The movement of "coming out", the next generation of drug users and activism in Latin America.

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Argentina Network of people who use drugs and Activists (Rarue) and The International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD)
Argentine National Constitution on Article 19 says:

“Private actions that offend in no way order and public morals, or damage a third party, are exclusively reserved to God, and are exempt from the authority of judges.”

Las acciones privadas de los hombres que de ningún modo ofendan al orden y a la moral pública, ni perjudiquen a un tercero, están sólo reservadas a Dios, y exentas de la autoridad de los magistrados.

art.19 / Constitución de la Nación Argentina

Campaña argentina por la despenalización de la tenencia de drogas para consumo personal

CURA, NO GUERRA
2 DE MAYO DE 2004
Argentina’s Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina August 25, 2009, unanimously declared to be unconstitutional the second paragraph of Article 14 of the drug control legislation (Law 23,737), which punishes the possession of drugs for personal consumption with prison sentences ranging from one month to two years.

According to the Court, the unconstitutionality of the article is applicable to cases of drug possession for personal consumption that does not affect others.
Laws are not designed to protect consumer rights, or to establish a rational and effective public health strategy, neither to ensure justice is applied.

Despite appearing tolerant and flexible, the current laws actually limit individual freedom and rights.

It is essential to break down the stigma and discrimination faced by people who use drugs from most people in society.

Drug users will be able to "come out" and show their faces if they are not criminalized, discriminated against or stigmatized.
The most visible drug users are also the most vulnerable. The majority of people who use drugs are also affected by neoliberal politics, unemployment, poverty and marginalization. They are also outside “the system” in the political arena, they do not have access to economical means, education or health services.
Society at a large should see people who are using drugs with different eyes. People who are using drugs are coming from many different paths of live. They are coming from different strata in society, they are playing different levels of responsibility. Some are parents, partners, executives, others have lost their families, their jobs.

It is important to acknowledge that many people are using drugs and are taking responsible roles in society without problems.
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It is imperative to break the current paradigm to enforce policies that promote integration and generate programs for social inclusion - especially in the health system where harm reduction policies should be embraced and promoted.
A new movement to fight for the rights of people who use drugs is growing in Latin America and it is important that people, like me, who use drugs gain visibility and are recognized as valid social actors.

There is a new generation of users coming up who are not afraid of the abusive and repressive policies that exist in many Latin American countries. We are bringing new thinking and are coming forth to fight for our rights. We are starting a new era in the struggle to guarantee respect for Human Rights - for all, irrespective of life style choices or drug use patterns.
Users need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities - training and information sharing is necessary for this new strategic to be realized and to ensure better quality of life for everyone with full freedom and recognition of individual rights. In order to make this a reality, it is essential to decriminalize the possession of drugs for personal use and stop criminalizing just the user.
After years of insisting on the failed repressive approach of the "War on Drugs", some Latin American governments warmly opened their doors to more sensible approaches to drug policy. Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Mexico are showing the first signs of a substantial change, that when it's enforced, will ensure that thousand of people using drugs in the region will not longer be persecuted for smoking cannabis, snorting cocaine or smoking "paco".
These countries have begun to implement policies to promote harm reduction, that are based on respect for human rights.

The organization and activism of individual users have formed the base for this social paradigm shift to take place - Against double standards and policies of state demagoguery.
The formation of networks involving activists, associations, foundations, NGOs, state and private institutions, and Mass Media give strength to the cause and ensure better protection of civil and individual rights.

It is necessary to strengthen global networks of people who believe that citizens do not lose their humanity and human rights simply because they choose to use substances covered by the system of international drug control. Such is the example of the experience carried out by the International Network of People Who Use Drugs, INPUD in the organization of these different sectors.
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Una multitud se pronunció contra el castigo al consumo de drogas

Bajo la consigna “Cura, no guerra”, unas 12 mil personas se manifestaron en Palermo por la despenalización de la tenencia de drogas para consumo personal y la legalización del cannabis.

La convocatoria formó parte de la Million Marihuana March, que se realizó en 225 ciudades. Una multitud se congregó en Figueroa Alcorta y Sarmiento, donde hubo un festival de rock convocado por ARDA.
This is a priority for Latin America and the world. Collective action to change the current drug laws at a local, national and international levels are essential. Helping to develop new drug policies based on evidence that respects human rights and dignity.

New winds of changes are blowing in Latin America - we are getting organized for this change to happen.

La lucha continua!  The fight continues!
DEPENALIZATION
Public acts

Marchas contra la Intolerancia . Rosario & Buenos Aires, Since 2002
MAY 8, 2010
GLOBAL MILLON MARIHUANA MARCH IN ARGENTINA
WITH MARCHS IN BUENOS AIRES AND ROSARIO
CLAIMING FOR DEPENALISATION AND
A NEW DRUG CONTROL LAW