

#PWUDCOUNT

campaign

On the occasion of the **Human Rights Day** (December 10th), organization “**Diogenis – Drug Policy Dialogue**”, concludes its awareness campaign entitled “Persons Who Use Drugs Count”. This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN General Assembly in 1948.

Worldwide, we have seen large-scale abuses of international human rights in the name of the drug control system. During the last decades, repressive policies – particularly focused in law enforcement – have been the main strategy of addressing the drug phenomenon. This approach is clearly in total contradiction with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948. Among others, the right to life, the right to health, the right to be free from discrimination, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to due process and a fair trial are violated on a regular basis against a particularly vulnerable and marginalized population, that of people who use drugs.

A promising development, though, has started to gain ground and recognition. An increasing number of countries highlights the need to shift from repressive to human rights’ and public health oriented drug policy. During UNGASS 2016, it was stressed that international and national policies should focus on people and legislative changes, ensuring safety, protection, public health, respect for human rights and the fundamental principles of freedom for every human being without discrimination.

The “Persons Who Use Drugs Count” campaign, is calling for a drug policy focused on human rights, where the epicenter is the human being and its fundamental needs, ensuring that “*no one is left behind*”¹.

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¹ UNDP – 2030 AGENDA <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind-.html>