to make informed choices while minimizing harm.

Article 1: Right to Autonomy and Informed Choice

1. Every individual has the right to bodily autonomy, including the responsible and informed use of psychoactive substances.
2. Governments shall provide accurate, science-based drug education to ensure individuals can make informed choices free from stigma or misinformation.

Article 2: Decriminalization and Legal Regulation

1. The criminalization of drug use, possession, and personal cultivation shall be abolished.

2. Governments shall implement a regulatory framework for the legal production, distribution, and sale of drugs, ensuring public health and safety measures are in place.
3. Drug-related offenses involving violence, exploitation, or harm to others shall remain subject to appropriate legal action.

Article 3: Harm Reduction as a Public Health Priority

1. Drug policy shall be guided by public health, not criminalization.
2. Governments shall establish harm reduction programs, including but not limited to:
 - Safe consumption facilities
 - Drug-checking services
 - Access to clean syringes
 - Medically supervised treatment options
 - Mental health and addiction support services
3. Naloxone and other life-saving treatments shall be widely available to prevent overdose deaths.

Article 4: Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminal Justice Reform

1. All individuals incarcerated for nonviolent drug-related offenses shall be granted amnesty and released.
2. Criminal records for nonviolent drug offenses shall be expunged.
3. Communities disproportionately impacted by the drug war shall receive reparative justice, including social reinvestment programs.

Article 5: Protection of Indigenous and Cultural Rights

1. Indigenous communities shall have the right to cultivate, use, and trade traditional plant medicines without interference.
2. Governments shall respect and protect the use of entheogenic substances in religious and spiritual practices.

Article 6: Ethical and Sustainable Drug Trade

1. The production and trade of psychoactive substances shall prioritize ethical sourcing, fair trade practices, and environmental sustainability.
2. Small-scale farmers transitioning from illicit drug crops shall be supported with economic and agricultural alternatives.

Article 7: International Cooperation and Policy Reform

1. International drug treaties shall be revised to align with harm reduction, human rights, and public health principles.
2. Countries shall collaborate on evidence-based drug policies while respecting national sovereignty.
3. International organizations, including the United Nations and World Health Organization, shall lead efforts to dismantle prohibitionist policies and promote global drug policy reform.

Article 8: Commitment to Ongoing Research and Education

1. Governments and institutions shall invest in scientific research on psychoactive substances, including their medical, therapeutic, and psychological effects.
2. Public education campaigns shall challenge stigma and misinformation surrounding drug use and addiction.

Conclusion

This Universal Declaration on Drugs affirms a new era of drug policy—one rooted in human rights, public health, and social justice. We call upon governments, institutions, and individuals to end the war on drugs and adopt a framework that prioritizes well-being, freedom, and harm reduction for all.

Signed:
List of Signatories