

Press Release

Athens, December 9, 2016

A call for Human Rights' oriented drug policy: what would YOU change?

On the occasion of International Human Right's Day, celebrated each year on December 10th, Civil Society organizations from South East Europe, make a call for change towards human rights' oriented drug policy.

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 people should be at the focus of international and national policies and the importance of legislative changes ensuring safety, protection, public health, respect for human rights and the fundamental principles of freedom for every human being without discrimination was underlined.

In line and completely engaged to this humane approach, Civil Society Organizations from the South East European region, unite their voices in a video and propose changes in the field of drug policy.

The video was produced by NGO "DIOGENIS Drug Policy Dialogue" in the context of the Regional conference entitled 'Drug Policy after the UNGASS'.

The video is available at the follow link: https://youtu.be/IHmhsr_ORxl