

PROGRESS REPORT

2025-2026

SEPTEMBER 2026





Foreword

Welcome to IDPC's Progress Report for 2025 to 2026 – a period in which we also celebrate our network's 20th anniversary! Once again – in spite of a global backdrop of political regression, funding cuts and geo-political fracture – the IDPC network has continued to demonstrate its resilience and power, and we have achieved key milestones towards our collective vision that drug policies around the world should advance social justice and human rights. This report highlights just some of the successes from the previous 12 months, and reflects the hard work, passion and professionalism of the IDPC Secretariat, members and partners.

20 years ago, a group of leading drug policy experts gathered at the UK House of Lords to discuss the need for a global network to promote, coordinate and accelerate policy reform efforts. At this event IDPC was conceived, and it is perhaps fitting that, in our 20th anniversary year, the network grew to more than 200 member organisations from across 75 countries, supported by a Secretariat spanning Ghana, the Netherlands, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

The founders of IDPC had an ambitious mission when they set out: to coalesce civil society and community groups from all over the world to profoundly and positively impact drug policies at the UN, regional and national levels. After two decades, IDPC is a diverse, strongly collaborative network with a credible influential voice in global drug policy debates. Despite recent challenges in the funding and political landscapes, the IDPC network continues to make our voices heard ever louder against a deeply entrenched war on drugs, and together we have irreversibly shifted drug policies and narratives. It is a good moment to take stock of all that has been achieved, but we also know that this work must continue.

This Progress Report highlights the impact of working in solidarity: from another blockbuster year for the Support Don't Punish campaign; to the adoption of the

strongest drug-related commitments to date at the Human Rights Council; to the co-delivery of the Brandenburg Forum series bringing together governments, UN officials, civil society and communities; to the impactful advocacy work in Asia; and so much more. These achievements are collective, and we would like to especially thank our members, our committed donors, our Board and Members Advisory Council, and the Secretariat team.

This Report also comes at a unique and exciting juncture for IDPC as, after 15 years as the Executive Director, Ann has decided to step down and support a transition to new leadership for this amazing network – a process which was completed at the end of July 2026. Ann leaves with great pride in what we have built together and is deeply grateful for the extraordinary journey with IDPC, having grown a nascent network of less than 30 members to the strong, influential global voice on drug policy that it is today. She feels confident that the IDPC network and the broader drug policy reform movement will continue to tear down the walls of prohibition.

From August 2026, Jamie takes up the role of IDPC's new Executive Director, with Marie Nougier becoming the new Deputy Director. Jamie has been with IDPC since 2013, and Marie initially started as IDPC's first-ever volunteer 17 years ago. Their role is clear: to continue supporting, growing and promoting our global network, to keep opening spaces for engagement, and to keep championing more humane policies.

In turbulent geopolitical times, the IDPC network must continue exceeding expectations and shaping the movement. This collective work is more important than it has ever been.

In solidarity,

Ann Fordham (outgoing Executive Director) & Jamie Bridge (incoming Executive Director)



In 2026, IDPC turned twenty. Two decades ago, a small group of people believed civil society deserved a coordinated, credible voice in global drug policy. That bet paid off: over 200 member organisations in more than 70 countries, and a conversation shifted from punishment and stigma towards health, dignity and human rights.

This year tested that. Civic space keeps narrowing, armed conflicts are tearing apart much of the world, and the 'war on drugs' continues to be repackaged (now as counter-narcoterrorism) to justify killings at sea and repression at home.

Funding cuts also forced very hard choices in our own reorganisation, but thankfully, IDPC stands on a solid financial situation for the coming years. As a result, Ann Fordham stepped down after years of transformative leadership, and Jamie Bridge stepped into the Executive Director role: a transition that took the Board months of careful work, and one we are

confident in. Ann, thank you. Jamie, the stage is yours.

And despite everything, we gained ground. In Geneva, after more than a decade of patient advocacy, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 60/26, recognising drug policy as a human rights issue in its own right. In Southeast Asia, our members opened ASEAN's first regional training on human rights and drug policy. 'Support. Don't Punish' mobilised people power once again. None of this was inevitable; all of it was organised by (and thanks to) the Secretariat, our members and our donors, who are the backbone of everything.

As Ann once said: Our strength has always been a refusal to be naive paired with an equally firm refusal to become cynical. Twenty years in, we are not tired. We are more determined than ever.

Tomás A. Chang Pico,
Chair of the Board



It has been 20 years since IDPC and Youth RISE were both founded in 2006, and this year's Progress Report, with its many wins, small and large, is a testament to the resilience and force of our movement as a whole.

IDPC has been a guiding light in drug policy, and for youth-led organisations, which can struggle with institutional memory, it has been fundamental to navigating this complex system: knowing what came before, how key stakeholders have ebbed and flowed, and what has and hasn't worked. As Youth RISE and others branch into untapped advocacy spaces at the UN and regionally, IDPC's bank of knowledge has helped us engage strategically with bodies beyond the usual drug policy arenas.

But the relationship is always bi-directional, through bodies like the Members Advisory Council, IDPC structurally embeds its membership's input into its work, passing the mic to those who should be centre stage. This past year, for us youth organisations, that included youth specific sections in both Advocacy Notes for the CND Expert Panel. And its quieter work, in helping members with administration and fundraising – such as through the Dave Bewley Mentorship Programme – allows youth organisations to sustain ourselves and build the next generation of drug policy reform advocates.

Ruby Lawlor, Representative of
IDPC's Members Advisory Council,
Youth RISE

About IDPC

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of civil society and community organisations that come together to promote drug policies that advance social justice and human rights. Our mission is to amplify and strengthen this diverse global movement to repair the harms caused by punitive drug policies, and promote just responses.

IDPC members agree and align with five core policy principles:

1. Drug policies should be developed through an objective assessment of priorities and evidence
2. Drug policies should comply with national, regional and international human rights principles, laws and standards

3. Drug policies should focus on reducing the harmful consequences rather than the scale of drug use and markets
4. Drug policies should promote social justice and the inclusion of marginalised groups, rather than focus on punitive measures towards them
5. Drug policies should be developed and implemented based on open and constructive relationships with civil society and affected populations.

Since IDPC's creation in 2006, the network has grown in numbers, scope and strength. We are delighted that our work continues to serve our members and give a voice to some of the most oppressed and marginalised communities around the world through solidarity, mobilisation, joint advocacy and our unwavering commitment to human rights and social justice.



IDPC pre-CND orientation meeting, March 2026. Credit: Steve Rolles

Voices from the IDPC membership

"You are doing an amazing amount of work and we really appreciate your efforts and dedication. Thank you so much!"

"Thank you IDPC for existing, thank you for your work and your commitment!"

"Thank you for all the amazing work and support, IDPC team"

"IDPC has been great at information exchanges, identifying opportunities for collaboration, networking, etc."

"IDPC does an excellent job both in keeping in touch and in providing relevant and useful information"

"IDPC's work is very positive for our organisation, as it delivers information, analysis and intervention proposals that we could not produce on our own"

"IDPC provides many opportunities and we are grateful for it"

"The work carried out by IDPC is complex and highly commendable. We know how difficult it is to maintain a network of partners, especially given the regional,

cultural, and financial and human resource diversity involved. It is difficult to suggest anything that could improve the work the Secretariat already does”

“The support of the IDPC network to our organisation is crucial for showcasing our debates and strengthening our capacities, particularly during the Support. Don’t Punish campaign”

“It is precisely IDPC’s support that has allowed us to consolidate our experience on the international stage”

“While global engagement opportunities are shifting, IDPC are stepping up”



About this Progress Report

This has been a particularly challenging year for the IDPC network, and for the drug policy reform movement as a whole. Escalating armed conflicts and instability in various parts of the world, the rise in authoritarian and extreme right governments, the return of ‘war on drugs’ and ‘narcoterrorism’ narratives, the major funding cuts to civil society and community organisations working on drug policy reform and harm reduction, and closing civil society space, have been experienced far and wide, with devastating consequences on our movement and for the communities we serve.

And yet, despite these huge challenges, the movement has remained strong and coordinated, bound by a powerful sense of solidarity and commitment to human rights and social justice. Despite all odds, we have made major strides in a number of policy areas. This Progress Report showcases the positive impacts we have achieved over the past year, as a celebration of our network’s resilience in the face of adversity.

Resourcing people power in times of backlash: Support. Don’t Punish energises grassroots leadership towards reform

Mounting political opposition, shrinking civic space and dramatic funding cuts push communities most affected by punitive drug policies further into harm. Yet these very communities hold skills, relationships and legitimacy that are essential to build fairer and more accountable responses.

Through the [Support. Don’t Punish campaign](#), IDPC has provided infrastructure for a dynamic global movement through a shared banner for transnational mobilisation, flexible granting, knowledge and advocacy resources, and pathways into decision-making.

Rather than imposing one-size-fits all models, the campaign relies on grassroots organising that responds to local and national realities. Through a range of actions



Credit: Multiple sources, submitted as part of the Support. Don't Punish campaign Photo Project

— from peer-led safe spaces, to media training, parliamentary dialogues and art installations — campaigners develop capacity, shift public narratives, and engage decision-makers to advance sustainable alternatives to stigma and punishment.

The strength of this unique infrastructure was clear in the [2025 Global Day of Action](#), which mobilised thousands of people in 262 cities across 80 countries! Over three-quarters of these activities took place in the Global South, while 85% of financial support channelled through the ‘small grants’ programme went to community-led groups.

These grants are modest yet catalytic, helping campaigners develop new alliances, test creative approaches, and develop advocacy skills and leverage as a springboard toward sustained organising. A campaign survey suggested that over 80% of activities brought new supporters, while 96% led to increases in activists’ confidence in their ability to effect change, and about half secured positive media coverage.

The African Law Foundation’s (AFRILAW) experience with the campaign in Nigeria shows how momentum leads to influence. Campaigning under the Support. Don’t Punish banner for years, AFRILAW received an [Initiatives Programme award in 2024](#). The initiative demonstrated the harms of reintroducing the death penalty for drug offences in Nigeria. Through media advocacy, high-level engagement and public mobilisation, the NDLEA Bill amendment was struck, preventing a tragedy in the making. In March 2026, AFRILAW brought these lessons to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), joining community advocates, donors and UN experts.

This virtuous cycle, where practical experience is brought to international decision-making spaces, in turn strengthening the case for reform locally, is a key asset of the campaign. And the ecosystem keeps growing, as a new [2025-2026 cohort](#), selected with community leaders from the campaign’s Leadership Network, is now finalising their work culminating in the 2026 Global Day of Action.

The experience of local partners of the campaign shows what is made possible when communities have access to flexible resources, sustained partnerships, and dialogue with decision-makers; turning mobilisation into long-term organising, solidarity and real change.

The Human Rights Council recognises drug policy as a human rights issue

In a context where the UN system is facing an unprecedented funding and liquidity crisis, achieving any meaningful change at international level can seem like an elusive goal. And yet, 2025 marked a turning point for drug policy in Geneva. Thanks to sustained advocacy going back over a decade by the IDPC network and partners, a major win was achieved at the Human Rights Council, with the adoption of [Resolution 60/26](#) on ‘The human rights implications of drug policy’.

This is the fourth Human Rights Council resolution dedicated to drug policy. Introduced by Colombia on behalf of a cross-regional ‘core group’ of Member States, the aim was to strengthen the role of the UN human rights system in drug policy discussions.

IDPC had engaged early in the conversation, holding preliminary discussions with government allies to seek buy-in for the idea of a new resolution on drug policy at the Council (the previous one having been adopted in 2023), and for a stronger mandate for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to document the human rights impacts of drug policy more systematically.

After months of policy engagement and negotiations, the final resolution – adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by 35 Member States – did not disappoint. Importantly, it finally recognises drug policy as a human rights issue, securing the role of the Human Rights Council to consider the issue in its own right, and not only when mandated to do so by the CND or the General Assembly (as was the

case with the 2016 UNGASS when the Council first started engaging in drug policy).

Secondly, the resolution includes the most progressive language on drug policy and human rights to date in relation to harm reduction, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the need to protect civil society space.

And last but not least, the resolution mandates the OHCHR and the Council’s Special Procedure Mandates to continue working on drug policy – inviting the OHCHR to produce a fourth report dedicated to drug policy with a focus on women and girls, which will come out in September 2026 at the occasion of the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council.

60th session of the Human Rights Council

8 September – 8 October 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ASSERTS ITS ROLE IN GLOBAL DRUG POLICY

Geneva just redrew the lines of global drug policy. The Council’s bold new resolution asserts the Council’s clear competence and principled stance in a space long centring punishment, not rights.

Approved by consensus, the Council’s historic resolution affirms Geneva’s authority in global drug policy, as states rally behind the primacy of human rights and reject the punitive orthodoxy once guarded by Vienna.

The human rights implications of drug policy

(HRC Resolution L.31. Rev.1)

Co-sponsored by: Albania, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Uruguay



Human rights leadership

Reaffirming that drug control falls within the human rights mandate, the resolution positions Geneva as a site of reform and accountability.



People at the centre

Recognising civil society and affected communities as partners, the resolution embeds participation and lived experience in drug policy-making.

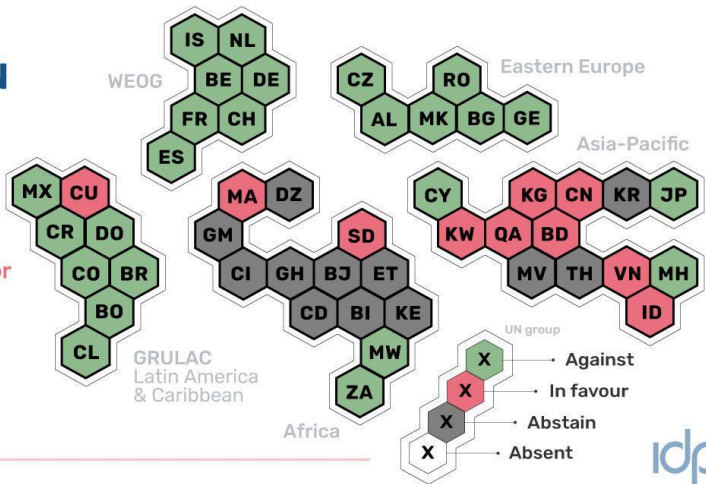


Broadening the scope

Integrating gender, environmental, and Indigenous rights language, the resolution broadens justice in global drug policy.

PRO-RIGHTS MAJORITY AFFIRMS HARM REDUCTION IN REBUTTAL OF RUSSIA’S MANOEUVRING

Russia’s attempts to weaken the resolution through amendments backfired. A proposal to remove ‘harm reduction’ from the resolution, for instance, was defeated with 25 votes against, 10 in favour and 12 abstentions. The outcome reaffirmed growing consensus on rights-based approaches and exposed Russia’s waning influence within the Council.



Credit: Juan Fernández Ochoa, IDPC

While the debates are [stalling in Vienna](#), the strides made in Geneva are encouraging for civil society advocates seeking rights-affirming and health-oriented approaches to drug policy enshrined in a broader development approach. Our goal now will be to ensure that these gains translate into meaningful change at the CND and on the ground, and can feed into the deliberations of the independent Expert Panel established in 2025 to review the UN drug control ‘machinery’.

The UN drug control system goes under review

One of the [key successes](#) of the 68th session of the CND in March 2025 had been the adoption of Resolution 68/6, establishing a [panel of independent experts](#) to review the UN drug control ‘machinery’.

It is not the first time that such a panel has been set up to evaluate the functioning of UN drug control. Following

both 1990 and 1998 UNGASSes on drugs, similar panels had gathered to produce recommendations on what needed to change in the UN drug control architecture – with varying degrees of success on their implementation.

No such panel was established following the 2016 UNGASS, despite the importance of such a moment for global drug policy – with unprecedented visibility given to health, human rights and development, the increased participation of other UN entities, civil society and communities, and the growing momentum for national-level reforms towards decriminalisation and legal regulation.

A decade later, the UN funding and liquidity crisis and UN80 Initiative, escalating conflicts and tensions in various parts of the world, the destructive role of the USA and reconfiguration of historic alliances, the unacceptable denial by UNODC of the human rights implications of punitive drug control coupled with the progress made in Geneva to recognise drug policy as a human rights issue, and the failure by the World Health Organization to

69th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

9 - 13 March 2026

THE CND INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL

19 experts

Multidisciplinary
Independent
Regionally balanced

Review and address implementation gaps and shortcomings

Produce concrete reform recommendations

Inform the 2029 High-Level Review

Guided by 2 co-chairs

One appointed by the SG

One selected by Member States

Regional group nominees

Asia Pacific Group

Xiaojing SHAN (China)

Natalie Yu-Lin MORRIS SHARMA (Singapore)

African Group

Khalid TINASTI (Morocco)

Yacine BOUMRAH (Algeria)

EEG Eastern European Group

Pavel BÉM (Czechia)

Elīna ŠTEINERTE (Latvia)

GRULAC Latin American and Caribbean Group

Renán VILLACÍS (Ecuador)

Rodrigo UPRIMNY (Colombia)

WEOG Western European and Others Group

Alexis GOOSDEEL (Belgium)

Virginia PATTON PRUGH (United States)

DRUG CONTROL UNDER REVIEW

Resolution 68/6 establishes a 19-member multidisciplinary expert panel to deliver clear, actionable recommendations to improve the UN drug control system ahead of 2029, the next high-level review of international drug policy commitments at the CND.

UN SG United Nations Secretary General

Allan ROCK (Canada)

Adeeba KAMARULZAMAN (Malaysia)

Khaled SHAMAA (Egypt)

Olga GVOZDETSKA (Ukraine)

Alberto HART (Peru)

INCB International Narcotics Control Board

César ARCE RIVAS (Paraguay)

Cornelis DE JONCHEERE (Netherlands)

Jagjit PAVADIA (India)

WHO World Health Organization

Michael FARRELL (Australia)

Key dates

March 2025

Resolution 68/6 establishing the Panel passes with 30 votes in favour, 3 against

November 2025

Initial funding pledges surpass the minimum threshold

December 2025

CND endorses majority of experts

March 2026

CND confirms final Panel composition

2027

Panel submits recommendations to the CND

March 2029

CND High-Level Review Meeting

The Independent Expert Panel represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to confront systemic failings. Member States have formally recognised the need to critically assess how the international drug control system operates in practice. Its recommendations could influence the direction of global drug policy ahead of 2029. IDPC expects the panel to confront the harms caused by punitive approaches, question outdated assumptions embedded in the treaties, and offer pathways to realign the system with health, human rights and lived realities.

idpc

International Drug Policy Consortium

Credit: Juan Fernández Ochoa, IDPC

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adequately recognise the rights of Indigenous Peoples in its critical review of the coca leaf, have all converged towards a point where such a review is not only useful – it has become absolutely critical.

The bulk of our work in the past year has therefore focused on not letting this historic opportunity go to waste. Through engagement with Member States, civil society coordination and strategising, IDPC has raised awareness of the importance of this process, encouraged likeminded States to nominate progressive candidates, produced a series of [recommendations](#) for the panel's mandate, scope and working methods, and launched a [10-year review](#) of the past decade of drug policy – providing comprehensive data and analysis of the key challenges faced by the UN drug control system to support the Panel's work going forward.

This work will continue to be a priority for the IDPC network until the Expert Panel presents its final recommendations to the CND in December 2027 – which we hope will be ambitious and far-reaching.

'Planting seeds' at the Brandenburg Forums on Drugs and Development Policies (BBF)

Since 2016, IDPC has been an active co-host for a series of strategic, invitation-only meetings that bring together government and UN officials, academic and civil society experts and community representatives. These Brandenburg Forums (BBFs), named after the region in Germany in which they are held, have become influential platforms to debate drug policies, unpack latest developments, and coordinate in a 'safe space' ahead of key meetings such as the CND. They are a central part of the German-funded [Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development](#) (GPDPD).

In November 2025, the [10th Brandenburg Forum](#) was held at the elegant Schloss Lübbenau in Germany and was co-organised alongside the governments of Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, as well as the Transnational Institute (TNI). Keynote speakers included Helen Clark, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Hendrik Streeck, the German Federal Commissioner for Drug and Addiction Policy. It was an important space to engage and strategise with policy makers and allies, especially ahead of the CND in March 2026. Continuing an established BBF methodology, breakout groups – structured around the four core BBF themes of development, health, rights and gender, and UN reform – allowed participants to come up with key recommendations for the coming months and years, a 'prioritisation exercise' was used to decide which recommendations had the strongest support, and then an 'implementation exercise' was used to further elaborate on how these might be turned into reality.

What began as a meeting to unpack the outcomes from the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs, has now become a key part of the global drug policy calendar and an important space for like-minded governments and colleagues to meet – using the [Chatham House Rule](#) to provide a safe space for discussions. In 2026, IDPC worked with GIZ and GPDPD to release a report outlining the [achievements from ten years of these Forums](#). Over this time, more than 500 participants from 43 UN Member States have attended, and the report describes the "legacy from Lübbenau" as being one of open exchange, collaboration, partnership and alliance building.

The success of the BBF comes from allowing key actors the opportunity to 'plant the seeds' of ideas. While some of these 'seeds' may not go on to blossom into actions, many of them do: of the 268 recommendations put forward across ten years, more than a third have been actioned with a further third still ongoing or partially implemented. Notable examples include: CND resolutions on development, health and overdose prevention; the



Graphic Recording at the 10th Brandenburg Forum on Drugs and Development Policies, November 2025. Credit: GIZ/Anne Lehmann)

development and roll-out of the [International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy](#); the [UN Common Position on Drugs](#); and the creation of the [Expert Panel](#) to review the drug control system. For all of these, the role of the BBF is best conceptualised as one of contribution and/or inception, rather than attribution or ever claiming to be the sole cause or influence.

The BBFs, including more recent ‘sister’ events in Geneva and New York, are therefore crucial opportunities for IDPC to engage directly with policy makers in a like-minded space, and should continue to be a focus of IDPC’s work plans for many years to come.

Civil society pushes back against the threat narrative

The past year has seen an alarming resurgence of highly punitive approaches to drug policy globally. One which IDPC has worked hard to resist and condemn.

In Europe, the new [European Union Drug Strategy](#) and [Plan of Action](#) (which, for the first time, focuses exclusively on combatting drug trafficking) both use a problematic ‘threat’ narrative to justify tough-on-drugs approaches centred in law enforcement and repression, to the detriment of health and human rights.

The IDPC network spent the best part of last year mobilising to influence the drafting process of the Strategy, including via the [EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs](#). Once it was clear that the Strategy would be adopted without any major changes, we shifted gear to raise awareness of the failings of this punitive approach and push for

mechanisms that would ensure the effective implementation of the more positive aspects of the Strategy (including its pillar on health and section on harm reduction). All of this was done through consultations, bilateral meetings with policy-makers, a [joint civil society letter](#) and other key [communications](#).

Positively, this did yield some results. In early 2026, it was announced that EU Member States had agreed to produce a broader Plan of Action that would cover all aspects of the EU Drug Strategy – in particular in relation to health, social inclusion and the EU’s leading role at the UN.

Elsewhere, under the Trump Administration, US drug policy has also taken a dramatic shift towards highly repressive drug control, both [domestically](#) and abroad. Within the USA, the focus on combatting drugs has resulted in a renewed ‘drug-free America’ paradigm, sweeping cuts to drug services, and increased budgets for drug law enforcement. Abroad, the US has revamped the ‘narcoterrorism’ narrative to justify extreme violence, including extrajudicial killings through a series of military strikes on boats suspected of drug trafficking in the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean. These strikes have so far [claimed over 220 lives](#). Combatting narcoterrorism was also the main justification for the arrest of former Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in January 2026.

In response, the IDPC network once again coordinated to denounce these blatant violations of human rights and international law, including at the CND and Human Rights Council, through blog posts and joint letters led by various members of the network, and through engagement with the UN human rights system. The role



UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights, Prof. Ben Saul, speaking at CND side event, March 2026. Credit: Marie Nougier, IDPC

of the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights was particularly welcome, including at the 69th session of the CND, where it delivered [powerful statements](#) condemning the US actions.

Problematically, the US push for more punitive drug control and their harmful ‘narcoterrorism’ narrative is encouraging other countries to follow suit – with countries like Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru having labelled various criminal factions and gangs as ‘narcoterrorist organisations’.

IDPC will continue to mobilise, support our local members and partners whenever needed, raise awareness of the harms of punitive drug control, and leverage key UN mechanisms to condemn and put heightened pressure on governments moving towards this worrying direction.

Advancing human rights and harm reduction in repressive ASEAN

In Southeast Asia, some countries have taken steps towards reform in the positive direction of human rights and harm reduction. However, drug consumption and the possession of any quantity of drugs remains a criminal offence in all countries (except for Myanmar where consumption is not a crime), resulting in widespread rights violations, inadequate access to and availability of quality healthcare, and entrenched stigma against people who use drugs. This is compounded by the historical exclusion of impacted communities and civil society from drug policy processes, amidst burgeoning regional authoritarianism and shrinking civic space.

Coordinated by IDPC’s staff in Thailand, the [REFORM project](#) funded by the Elton John AIDS Foundation supported advocacy efforts to increase legal and media engagement and strengthen policy advocacy for decriminalisation and harm reduction at national level, with a priority focus on Indonesia and Thailand, where the project leads were LBHM – Community Legal Aid Institute (Indonesia), AKSI Indonesia, the Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (Thailand), the Foundation for Action on Inclusion Rights (Thailand) and Health Opportunity Network (Thailand).

IDPC led on regional advocacy, as well as specific activities aimed at supporting advocacy efforts in Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines, through a Legal Fellowship Programme and regional training workshops aimed at emerging advocates in the legal and media sectors. Together with country-specific actions in Thailand and Indonesia, these activities culminated in a regional dialogue that aimed to shape the development of the new ASEAN Work Plan on drug-related matters. Alongside project partners, IDPC organised a regional dialogue on the ASEAN Work Plan on Drugs in Manila, Philippines, in July 2025. The event brought together community, civil society and government representatives to reflect on the current Work Plan’s implementation, discuss policy gaps, and identify priorities beyond 2025. The outcomes of the discussion directly informed our [joint civil society submission](#) to the ASEAN Work Plan review process.

In addition to efforts to engage policy-makers and people from the legal and media sectors, IDPC also sought to engage human rights actors across the region. With support from the Malaysian Commissioner, IDPC collaborated with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to convene its first-ever [regional training on human rights and health-based drug policies](#). This landmark event brought together key human rights bodies in the region, including national representatives from drugs agencies, AICHR, national human rights institutions, and the OHCHR.

The training focused on examining the human rights impacts of current policies, and sought to facilitate a discussion on evidence-informed alternatives, particularly the abolition of the death penalty, and the implementation of harm reduction approaches. Key findings from the civil society submission were disseminated to inform the review of the Work Plan on Drugs ending in 2025, as well as feed into the development of the new Work Plan, led by the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD). The AICHR subsequently issued a [statement](#) recommending the mainstreaming of human rights into regional drug cooperation, calling for non-discriminatory, person-centred, and health-based approaches.

IDPC, together with members and allies, will continue pushing into these closed-door spaces, calling for ASEAN to uphold drug policies grounded in human rights and harm reduction.



Credit: AICHR Malaysia

Our Publications

Between April 2025 and March 2026, IDPC launched the following publications:



When ‘narcoterrorism’ justifies abuse – Civil society submission to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

IDPC, Elementa DDHH and CELS call on the UN to challenge “narcoterrorism” narratives and uphold human rights in drug control.



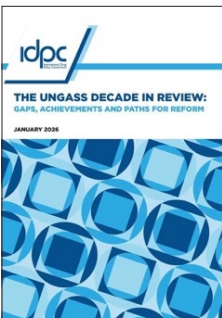
10th Brandenburg Forum on Drugs and Development Policies report - ‘From Crisis to Coherence: Next Steps in Aligning Drug Policy with Development, Human Rights and the UN Reform’

This report summarises major topics from the meeting, such as the current geopolitical climate and the importance of rights-based policy for vulnerable communities.



The Human Rights Council asserts its role in drug policy

This Resolution 60/26 is a landmark affirmation of the Council’s authority to address the human rights implications of drug policy.



The UNGASS decade in review: Gaps, achievements and paths for reform

IDPC assesses the state of play in global drug policy, reflecting on areas of progress while highlighting new and ongoing challenges, and concluding with recommendations for the future of drug policy.



New challenges inspire creative solutions: Support. Don't Punish Global Day of Action 2025

Support. Don't Punish campaigners spearheaded new advocacy tactics and alliances to advance rights-based drug policy reform across the world.



IDPC Progress Report 2024-2025

IDPC reflects on a year of resilience and change, driving decriminalisation, harm reduction, responsible regulation, and international drug policy reform while defending civil society space.



Safeguarding rights in EU drug policy - Contribution to the European Commission's call for evidence on the EU drugs strategy and action plan against drug trafficking

IDPC calls on the European Commission to ensure the next Drug Strategy is balanced, evidence-based, and rights-centred, prioritising harm reduction, civil society participation, and policy innovation over criminalisation and punishment.



Guaranteeing the rights of young people and substance use in contexts of armed conflict in the Colombian Amazon - Submission to the UN CESCR on Colombia

IDPC and A la Orilla del Río highlight how prohibitionism continues to shape the lives of young people in the Colombian Amazon, where gaps between policy and practice perpetuate stigmatisation and exclusion.



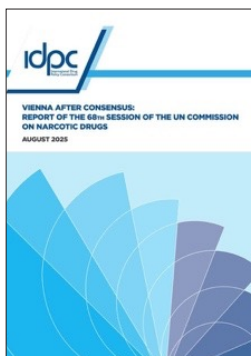
30 recommendations from civil society for an EU Drugs Strategy that is effective, inclusive and grounded in reality

The CSFD calls for an EU Drugs Strategy that puts health, human rights and equity at its core – moving from political statements to real action, with civil society as a full partner.



Civil society perspectives on the ASEAN Work Plan on Drugs 2016-2025 - Submission to ASEAN review process

Civil society exposes punitive harms and rights violations, while urging a shift towards health, harm reduction, decriminalisation, justice reform, and sustainable livelihoods.



Vienna after consensus: Report of the 68th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

In this edition of our CND proceedings reports, IDPC highlights the creation of an independent review and deepening divides on harm reduction, human rights, and Indigenous rights.



Comparing drug policies: An assessment of the validity and reliability of the global drug policy index

Bewley-Taylor et al. find the Index to be a useful for comparing international drug policy, and suggest improvements to better handle uncertainty and diversity of data.



5th Brandenburg Forum in Geneva: Expanding the conversation on the human rights implications of drug policy

The Forum called for periodic HRC resolutions, stronger UN coordination, an operational expert panel, and sustained harm reduction funding, highlighting Indigenous rights, decriminalisation, and civil society engagement as critical.



Triggering injustice: State violence in the name of drug control — IDPC joint submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on summary, extrajudicial or arbitrary executions

IDPC and fellow NGOs expose how militarised drug policies fuel extrajudicial killings and systemic abuse, urging urgent global reforms to uphold human rights and end impunity.



Repairing the “machinery”: Recommendations and expectations for the independent review of international drug policy commitments

IDPC lays out key considerations and aspirations for the independent panel established by the CND to review the UN drug control system.



Harm reduction works! A call to invest in a European health-based drug policy

The drafting of a new EU Drug Strategy offers an opportunity to remediate the lack of adequate support for harm reduction services and promote health outcomes and rights.

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Smriti Rana



Ernestien Jensema



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¹As of August 2026

²As of August 2026

The IDPC Team³

After nearly 18 years with IDPC, including 15 as Executive Director, Ann Fordham **stepped down** in July 2026. We extend a huge thank you to Ann for her **leadership**, vision, passion and tireless commitment to the drug policy reform movement. She has been a source of inspiration and a mentor for many of us within the team and across the movement and we wish her all the best for the next phase in her career.

On 1 August 2026, Jamie Bridge, who joined IDPC 13 years ago, became IDPC's new Executive Director, with Marie Nougier being appointed as Deputy Director – we are all excited about this new chapter for IDPC!

We would like to extend our deep thanks to:

- Adrià Cots Fernandez for drafting this year's CND proceedings report

- Mahika Varma, Amy Shin, Deb Zhang and Gwen Griffith for collating new data for the Global Drug Policy Index
- Our designer, Rudy Tun-Sánchez, for making our publications engaging and beautiful
- Our translators, Jean Croisier and Kique Bossio, who provided timely and essential translations in French and Spanish for our publications, website and Monthly Alert
- Leonardo Fiorentini for translating and disseminating key IDPC news on the Forum Droghe website in Italian
- Our passionate volunteers, Lauren Borders, Isabella Facchinelli and Danielle Gottlieb, whose work was critical to the smooth running of the IDPC Secretariat
- ... and to many others who have supported our work between April 2025 and March 2026.

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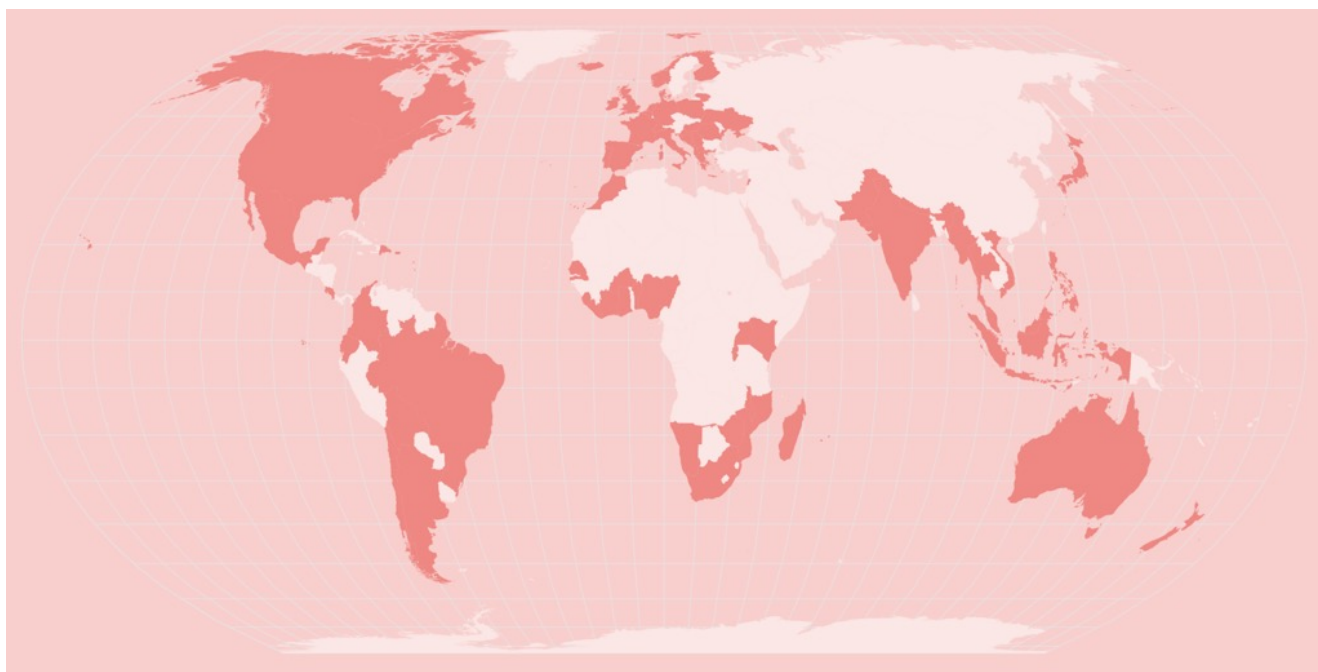
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- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Our members:

The IDPC network includes 203 organisations from 72 countries across all regions of the world. For more information about our wonderful member organisations, [visit our website!](#)



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The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs that come together to promote drug policies that advance social justice and human rights. IDPC's mission is to amplify and strengthen a diverse global movement to repair the harms caused by punitive drug policies, and to promote just responses.

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