

# Updates on UNGASS on Drugs

Maria Phelan

Harm Reduction International  
European Harm Reduction Network  
CSF on Drugs

# UNGASS 2016

During the 1998 UNGASS – Member States agreed to a decade entitled: “A drug free world by 2008 – we can do it!”

UNGASS scheduled for 2019 but brought forward to 2016 due to urgency

# Timeline: UNGASS

- UNGASS outcome document – EU consolidated position finalised by **Oct**
- EU consolidated position presented at reconvened **CND December** UNGASS segment
- Human rights council session on drugs – **September**
- UNAIDS PCB **October**
- **UNGASS April 2016**

# EU position so far....

- Strong on
  - Human rights – especially the abolition of the death penalty for drugs
  - Risk and harm reduction
  - NPS

Weak on

- Regulation/decriminalization
- Treaty reform

# Civil Society Task Force: EU and Thematic Reps

Name	Organization	Constituency
Ann Fordham	International Drug Policy Consortium	Western Europe
Fay Watson	EURAD	Western Europe
Dasha Ocheret	Eurasian Harm Reduction Network	Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Ahmet Olas	Turkish Green Crescent	Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Holly Bradford	INPUD	Global voice: people who use drugs
Rick Lines	HRI	Global voice: harm reduction

# Timeline: Civil Society Task Force

- CSTF questionnaire – deadline **31<sup>st</sup> July**
- Civil society outcome document
- Civil society hearing – hopefully 3 months ahead of UNGASS in NY

# 10by20 campaign



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

**\$100  
BILLION**

Annual government spending on drug control.

Within the EU:

**EUR 5.9 billion** on  
imprisoning people for  
drug related offenses



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



**This**

**10%**

**could...**

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

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.

# Potential activities for CSF HIV

- Join VNGOC and NYNGOC
- Fill out questionnaire for CSTF
- Joint CSF position statement that could be sent to
  - HDG on drugs
  - Commissioner at DG Home

# Websites and links

- <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/ccsa-cclat/vngoc-questionnaire-2015/>
- <http://nyngoc.org/>
- <http://www.vngoc.org/>
- <https://www.unodc.org/ungass2016/>