

A call to redirect resources from the war on drugs to harm reduction

**10%
BY
20**



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:



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 many countries do not provide harm reduction, and global funding for it amounts to just \$160 million – only 7% of what is required.

The war on drugs

At a major UN meeting on drugs in 1998, global leaders pledged to achieve "a drug free world". Targets such as this have driven a global war on drugs.

- 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

The war on drugs hits those who are already poor and marginalised hardest but has little effect on demand for drugs or on those who profit from the drug trade.

10 by 20

**\$100
BILLION**

Each year governments spend over \$100 billion waging the war on drugs.

We're campaigning to redirect just a tenth of this money to harm reduction – **10 per cent by 2020.**

**This
10%
could...**

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

Fill the gap in HIV and Hepatitis C prevention for people who use drugs twice over.

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

UNGASS 2016

The 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) presents a major opportunity to secure a global target of 10% by 2020.

Many countries are already changing their domestic policies, moving away from suppression and criminalisation towards approaches which save lives and promote development and human rights.

A growing number have also signalled that they want a change in global direction, starting with the UNGASS.



Call to action

As 2016 approaches, Harm Reduction International is calling on governments to:

Make health and harm reduction a central pillar in the UNGASS negotiations, recognising that harm reduction saves lives

Champion a global target of 10 by 20 at the UNGASS

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.

**10%
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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.

