

IDHDP Newsletter

Volume 9

December 12



our aims

Increase the participation of medical doctors in drug policy reform

Dear colleague,

Welcome to the December Newsletter. As 2012 speeds to a close, we would like to say thank you to all our members and readers for your continued support and interest in IDHDP.

Highlights:

- News
- Upcoming events
- New publications on the website
- IDHDP communications

News

IDHDP supports the UK Home Affairs Committee's call for the government to reexamine the UK's drug policies and to study the policies of other countries where drug law and policy reform has been made. To refuse to examine new evidence and continue known failed policies is not serving the interests of the health and welfare of the people the government represents. Read the report [here](#).

Drugs - It's About Health, Not Policing

Dr Michel Kazatchkine, Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch and Roger Flury debate about drug policy reform. Watch the film [here](#)

Summary of the IV Latin American conference on Drug Policy

The conference on drug policy was a great success and focused on harm reduction as well as new strategies emerging in the region promoting a more humanistic approach to drug problems. Read the full conference summary [here](#)

Breaking the taboo

“This groundbreaking documentary uncovers the UN sanctioned war on drugs, charting its origins and its devastating impact on countries like the USA, Colombia and Russia. Featuring prominent statesmen including Presidents Clinton and Carter, the film follows The Global Commission on Drug Policy on a mission to break the political taboo and expose the biggest failure of global policy in the last 50 years.” Watch it online in [Spanish](#) or [English](#).

Urgent message to Harm Reduction International Supporters

Please read this [message](#) from Harm Reduction International.

Upcoming events

When attending conferences and meetings, please spread the word about IDHDP. Feel free to use the [presentation slide](#) and the [membership flyer](#).

Global Addiction and Europad Joint Conference 2013 (7-10 May 2013) Pisa, Italy

The 7th Global Addiction conference, in conjunction with Europad, will be held at the Palazzo Dei Congressi in Pisa. Registration is for all 4 days of the conference, including the Europad workshop on the first day. Topics to be covered include all subjects relevant to the understanding and treatment of all addictions.

ISSDP seventh conference (15 – 17 May 2013) Bogota, Columbia

The International Society for the Study of Drug Policy's 2013 conference will focus on "Collateral costs of illegal drugs and the war on drugs: violence, corruption and institutional instability."

IDHDP doctors' meeting alert: we are planning a doctors' meeting at this event. Details will be forthcoming.

7th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (30 June – 3 July 2013) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The event will be organized by the IAS in partnership with Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERiA), University of Malaya, a centre established in 2007 to undertake HIV-related research with a particular focus on HIV and substance use and related co-morbidities including tuberculosis and HCV.

IDHDP doctors' meeting alert: we are planning a doctors' meeting at this event. Details will be forthcoming.

International Harm Reduction Conference 2013 (9 – 12 July 2013) Vilnius, Lithuania

This conference is a key event for all those interested in harm reduction around the world. It will include high profile keynote speeches, plenary sessions, major Sessions, concurrent sessions, workshops and a film festival. The theme of the conference is, "The Value/s of Harm Reduction."

Members meeting: We will hold an IDHDP members' meeting at the conference. Details will follow in the coming months.

3rd International Symposium on Hepatitis Care in Substance Users

The symposium is organized by the International Network on Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU) to cover the latest advances on the management and treatment of viral hepatitis among people who use drugs.

New Publications on the IDHDP website

New documents uploaded this month (click on the document title to read the full publication):

Systemic barriers accessing HIV treatment among people who inject drugs in Russia: a qualitative study

This study explores the systemic barriers to accessing ART among people who inject drugs (PWID) in

Ekaterinburg , Russia, a city () with a large burden of HIV treatment demand. It involved 42 in-depth qualitative interviews with people living with HIV with current or recent experience of injecting drug use. Accounts were analysed thematically, and supplemented here with an illustrative case study.

Home Affairs Committee - Ninth Report - Drugs: Breaking the Cycle

The Home Affairs Committee published its first report on drugs in a decade. After a wide-ranging and in-depth inquiry lasting a year and examining all areas of UK drug policy, the Committee has called for a Royal Commission on the issue.

Portuguese drug policy shows that decriminalisation can work, but only alongside improvements in health and social policies.

A blog from Alex Stevens assesses the situation in Portugal, noting that while decriminalisation has coincided with a fall in the most problematic forms of drug use, it is not the only factor. The expansion of drug treatments and the Portuguese welfare state have also played a role, illustrating the importance of improving social and health policies in addition to decriminalisation.

Methadone diversion as a protective strategy: The harm reduction potential of ‘generous constraints’

A study by Magdalena Harris and Tim Rhodes’ study exploring methadone diversion among a group of people who inject drugs and a group of people in OST in London, found that methadone self regulation and diversion played a prominent role in helping participants to manage their drug use, prevent withdrawal, cement social relationships, and inadvertently protect against hepatitis C transmission.

Opinion: Change in attitude is needed to prevent unnecessary human tragedy

An editorial by Michel Kazatchkine (IDHDP Patron) for World AIDS day.

Treatment as Prevention: From STOP HIV to STOP HCV

Julio Montaner, IDHDP Patron gives an overview of HIV and HCV treatment and prevention.

Resolución Para una Política Pública Salubrista sobre los Trastornos Relacionados con el Uso de Sustancias

Resolution by the Puerto Rican College of Physicians and Surgeons and several public health professionals stating that substance misuse is a chronic health condition. (document in Spanish)

Drug policy and women: Addressing the negative consequences of harmful drug control

This briefing by International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) “aims to highlight the effects of drug policy on women as producers, suppliers and consumers of drugs in order to inform and guide policy makers on practices that should be avoided, as well as highlight those policies which effectively incorporate and address women’s needs.”

From Crime to Recovery: The Reframing of British Drugs Policy?

Paper by Karen Duke. “During the last 5 years, there has been an important shift in the policy discourse around drugs issues. This article reviews the key changes and continuities in British drugs policy since the mid 1990s. It examines the crime reduction focus of the previous Labour government and the processes by which the recovery discourse came to dominate the current policy framework under the coalition government in 2010.”

IDHDP communications

Twitter

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Newsletter

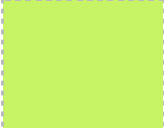

Please send the newsletter on to your colleagues and encourage them to **join IDHDP**.

Wishing you a very successful new year!

All the very best,

Chris, Holly and Rebecca

IDHDP team

	IDHDP, London and New York W: www.idhdp.com E: Rebecca.murchie@idhdp.com	
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