

A call to redirect resources from drug control to harm reduction

10%
BY
2020



#10by20

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10 by 20



We're campaigning to redirect just a tenth of the money spent on drug control to harm reduction – 10 per cent by 2020.

This 10% could...

End AIDS among people who inject drugs by 2030.

Strengthen networks of people who use drugs to provide peer services and campaign for their rights.

Roll out Naloxone, enabling us to prevent thousands of overdose deaths every year.

What is harm reduction?

Harm reduction is a proven approach that reduces the health and social impacts of unsafe drug use and keeps people who use drugs, their families and their communities healthy. It includes:



Needle and syringe programmes



Substitution therapy such as methadone



Treatment for HIV, Hepatitis & Tuberculosis



Prevention and reversal of overdose

These interventions save lives, and assist people who need it to access evidence-based drug treatment, housing and other services.

Harm reduction works

Harm reduction approaches are low-cost but have remarkably high impact:

- 1% HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs where harm reduction has been scaled up.
- 31,000 HIV infections averted in Vietnam thanks to a needle exchange programme from 2003-2012.
- 500 Lives saved over two years through distribution of take-home overdose kits in Scotland.
- \$4 Saved in healthcare costs for every \$1 invested in needle and syringe programmes and substitution therapy.

Yet, according to UNAIDS, between 2010-2014 only 3.3% of HIV prevention funds went to programmes for people who inject drugs.

Drug control has failed

Each year governments spend over \$100 billion on drug control strategies that have little effect on demand for drugs or on those who profit from the drug trade:

- Imprisoning and even executing large numbers of people for drug offences
- Forcing people who use drugs into abusive involuntary treatment
- Shutting down harm reduction services, driving up rates of HIV, hepatitis and drug-related deaths
- Increasing violence and militarisation

At the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in 2016, governments showed a new willingness to rethink these approaches. Now they must rebalance their spending.

2019: a new Political Declaration on Drugs

In 2016, member states at the UN General Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs and the High Level Meeting on Ending AIDS committed to 'minimising the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse' and encouraged States to scale up harm reduction interventions.

Neither document included a target to increase harm reduction funding.



Call to action

As 2019 approaches, Harm Reduction International is calling on governments to:

Make UNGASS 2016 the starting point for 2019 negotiations, including the chapters on health and human rights.

Champion a global target of 10 by 20 in the new Political Declaration.

The 10 by 20 campaign needs other voices too. We urge parliamentarians, NGOs and the media to join us in speaking out for health, human rights and harm reduction.

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One tenth of one year's drug enforcement spending would cover global HIV prevention for people who inject drugs for four years.

Harm Reduction International works to reduce drug-related harms. Our vision is a world in which individuals and communities benefit from drug laws, policies and practices that promote health, dignity and human rights.



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