

INPUD

International Network of People who Use Drugs

Working Towards Humane, Evidence Informed Drug Laws, and an End to the War on Drugs

A GLOBAL NETWORK OF PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO GIVE UP THEIR HUMANITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY CHOOSE TO USE DRUGS

INPUD on a Mission

INPUD's members have created a mission statement that clearly sets out its agenda.

INPUD is a global peer-based organisation that seeks to promote the health and defend the rights of people who use drugs. "We will expose and challenge stigma, discrimination and the criminalisation of people who use drugs and its impact on our community's health and rights. We will achieve this through processes of empowerment and international advocacy."



Top right: Jude Byrne (chair of INPUD) and many of INPUD's members and supporters. See a film on INPUD by the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union at <http://drogriporter.hu/en/inpud>

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Membership lists now operate in Spanish, French, Russian, & English and are working hard to support other languages.

Find us at: www.inpud.net
www.inpud.wordpress.com
 IHRA is a proud supporter of INPUD and we would like to thank them for printing our INPUD newspaper..

The 5th Anniversary of the Vancouver Declaration, 2011

HARM REDUCTION SAVES LIVES

The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) is a movement of people who use drugs (current and former) who support the Vancouver Declaration. The Vancouver Declaration was created by a large number of leading drugs activists, setting out key demands such as the human rights of people who use drugs should be respected and for harm reduction measures to be put in place to protect individual and public health.

INPUD is a global network that seeks to represent people who use drugs in international fora such as the United Nations and agencies undertaking international development work, and believe that people who use drugs must be "meaningfully represented in decision-making processes that affect our lives". INPUD is also committed to demonstrating at country level how people who use drugs can constructively contribute to the development and delivery of services for their own communities. Their unique insight and perspective can help money be effectively targeted, spent wisely thus delivering better results for individuals and the wider community. "We are asking the international community to stop framing us as the problem and recognise that we are part of the solution when it comes to addressing problems associated with drugs and drug policy around the world."

International Remembrance Day 21st July



International Remembrance Day is gaining momentum as a very special day in the calendar for people who use drugs and their loved ones. The day provides a special moment for the friends and loved ones of people who use drugs to be able to remember their friend's passing with the warmth, dignity and acknowledgment of their lives as a person - without the shame or pretense that can occur at funerals when someone has died from drugs. This year, you can join the cause on Facebook and help to raise awareness of the issue in your country, and share ideas about how to put on a remembrance day event in your part of the world. Many groups will have a theme to

their event such as overdose prevention, access to treatment, or challenging the war on drugs. Some events are sombre and reflective, others are more vocal and demanding of awareness, action or support but all of them provide a chance for people who use drugs to remember their friends, in their way. Germany is one country that has been doing events to mark this day for many years has been an inspiration for many others to get involved. Dirk Schaeffer, from Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe told INPUD NEWS "In Germany we will be celebrating the 14th International Remembrance Day. Recently, more than 40 cities in Germany alone have been involved and - (page 2)



Why does the world needs an international network of activists who use drugs? We are people from around the world who use drugs; For this reason alone, we are stigmatised, marginalized and discriminated against; killed, abused, exploited and harmed unnecessarily, incarcerated in detention centres and prison, often in the name of treatment, treated inhumanely and unjustly and stereotyped as dangerous and disposable. Now it is time to raise our voices as citizens, establish our rights and reclaim the right to be our own spokespersons striving for self-representation and self-empowerment: Through collective action, we will fight to change existing local, national, and international drug laws and formulate evidence informed drug policies that respects people's human rights and dignity. See the Vancouver Declaration in its entirety at www.inpud.net

INPUD Principles:

- Pro drug user rights
- Pro self-determination
- Pro harm reduction and safer drug use
- Respecting the right of people to use drugs or not
- Anti-prohibitionist
- Pro equality

International Remembrance Day (cont. page 1)

- around 100 organizations, so attendance has been huge". This year, you can join the cause on FaceBook and help to raise awareness of the issue in your country. This is a *peer led initiative* and as such, it is important that those who use drugs are leading the process. From the INPUD blog, facebook site, or forum/e-list, you can get ideas about how to put on an event in your town; from a candle on a windowsill, a remembrance book at your local drug clinic to a rally in the town square demanding action to reduce the number of unnecessary deaths. The facebook page is also a chance to write up your experiences and share your memories of loved ones with other members. (almost 4000 and growing). Log in to Facebook and search International Remembrance Day or type in /www.causes.com/causes/549549, and join. Don't forget -paste the link on your site/FB page!



Aims of INPUD:

1. To advocate and lobby at the international level for the rights of people who use drugs.
2. To maintain an organisation that is effective, transparent and accountable to its membership.
3. To promote effective prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs who are living with and affected by HIV, Hepatitis, TB and other relevant health issues.
4. To advocate for intermediate reforms to drug laws in order to reduce the criminalization and stigmatisation of people who use drugs while striving in the longer term to an end to prohibition.
5. To support and seed the development of self-determining networks of drug users that advocate for the health, citizenship and human rights of people who use drugs.
6. To promote and advocate for harm reduction as a means of supporting safer drug use and reducing drug related harm among people who use drugs.
7. To build alliances with like-minded organizations and broader civil society to further the aims of INPUD.

*GLOSSARY: PUD - People who Use Drugs NGOs - Non Governmental Organisation IHRA (Int.Harm Reduction Assoc), UNAIDS (United Nations office on HIV/AIDS), ICASO (Int. Council of AIDS Orgs) DiFid, (UK Dept for Int. Development) IAA (Int. AIDS Alliance) WAC (World AIDS Campaign) GNP+ (Global Network of People Living with HIV) UNODC (UN Office of Drugs & Crime), CND - Commission of Narcotic Drugs, HLM - High Level Meeting

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The meeting rooms of UNAIDS. INPUD now works regularly with UNAIDS on a range of issues.

As we know in recent years, people who use drugs have almost always organised alongside the harm reduction movement. Sharing a similar ideology, harm reduction is a field that, in order for it to really thrive as a public health paradigm, it needs to understand and even embrace drug culture. Over the years it has almost become a language in its own right that not only speaks to people in the PUDs* commu-

Finding Partners and Allies

nity but has provided a mechanism for activists to reach out and build the necessary bridges, to improve health, create empowerment and ownership around our own health and welfare issues, and become active in our own communities and government.

Over recent years as INPUD has taken shape as an independent international organisation, it has been reaching out from the occasionally isolated world of harm reduction to other civil society groups that share common themes or synergies in movements. From public health issues such as blood borne viruses, needle exchange and drug treatment; we can also utilise the support of progressive HIV/AIDS policies and law, embrace the language and action of human rights and its

focus on abuses and challenging repressive legal frameworks. Race, faith, gender inequalities and violence, hate crimes, and the agencies across the globe working with sex work, criminalization and drug law reform, all directly affect people who use drugs. Perhaps all roads really will lead to Rome, if we really embrace the partnerships and allies working along such parallel lines.

As INPUD pushes further forward to find partners and allies, it has been quite an experience to witness global agencies being prepared to open up and become more receptive. INPUD has had to work hard, creatively and with vision to partner (as an independent organisation in its own right) a whole range of international agencies and networks. Getting to understand



No longer shouting in the wind

the vastness of where INPUD fits into the global arena, and how to 'participate in', access and be 'meaningfully involved' in huge and often very bureaucratic agencies like those under the United Nations umbrella (eg: UNAIDS* (see pic) UNODC*, and the WHO World Health Org, and dozens upon dozens of international and regional civil society orgs (+ NGO's) like IHRA*, GNP+*, ICASO*, IAA,* and donors like DiFid* and The Global Fund are a huge learning curve. INPUD members are expecting there will be challenges, but will be greeting them with optimism and relish! To see some of the activities INPUD is engaged in, you can visit our blog at www.inpud.wordpress.com and please feel free to comment.

The GIPA Principle - More Talk - or Tools for Change?



INPUD and GNP+ (Global Network of Network of People Living with HIV) sign a Memorandum of Understanding to commit both organisations to joint working around the needs of people who use drugs and live with HIV and mutual support.

INPUD has been able to work with some of the progressive tools that have been developed by civil society organisations, in order to lever itself into working alongside global agencies. One of the main tools has been GIPA - The Principle of Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Developed at the Paris AIDS

Summit in 1994, GIPA has evolved to become an important document and tool that has increasingly opened the doors of government and civil society to marginalized groups. These days, firmly embedded into United Nations policy and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (of which a new one is being created this year), GIPA calls for the direct acknowledgement of the need not for just greater - but the more *meaningful participation* of marginalised communities. 194 member states have now endorsed GIPA, undertaking in their national policies to "...protect and promote the rights of individuals, in particular those living with or most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, through the legal and social environment; - fully involve non-governmental and community based organizations as well as people living with HIV/AIDS in the formulation and implementation of public policies". HIV prevention, treatment, care and support serv-

ices operate best within legal frameworks that specifically protect the human rights of people from diverse and marginalized backgrounds affected by HIV/AIDS. For example, we see descriptions of civil society and nation states working together most effectively when we see these rights enshrined as policy and law, laws that are people's right and policies that empower and educate. Memorandums of Understanding (see pic) can also be very important tools that confirm an agreement, working practices and ethical standards between two or more organisations. They can be particularly useful for organisations with limited resources when working with larger organisations as it helps to cement your relationship with more influential bodies, increase your standing and commit to progress and understanding on certain processes. Worth looking into when looking into partnership working.

MEMBERSHIP

INPUD's core membership criteria are defined as follows: Essentially, it is people who face the most harms through their drug use. Though primarily this is people who inject drugs we also recognise

- People who smoke stimulant drugs; who use opioid drugs by non-injecting routes of administration; People on Substitution Therapy programmes; People living with HIV, TB, and Hepatitis who have a history of drug use; who use drugs who are incarcerated and / or those in drug detention centres or coerced treatment; some groups of stimulant snorters who may have patterns of use that would be familiar to those injecting or smoking stimulants.

Another ground for application is what is called the 'community connectedness' criteria. This applies to people who did perhaps at one time in their lives fall within the above description and who still through their work or activism maintain an active and current connection with our community. Agreement with the Vancouver Declaration - is obligatory for all INPUD members. Contact INPUD Membership Secretary at membership@inpud.net

INPUD's Work on the World Stage

- Nov 2008: Emergency General Meeting in Copenhagen - over 100 leading drug user activists from around the world gather on International Drug User Day to relaunch INPUD.
- March 2009: INPUD launch Drug User Peace Initiative (a roadmap to peace out of the global drugs war) and protest/demonstration at United Nations High Level Segment Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting in Vienna, in collaboration with other NGOs*
- March 2009: INPUD joins UK government delegation to CND as NGO representative as next decades global Political Declaration on Drugs in ratified. (INPUD attends again in 2010 and 2011)
- June 2009: INPUD attend UNAIDS PCB as NGO observers and a resolution is passed requesting UNAIDS to "...intensify its assistance to, and work with...those affected by drug use".
- Jan 2010: INPUD attends donors conference on Harm reduction in Amsterdam and secures a commitment for funding from United Nations programme on HIV (UNAIDS)
- Feb 2010: Kiev capacity building event with Eurasian Harm Reduction Network; leads to launch of Eurasian branch of INPUD: Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs
- March 2010: United Nations Office Drugs and Crime (UNODC) CND resolution is passed on meaningful involvement of PUDs* - a giant leap forward.
- March 2010: INPUD begins to cowrite quality guidelines on Meaningful Participation in UNODCs TreatNet Programme, UN global programme promoting drug treatment.
- June 2010: INPUD, WHO, HIT, and UNAIDS, undertake joint work on TB and HIV advocacy
- July 2010: World Aids Conference: INPUD involved in staff training event at UNODC, due to the decision in March at UNODC to involve PUD's. Result!
- Sept 2010: Annie Madden is INPUD lead as human rights expert on the UN Commission on HIV & the Law's Technical Advisory Group, giving evidence and expertise.
- Sept 2010: INPUD launches 3 year strategy and fundraising drive.
- Sept 2010/2011: INPUD involved as partner in new WHO strategy & guidelines on on viral hepatitis. J Byrne leads a team of peer experts. This also supports WHO's work on Co-Infection with HIV.
- Jan 2011: INPUD gets a female member on the Civil Society Task Force for UN HIV/AIDS Hearings and High Level Meetings in April and June 2011, on the journey towards a new declaration for HIV/AIDS.
- Feb 2011: INPUD is pleased to work with the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network of People who Use Drugs, Russian Harm Reduction Network and the All Ukraine assoc of PLHIV at the regional HLM on HIV in Kiev
- Feb 2011: D. Lewis from ANPUD (Asian Network of People who Use Drugs) gave evidence at the regional committee on HIV and the Law, and associated documents, March.
- March 2011: INPUD protests at the CND* in Austria, & engages in important networking.