



Overview



Continuing to punish vulnerability: The futility of criminalisation

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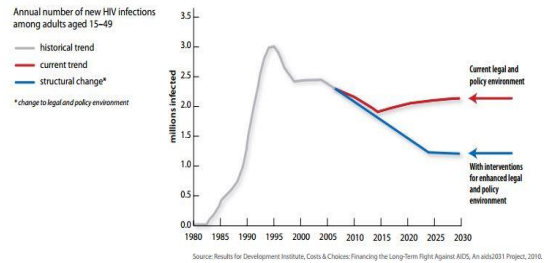
- Why the law matters
 - The Global Commission on HIV & the Law: why good laws are needed and why bad laws need to be repealed
 - MSM, sex work, hiv transmission, drug use
- Criminalisation of drug use
 - The vital difference that harm reduction makes
 - Slow progress; mixed results
 - Increasing realisation of futility of treating drug use as a criminal, rather than a health, issue
- Conclusion
 - UNGASS 2016 – an opportunity to make progress?



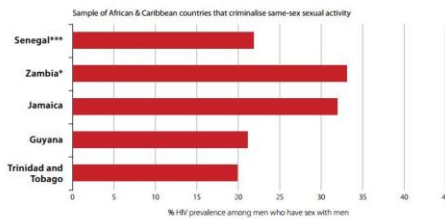
The Global Commission on HIV & the Law



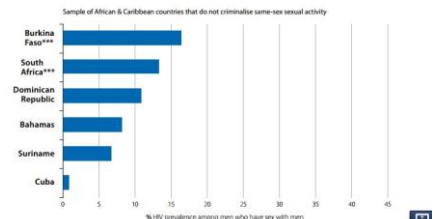
Why the law matters



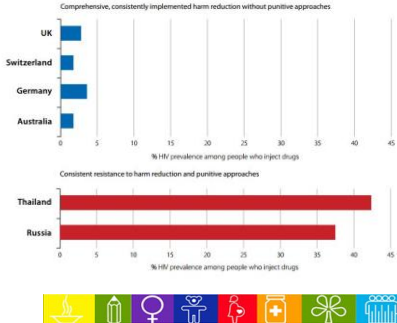
Why the law matters: MSM



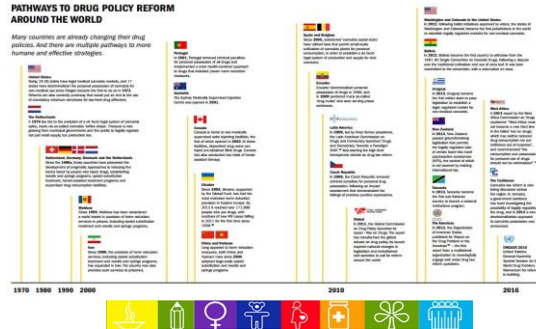
Why the law matters: MSM



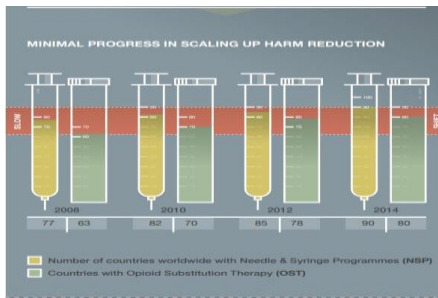
Why the law matters: drug use



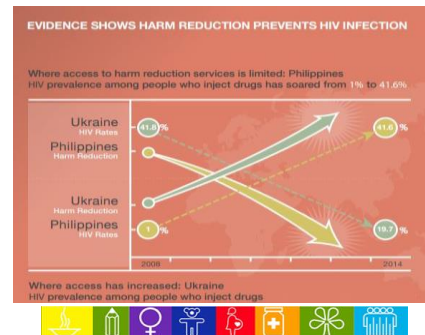
Harm reduction: some milestones



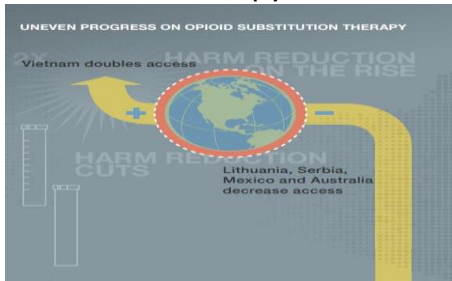
Harm reduction: progress slows



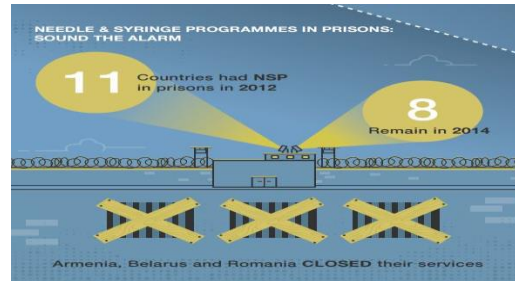
Recent comparative example



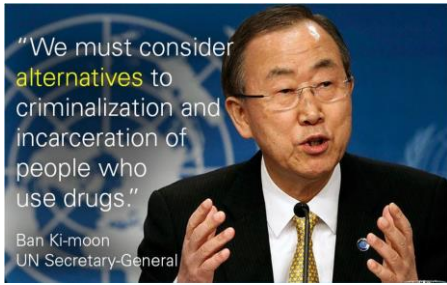
Uneven progress – substitution therapy



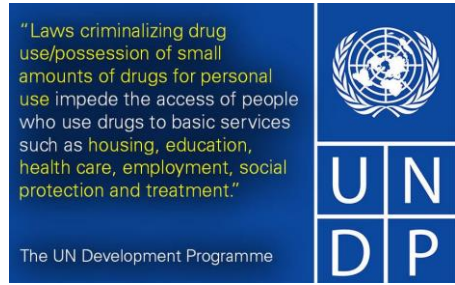
NSPs – going backwards



Opinion is changing: UNSG



Opinion is changing: UNDP



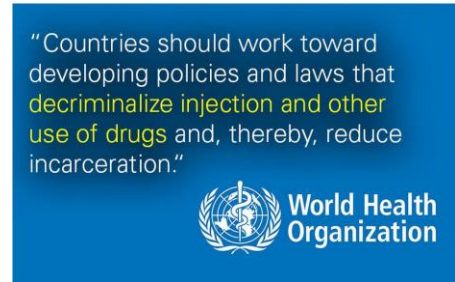
Opinion is changing: UNAIDS



"Punitive laws and policies, whether via prohibiting the provision of sterile injecting equipment and opioid substitution therapy, criminalising drug use, possession of injecting paraphernalia, or denying HIV treatment to people who use drugs, violate people's right to health and harm the community ... Responses to HIV should transcend ideology and be based on scientific evidence and sound human rights principles; they should support, not punish, those affected."



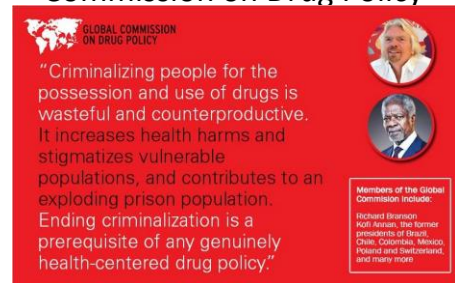
Opinion is changing: WHO



Opinion is changing: UNSR



Opinion is Changing: Global Commission on Drug Policy



Opinion is changing: IAS



“Decriminalise drug users, scale up evidence-based drug dependence treatment options and abolish ineffective compulsory drug treatment centres that violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

The Vienna Declaration of the International AIDS Society (which has over 20,000 endorsements)

Support Drug Policy
Based On Science,
Not Ideology.

THE VIENNA
DECLARATION

Sign on at
www.viennadeclaration.com



Conclusion: UNGASS 2016 – an opportunity for a new direction?



- Pressed by drug war–fatigued Latin American leaders, the UN General Assembly plans to hold a review of the drug control system April 19–21, 2016, in New York City.
- The United Nations General Assembly Special Session, or UNGASS, is a meeting of UN member states to assess and debate global issues.



Conclusion: UNGASS 2016 – an opportunity for a new direction?



- The last time a special session on drugs was held, in 1998, its focus was the total elimination of drugs from the world. Today, political leaders and citizens are pushing to rethink that approach.
- International debates on drugs are rarely more than reaffirmations of the established system. But 2016 may be different...

