

UISCE submission for the Citizens Assembly on Drug Use

Recommendations:

1. Peer participation and community engagement with people who use drugs
2. Decriminalisation of people who use drugs
3. Low threshold continuum of care for substance use disorders
4. Advancing drug checking interventions
5. Expansion of naloxone distribution
6. Implementation of safe consumption spaces
7. Address the social determinants of health to promote broader well-being

For more information go to: www.myuisce.org

Benefits of Decriminalisation

Decriminalising drug possession and investing in treatment and harm reduction services can provide major benefits for public safety and health, including;

- Reducing the number of people arrested
- Reducing the number of people incarcerated
- Increasing uptake into drug treatment
- Reducing criminal justice costs and redirecting resources from criminal justice to health systems
- Redirecting law enforcement resources to prevent serious and violent crime.

UISCE
8 Cabra Road, Dublin 7
D07 T1W2

Talk To Us: 01 555 4693

info@myuisce.org

myuisce.org

UISCE

Advocacy for People who use Drugs



www.supportdontpunish.org

Our Vision

That People Who Use Drugs are treated equally in society, with dignity and respect, and that they participate fully and have their voices in all areas where decisions affecting their lives are made.

"In essence, harm reduction is radical empathy. The basic idea is that regardless of whether people continue to use illegal drugs or engage in other problematic behaviours, their lives have value. While that may seem obvious and even banal, the reality of our drug laws is that the moral crusade against substances has repeatedly taken priority over protecting life and health."

– Maria Szalavitz.

Human Rights Watch:

"Drug control policies that impose criminal penalties for personal drug use undermine basic human right... Subjecting people to criminal sanctions for the personal use of drugs, or for possession of drugs for personal use, infringes on their autonomy and right to privacy... The criminalisation of drug use has undermined the right to health... Governments should rely instead on non-penal regulatory and public health policies."

What are Human Rights?

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that all people should enjoy; including People Who Use Drugs who may or may not access services. Human rights are about people being treated with fairness, respect, equality, and dignity; and ensuring they have a say in what goes on in their life and play a leading role in decision making when it comes to their care and support.

Do People Who Use Drugs have Human Rights?

We all have human rights, regardless of whether we use drugs or not. However, sometimes we can be denied our human rights due to stigma, and discrimination.

Why are Human Rights important for People Who Use Drugs?

As a group, People Who Use Drugs face discrimination and stigma on a daily basis. This can lead to people being dehumanized, not having access to services, and an increase in people dying. It is recognized that if services, organizations, and policies focus on a human rights-based approach it will lead to better outcomes for People Who Use Drugs, their families, services, and our communities.

Let's reform drug laws to promote...

#humanrights

#harmreduction

#supportdon'tpunish

Stand up with 1000's of people worldwide to support...

#humanrights

#harmreduction

I'm standing up for...

#health

#humanrights

#harmreduction

#supportdon'tpunish