

UNGASS 2016 & BEYOND

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DISCLOSURES

- AbbVie grant to attend INSHU 2016

WAR ON DRUGS

- Opposite of harm reduction
- War on drugs = a war on drug users
- Ending the war on drugs would reduce HIV and HCV
- International treaties form foundations of drugs war



...TODAY

THERE'S A
STAIN **ON THE**
PHILIPPINES

**STOP KILLING PEOPLE
WHO USE DRUGS!**



 ANPUD
Asian Network of People who Use Drugs

 INPU
International Network of People who Use Drugs

WAR ON DRUGS ISN'T WORKING

- More drugs, drugs are cheaper
- Causing harm to individuals and communities
- Cost of the war on drugs - violence, deaths, health, value for money expenditure?
- Criminal justice costs
- Rapid unprecedented changes internationally
- Decriminalisation – Portugal
- Regulated cannabis markets
- A health and not a criminal justice issue

UNGASS – VIENNA AND NEW YORK

UNGASS
2016

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM



OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Positives

- Changes to structure
- Sustainable development goals
- Proportionality
- People who inject drugs & NSP
- Medication assisted therapy
- Naloxone
- Positive statements on gender
- Alternative measures

Negatives

- Not short action document
- Fails to acknowledge lack of progress
- Drug free world
- Death penalty
- Ignores cannabis regulation
- Harm reduction missing
- Targets not set
- No expert group

UNGASS DISCUSSIONS

- Progressive language had caveats
- Exclusion of civil society
- 45 countries statements for harm reduction including EU
- USA spoke in favour of OST
- Singapore spoke against harm reduction
- Death penalty – 7 country statement
- Vatican – ‘drugs are evil’
- 20 countries support war on drugs v countries including Columbia against

TOWARDS 2019

- Vienna consensus shattered
- Significant moment for drug reform and drug control
- Momentum at individual state and NGO level
- Movement on access to medicines, human rights, overdose prevention & proportionate sentencing
- Foundation for future dates
- Evolutionary not revolutionary
- 2019 not far away
- What are our governments doing?

TUARI POTIKI CHAIR NZ DRUG FOUNDATION

“Sometimes, when we are threatened, we go to war, and we go to war against the wrong people. If we decided to wage war against cancer, would we do that by bombing people who have cancer? Many nations have joined up to wage a war against drugs and have ended up attacking and harming who are really in need of our help and support... You are here to discuss the worked drug problem, but many of you directly contributed to their problems by denying yourselves access to vital support such as harm reduction: the support that saved my life. You are actively blocking progress towards help towards those who most need it. If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem...If there is a war to be fought, and I believe that there is, it should be a war on poverty, disparity, and on the multitude of political and historical factors that have left and continue to leave so many people vulnerable and in jeopardy”

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

- Multi-pronged approach
- Advocacy for HCV – treatment and access to medicines
- Replicate success of HIV advocacy

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