

Annual Report

14



We value **health.**

We value **human rights.**

We value **harm reduction.**



Our work

Our vision is a world in which individuals and communities benefit from drug laws, policies and practices that promote health, dignity and human rights. We work to reduce drug related harms by promoting evidence-based public health policy and practices and human rights-based approaches to drug policy through an integrated programme of research, analysis, advocacy and civil society strengthening.

EVIDENCE FOR ADVOCACY

Monitoring harm reduction around the world▶ **Pgs 3-6**

SPENDING WHERE IT MATTERS

Working towards a re-investment in health▶ **Pgs 7-10**

HUMAN RIGHTS

Challenging laws, policies and practices that generate harm▶ **Pgs 11-14**

SECTOR STRENGTHENING

Strengthening the international harm reduction sector▶ **Pgs 15-20**

Welcome

For almost 20 years, Harm Reduction International has been a leader in promoting the harm reduction approach to drug use and policy around the world. Begun initially as a forum for organising the annual International Harm Reduction Conferences in the early 1990s, our organisation has expanded within the past ten years to become an influential expert source of research and policy analysis on harm reduction and human rights issues, and on advocating for change alongside our regional and global partners. Our vision is a world in which individuals and communities benefit from drug laws, policies and practices that promote health, dignity and human rights. Over the past year, our work has played an influential role in helping to build that vision, and advancing our core strategic objectives.

In 2014, we published the fourth edition of the Global State of Harm Reduction report, the only independent, civil society-led project monitoring global responses to HIV and hepatitis C epidemics among people who inject drugs. We also released ground-breaking research on the global funding crisis for harm reduction, on injecting drug use among people under age 18 and on sex work and harm reduction.

All of these publications reflect our strategic approach of generating evidence for advocacy. Each was produced in collaboration with key partner organisations and experts, and is intended to support evidence-informed initiatives to promote health and human rights-based approaches to drug policy, and increased investment in life-saving harm reduction programmes.



One example of this is our new 10 by 20 campaign. Designed during 2014 in consultation with our global and regional partners, it calls on governments to redirect 10% of the resources that they currently spend on the war on drugs into harm reduction services. The 10 by 20 campaign will be a central theme of our collective advocacy as we head towards a UN General Assembly Special Session on drugs in April 2016.


In 2014, we collaborated with the European Harm Reduction Network and the Swiss Government to stage an incredibly successful regional conference in Basel. Following the popularity and impact of our 2013 international conference in Vilnius, we were also pleased to announce a partnership with the Malaysian AIDS Council to hold the 2015 international event in Kuala Lumpur.

In addition to our programmatic activities, HRI has worked to build our internal strength and capacity. In 2014, we developed relationships with new donors, enhanced relationships with existing donors, expanded our staff team, recruited new Board members and approved an ambitious three-year strategic plan.

None of the activities reflected in this report would have been possible without the support and collaboration of our many allies and partners across the globe. Nor would they have been possible without the trust and support of the donors who contribute to keeping our organisation afloat. To all of them we offer our sincere thanks and respect.

John-Peter Kools
Chair

Rick Lines
Executive Director



THE GLOBAL STATE OF HARM REDUCTION 2014

EVIDENCE FOR ADVOCACY

Monitoring harm reduction around the world

“ In 2014 our flagship publication The Global State of Harm Reduction set the agenda for discussions surrounding harm reduction, drugs and public health ”

EVIDENCE FOR ADVOCACY

Monitoring harm reduction around the world

In 2014, the fourth edition of our flagship publication, The Global State of Harm Reduction, established the baseline data for discussions surrounding harm reduction, drugs and public health at national, regional and international levels. Through the Global State of Harm Reduction and our other research and monitoring activities, we continue to be a leading international source of research.

Our research has been used in a multitude of ways. It has informed advocacy and policy at the community level, and encouraged and informed change in international bodies such as the United Nations and the Global Fund. Our research and evidence is used primarily to:

- Monitor national and international developments in harm reduction policy, programming and funding
- Document developments in civil society activism at national and regional levels
- Track and publicise national and multilateral political commitments to harm reduction
- Identify gaps in the harm reduction response



Harm Reduction International's Global State report draws on expertise from practitioners, researchers and advocates to create a comprehensive global snapshot of the sector.

As the only report providing an independent analysis of harm reduction across the world, the Global State is the go-to source on international developments for researchers and advocates in our sector and beyond. This year's report shows that whilst harm reduction is receiving greater symbolic support than ever before, many funding avenues previously accessible to harm reduction organisations and service providers are now closed. The information within the report is easily accessible as it is stored and regularly updated on an easy-to-use and interactive e-tool on our website.

The Global State report is supplemented by regular thematic reports and advisories on key issues and emerging challenges. This year we published a report entitled Injecting Drug Use in Under 18s. The report found that young people who inject drugs are ill-informed about the risks, less likely to access treatment and have 'specific developmental, social and environmental vulnerabilities'. Harm Reduction International is in the process of developing a set of key recommendations to improve health outcomes for this group, including removing legal age restrictions to healthcare, and developing more age-appropriate services. Injecting drug use among this population remains a global data 'blind spot', and the data HRI gathered is the first of its kind on an international scale. It is hoped that it will provide the evidence-base for change and progress for this particularly vulnerable population group.

Harm Reduction International's unique ability to apply international human rights law and cutting edge research and evidence to drug laws, policies and practices was called upon regularly throughout the year. HRI continued our partnership with Reprieve, an organisation working on behalf of people facing the death penalty, issuing joint statements and advising media organisations reporting on the death penalty for drug offences. Statements published in collaboration with Reprieve were cited by news organisations such as Al-Jazeera and The Guardian, highlighting the fact that donor countries continue to support drug programming that lead to abuses of human rights.

At Harm Reduction International, we are privileged to collaborate with a global network of researchers, practitioners, people who use drugs and policy experts. By drawing from these extensive networks, we can monitor, challenge, research and describe the state of the harm reduction sector in a way that no other organisation can. By commissioning challenging research and pushing for evidence-based policy guidance, Harm Reduction International offers credible and compelling alternatives to status quo drug and health policies and practices.

Infographic from Global State of Harm Reduction 2014 illustrating the slow progress of harm reduction scale up around the world





SPENDING WHERE IT MATTERS

Working towards a re-investment in health

“ Our 10 by 20 campaign calls on governments to redirect a tenth of the resources that they currently spend on drug enforcement to harm reduction - 10 percent by 2020. This minor shift in priorities would fully fund the global harm reduction response - twice over ”

SPENDING WHERE IT MATTERS

Working towards a re-investment in health

Harm reduction is about keeping people who use drugs, their families and communities safe and healthy. It is about saving lives - and it works. But it is grossly underfunded.

At Harm Reduction International, we advocate for a re-investment in health. Every year billions of dollars are spent on ineffective and often abusive drug enforcement programmes. By reallocating only a portion of such funding towards effective, health and evidence-based drug policies and harm reduction services, governments could save money and increase the wellbeing of their populations.

In 2014, Harm Reduction International led a number of campaigns, advocacy efforts and research papers critiquing the ways in which money allocated to drugs is spent.

Harm Reduction International's 10 by 20 campaign calls on governments to redirect a tenth of the resources that they currently spend on drug enforcement to harm reduction - 10 per cent by 2020. Even this minor shift in priorities would fully fund the global harm reduction response twice over.

HRI research for the 10 by 20 campaign found that reallocating ten cents in every dollar spent on drug enforcement could:

- Cover annual HIV and Hepatitis C prevention needs for people who inject drugs globally, twice over
- Supply naloxone to all those who need it, saving thousands of lives every year
- Strengthen networks of people who use drugs to provide peer services and campaign for their rights



As well as calling for a re-allocation of funding, HRI co-authored a report with the International Drug Policy Consortium and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance that highlights the urgent need for a re-investment in harm reduction spending. Entitled *The Funding Crisis in Harm Reduction*, the report paints a worrying picture.

Research shows that donors are deserting harm reduction funding obligations at an alarming rate, and that harm reduction programmes around the world will be threatened if drastic action is not taken. At an event in collaboration with Eurasian Harm Reduction Network held during a major UNAIDS meeting in Geneva, Harm Reduction International presented the findings to UNODC and UN representatives from around the world.

Harm Reduction International works to keep our issues on the agendas of influential international governmental groups and bodies, and regularly contributes to high-level meetings regarding global health spending. Without committed advocacy and research at the highest level, many grassroots harm reduction organisations and critical services around the world face an uphill battle for survival. In recognition of our unique policy and human rights expertise, Harm Reduction International is represented on many key high-level working groups and international panels.

- Executive Director, Rick Lines, sits on the Strategic Advisory Group to the United Nations on HIV and Drug Use and the Human Rights Reference Group of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- Deputy Director, Maria Phelan, is a member of the core group of the EU Civil Society Forum
- Harm Reduction International is also a member of the Global Fund's Harm Reduction Working Group, the EU Civil Society Forum on HIV and is regularly called upon by global media conglomerates to comment on issues affecting drugs, HIV and human rights.

One of our key priorities this year has been to call attention to the impending crisis for harm reduction funding, and show how the world could look if we re-invested just a fraction of the money spent on drug enforcement into public health and treatment. At Harm Reduction International the answer is clear. We don't need more money. We need better spending, where it matters most.



Infographic from Harm Reduction International's 10 by 20 campaign. The campaign calls for an increase in harm reduction funding to just one tenth of that spent on drug enforcement by year 2020



HUMAN RIGHTS

Challenging laws, policies and practices that generate harm

“ HRI led a number of initiatives aimed at better understanding how harm reduction practices could protect the human rights of marginalised populations ”

HUMAN RIGHTS

Challenging laws, policies and practices that generate harm

Drug-related health harms cannot be addressed without tackling human rights abuses resulting from drug control.

At Harm Reduction International we promote the full realisation of the human rights of people who use drugs, and our vision of a human rights-based approach to drug policy is based on ethical, legal and public health grounds.

Throughout 2014, Harm Reduction International played a key role in the many debates surrounding human rights and drugs. As a leading source of expertise, HRI was regularly called upon by multilateral bodies, fellow third sector organisations and the international media to advise and strategise on promoting the human rights of people who use drugs.

Harm Reduction International advocates for greater human rights scrutiny of internationally-funded drug enforcement programmes.

In the face of mounting evidence linking UN-sponsored drug enforcement programmes to human rights abuses, HRI initiated and co-ordinated a joint letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon highlighting the use of international donor money to support abusive drug enforcement programmes, particularly in countries with the death penalty for drug offences. This action, one of many on which HRI led or participated, helped to secure UNODC and European Commission guidance against such funding, and to key donor States pulling funding from a drug enforcement programme in Iran.

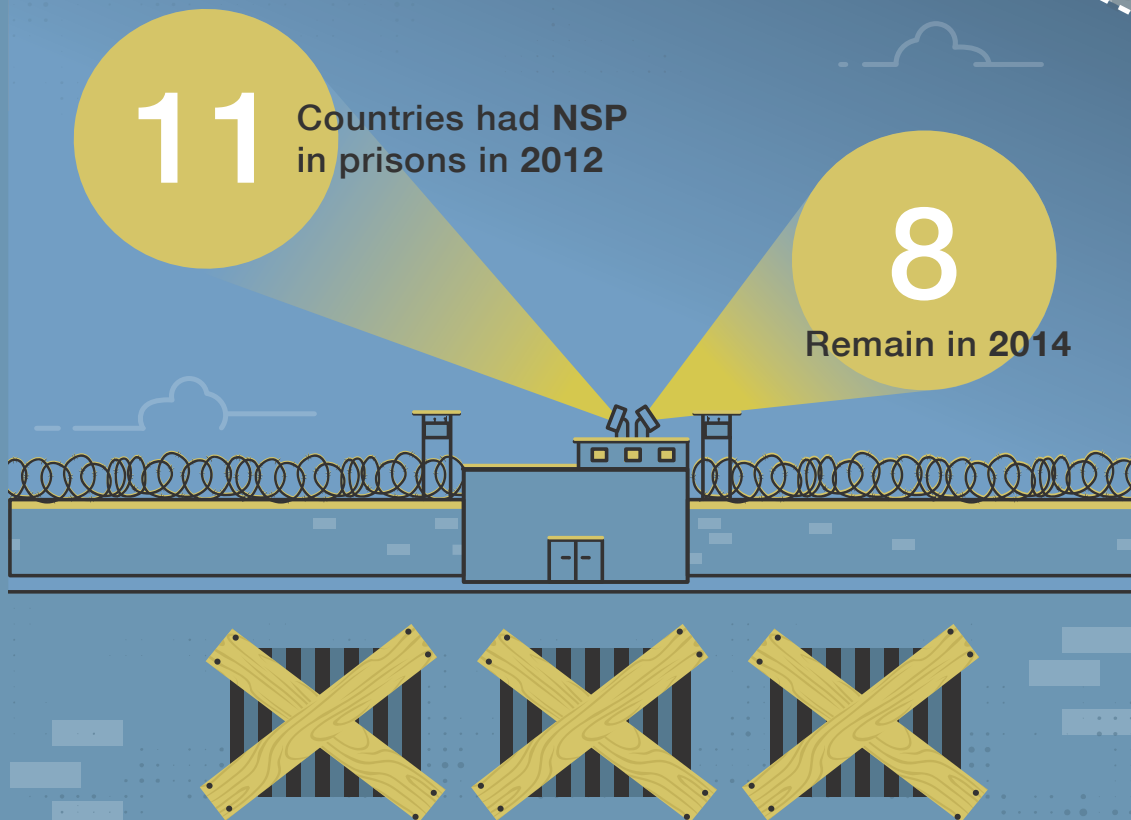


As well as advocating on a public level, HRI led a number of initiatives aimed at better understanding how harm reduction practices could protect the human rights of marginalised populations.

HRI began work on an EU-funded project called Improving Prison Conditions by Strengthening Infectious Disease Monitoring. This seven-country project aims to address an important gap in prison monitoring practices, with the objective of reducing ill treatment of persons in detention resulting from poor health care. By mapping infectious disease and monitoring practices for prisoners' health and human rights, HRI hopes to shine a light on the potential for improvement in this area, and to create a tool for existing prison monitoring bodies to effectively work on infectious disease and harm reduction issues. In addition to raising awareness and informing policy improvements, results from the mapping exercise will be used to develop a user-friendly tool to generate better informed, more consistent and well-sustained monitoring of infectious diseases in prison populations.

HRI's work in 2014 fostered the improved transparency of drug-related funding and increased awareness of human rights abuses being perpetrated in the name of drug control. A human rights-based approach is essential for evidence-based public health interventions to be effective. The international community's recognition of HRI's work in this area is testament to this.

NSP IN PRISONS: SOUND THE ALARM





SECTOR STRENGTHENING

Strengthening the international harm reduction sector

“As well as convening the International Harm Reduction Conference every two years, HRI builds advocacy coalitions to influence key decision makers, and supports emerging networks to ensure the continued success of many important grassroots harm reduction groups”

SECTOR STRENGTHENING

Strengthening the international harm reduction sector

Harm reduction has always been a grassroots and civil society-driven movement. A strong and active harm reduction sector, including strong organisations and networks of people who use drugs, is essential for achieving our vision of a world where individuals and their families benefit from drugs laws, policies and practices that promote health, dignity and human rights.

At Harm Reduction International we believe that meaningful civil society engagement is vital for transparency, accountability, and sound policy-making. We advocate for the full participation of people who use drugs and other key affected communities in policy-making, programme design and implementation.

As well as convening the International Harm Reduction Conference every two years, HRI is actively involved in building advocacy coalitions to influence key decision makers, and supporting emerging networks to ensure the continued success of many important grassroots harm reduction groups.

In 2014, Harm Reduction International organised key events, took part in important regional and international discussions and supported the creation of new harm reduction partnerships.



Members of the European Harm Reduction Network discuss region-specific harm reduction issues at the European Harm Reduction Network Conference in Amsterdam

The 2nd European Harm Reduction Conference, held in Basel, Switzerland, brought together harm reductionists and people who use drugs from across the continent to network, discuss and work towards our shared priorities.

Sponsored by the Government of Switzerland and facilitated by Harm Reduction International, the event included presentations on everything from safe ketamine use to the community-building capacity of drug consumption rooms. The final day of the event saw delegates split into sub-regional groups to discuss the issues most pertinent to each location.



The event acted as an engine room for knowledge sharing, networking and future planning, for people working in harm reduction on the ground and those working as harm reduction advocates.

Harm Reduction International partners with innovative harm reduction programmes around the world. By offering human rights expertise, and support for research and advocacy, HRI plays an active role in the continued development of a networked, unified harm reduction sector. One such programme in 2014 was Asia Action - a multi-organisational initiative set up to track national responses to harm reduction efforts in six Asian countries. As well as conducting research to inform advocacy for increased funding, HRI collected data to develop a report synthesising community-based treatment experiences as an alternative to compulsory detention across the region. This report will be used as an advocacy tool across the region and internationally to promote human rights and best practice.



HRI Deputy Director Maria Phelan welcomes delegates to Amsterdam at the EuroHRN Conference

We believe in the importance of effective collective advocacy in the process of creating change, and lead a number of coalitions and working groups to promote harm reduction policies and principles.



In 2014, HRI convened a harm reduction working group which developed a set of collective priorities and advocacy “asks” ahead of the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs. UNGASS 2016 presents a once in a generation opportunity to influence the direction of drug control efforts, and is a key moment for the harm reduction movement. Meetings and discussions held in Denver, Brussels, Bangkok and Amsterdam allowed the group to outline a strong set of priorities and clear strategy to achieve the desired outcomes at UNGASS 2016. We hope to see a strong, committed and coordinated network of harm reduction advocates present at UNGASS 2016, and will continue to convene and develop the collective capacity of the harm reduction sector moving forward.

The many diverse organisations and networks that make up the harm reduction sector are critical to its success. HRI plays a central role in strengthening the sector, helping to build effective and coordinated civil society partnerships, and facilitating collaboration around the world.

Statement of Financial Position

BALANCE SHEET £
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2013 2013

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	488 380.00
Amounts receivable	11 968.00

FIXED ASSETS	2 605.00
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502 953.00

CREDITORS	(293 057)
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NET ASSETS	209 896.00
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CHARITY FUNDS

Restricted Funds	113 494.00
Unrestricted Funds	96 402.00

209 896.00

Statement of Operations

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

£
2013

REVENUE

Grants	631 872.00
Conferences	475 808.00
Voluntary Income	17 682.00
Investment Income	86.00

1125 448.00

EXPENSES

Personnel	315 115.00
Project Costs	207 861.00
Consultancy	122 295.00
Other Staff Support Costs	111 803.00
Conference Expenses	75 299.00
Travel	62 464.00
Rent and maintenance	38 550.00
Printing, Postage & Stationery	32 116.00
Advertising & Promotion	28 506.00

Professional fees	19 094.00
Office Expenses	11 090.00
IT and Website	10 609.00
Meeting Expenses	10 453.00
Communications	8 901.00
Bank Charges	6 268.00
Insurance	3 669.00
Subscriptions	3 446.00
Depreciation	2 737.00
Recruitment & Training	495.00

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

1070 771.00

NET INCOME

546 770.00

Total Funds as at 1 Jan 2013

1552 19.00

Total Funds as at 31 Dec 2013

209 896.00

Board

John-Peter Kools (Netherlands) - *Chair*

Ratri Pearman (Indonesia) - *Vice Chair*

John Ryan (Australia) - *Treasurer*

Jamie Bridge (UK) - *Secretary*

Patricia Haddad (Lebanon)

Susan Masanja (Tanzania)

Susie McLean (UK)

Pat O'Hare (UK)

Ivan Varentsov (Russia)

Staff

Rick Lines, *Executive Director**

Maria Phelan, *Deputy Director**

Sarah Lowther, *Finance Manager**

Cinzia Brentari, *Project Manager*

Catherine Cook, *Senior Analyst: Public Health, Research and Policy*

Pippa Gray, *Operations Manager*

Nigel Kay, *Conference Manager*

Fionnuala Murphy, *Campaigns and Advocacy Manager*

Genevieve Sander, *Human Rights Research Analyst*

Claudia Stoicescu, *Public Health Analyst*

Katie Stone, *Research Analyst*

Megan Warrington, *Conference Assistant*

**Management Team*

HRI is supported by

Open Society Foundations

European Commission

Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund

MAC AIDS Fund

Elton John AIDS Foundation

International HIV/AIDS Alliance

UNAIDS

UN Office on Drugs and Crime

AMFAR

World Bank

World Health Organization

Ministry of Health, Government of Switzerland



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Unit 2C09 Southbank Technopark
90 London Road, London, SE1 6LN

WWW.IHRA.NET