



HARM REDUCTION
INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2015

We value **health**.

We value **human rights**.

We value **harm reduction**.

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Our work

Harm Reduction International is an international non-governmental organisation that works 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. Our vision is a world in which individuals and communities benefit from drug laws, policies and practices that promote health, dignity and human rights.

Introduction

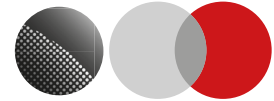
On behalf of the Board and staff of Harm Reduction International, we are pleased to welcome you to our annual report for 2015.

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. What started initially as a forum for organising the annual International Harm Reduction Conferences in the 1990s has grown in the past ten years to become one of the world's leading independent sources of research and policy analysis on harm reduction and human rights issues, and on advocating for policy change alongside our regional and global partners.

The past year saw many important achievements for us at HRI. However, the clear highlight was the success of our **24th International Conference** in Kuala Lumpur, staged in partnership with the Malaysian AIDS Council. For over two decades, the HRI conference has been the main international gathering of people and organisations working on harm

reduction. In Kuala Lumpur, we were pleased to welcome over 900 delegates from more than 70 countries, demonstrating once again the truly global nature of our movement, and the vibrancy and dedication of the broad harm reduction community. We look forward to celebrating the milestone of our 25th conference in Montreal in 2017.

2015 was also the year in which our **10 by 20 campaign** kicked into full gear. 10 by 20 is a coordinated advocacy platform to advance our broader work on increasing global funding for harm reduction, which is a key objective of our strategic plan. Created in consultation with our global and regional partners, it calls on governments to redirect 10% of the money currently spent on the 'war on drugs' into harm reduction services. The campaign was launched during the 2015 meeting of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and was a visible presence at every key global event during the year, including our conference. The campaign will continue to be a central theme of our collective advocacy as we head towards a UN General Assembly Special Session on drugs in April 2016.



Over the last year, HRI also maintained our reputation as a leading source of expert research to inform the harm reduction sector, and support broader advocacy campaigns. In 2015, we published the fourth edition of our **Global Overview on the Death Penalty for Drug Offences**, which tracks developments in law and practice worldwide. In addition, we produced major reports on issues including **harm reduction for amphetamines** and on **community-based alternatives to drug detention centres in Asia**. HRI also expanded our focus on harm reduction in prisons with the publication of two major pieces of work on improving **human rights standards in prisons in the context of drug use, HIV, TB and hepatitis C**.

In the area of governance, two major decisions were taken at our 2015 annual general meeting. The first was the approval of a new Articles of Association, transforming HRI from a membership model of governance into a foundation model. Future Board vacancies will now be filled via a recruitment process driven by the Board itself, rather than by nomination and election by members. The second was to legally change

our company name from International Harm Reduction Association to Harm Reduction International. Both of these changes were initiated at our 2014 AGM, and involved a year of consultation with members and work with our Board and legal advisors.

As is always the case, none of the work reflected in this report would have been possible without the support and collaboration of our many allies and partners across the globe. Nor would it have been possible without the trust and support of the many 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

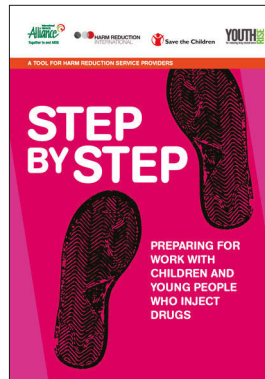
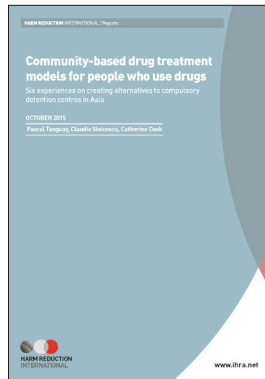
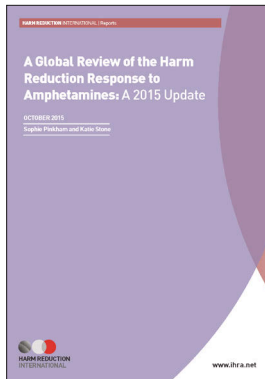
Evidence for Advocacy

Monitoring harm reduction around the world



“ The Global State of Harm Reduction has continued to act as the leading authority on harm reduction around the world. ”

In the year following the release of the 2014 Global State of Harm Reduction, this flagship publication has continued to be cited as the leading authority on harm reduction around the world. 2015 has also seen the launch of three interim reports that update, build upon and apply the 2014 data.



Key publications:

- A Global Review of the Harm Reduction Responses to Amphetamines: A 2015 Update
- Community based drug treatment models for people who use drugs: Six experiences on creating alternatives to compulsory detention centres in Asia
- Step by Step: Preparing for work with children and young people who inject drugs

Harm Reduction International works in cooperation with regional and national harm reduction networks, organisations of people who use drugs, researchers, policy experts and practitioners. These partnerships give us access to the very latest information, expertise and experiences from around the world that we use to build our evidence base. But more importantly, they mean that our evidence can be used for harm reduction advocacy wherever it is needed.

This year we have supplemented our biennial Global State of Harm Reduction Report with three interim reports.

Our **Global Review of the Harm Reduction Responses to Amphetamines: A 2015 Update** responded to the lack of literature focusing on the harm reduction response to the use of amphetamines. With the harms associated with

amphetamine use often greatly exaggerated, we identified the need to properly evaluate harm reduction programmes in this field, including documenting people's experiences of them. Our report began this process, identifying good practice from pioneering amphetamine harm reduction programmes that can be used to develop similar programmes in parts of the world where they are sorely lacking.

As governments in Asia are beginning to explore alternatives to the detention of people who use drugs for compulsory treatment and rehabilitation, our report **Community-based drug treatment models for people who use drugs** gives six examples of places where such alternatives have worked. These examples can be used to guide and support national transitions away from compulsory detention, and inform the development of plans for service delivery and policy reform.

The report follows the UN's calls to provide drug treatment in the community, and has already been favourably cited in a UNAIDS report.

Our 2014 research on injecting drug use in under-18s found that services are rarely developed with children in mind, and organisations often lack capacity and funding to attend to this highly vulnerable group. In response, in 2015 we produced the toolkit **Step by Step: Preparing for work with children and young people who inject drugs**. Developed in partnership with Youth RISE, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and Save the Children, it provides practical guidance for harm reduction service providers with limited experience of working with children and young people.



Spending Where It Matters

Working towards a re-investment in health



“ We now have the most unequivocal piece of evidence yet that the rebalancing of drug-related spending in favour of harm reduction would have a dramatic positive impact on the lives of people who inject drugs, and their families and communities.”

We know that harm reduction is the most effective - and cost effective - response to health-related and other harms associated with drug use. But compared to the money spent on punitive drug enforcement around the world each year, harm reduction continues to receive a pitiful amount of funding. This year, in the run-up to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs, we have strengthened our call for a redirection of funds from the ‘war on drugs’ into harm reduction, undertaking some ground-breaking statistical modelling to demonstrate the potential impact of such a shift.

Key activities:

- 10 by 20 campaign
- The Case for a Harm Reduction Decade: progress, potential and paradigm shifts



We officially launched our **10 by 20 campaign**, calling on governments to redirect 10% of their drug control resources to harm reduction by 2020, at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting in 2015. Since then we have consolidated our campaign with the efforts of other harm reduction organisations around the world to call for a Harm Reduction Decade, launched in a declaration made at our Kuala Lumpur conference in October (see pp. 20-21). In addition to the 10 by 20 call, the declaration asks governments to endorse and adopt harm reduction as a key principle of drug policy throughout the next decade of the global response to drug use, and to end the criminalisation of people who use drugs and the punitive legal frameworks that fuel HIV transmission, overdose, mass incarceration and human rights violations.

The call for a Harm Reduction Decade was amplified in the UK at an event in the Houses of Parliament, hosted jointly with STOPAIDS and Christian Aid, which called on the UK government to take a lead in promoting harm reduction at the upcoming UNGASS on drugs.

One significant bolster to this campaign is our report **The Case for a Harm Reduction Decade: progress, potential and paradigm shifts**. This is based on statistical modelling we commissioned from the Burnet Institute in Australia that shows the potential impact of different funding scenarios on the prevalence of HIV among people who inject drugs. It shows that if as little as 7.5% of global drug enforcement funding were to be redirected to scaling-up harm reduction by 2020, there would be 94% fewer new HIV infections among people who inject drugs by 2030, and 93% fewer HIV-related deaths. This is the most unequivocal piece of evidence yet that the rebalancing of drug-related spending in favour of harm reduction would have a dramatic positive impact on the lives of people who inject drugs, and their families and communities.

The 10 by 20 campaign and Harm Reduction Decade report have received coverage in a number of high profile publications, including the Lancet and the British Medical Journal. The principles and evidence they entail have been endorsed by the WHO, UNAIDS Asia Pacific office, and within UNODC's scientific statement for UNGASS.

We can end AIDS among people who inject drugs by 2030.

10%

shift in funds from
drug control to
harm reduction



94%

drop in new
HIV infections



It's time for a Harm Reduction Decade.

www.ihra.net/harm-reduction-decade

#10by20 #HarmReductionDecade



Human Rights

Challenging laws, policies and practices that generate harm



“ Harm Reduction International’s human rights-based work is both innovative and influential, providing high quality research, practical tools and effective advocacy for addressing drug-related human rights issues at an international level.”

People who use drugs do not forfeit their human rights simply because they use substances that are prohibited. Yet the harms that come in the form of human rights abuses resulting from drug control are often overlooked. Harm Reduction International works for the realisation of a world where drug policies promote, protect and fulfil the human rights of people who use drugs. Our work in this field this year has not only involved continuing to track the use of the death penalty for drug offences, but also developing practical tools for monitoring rights in prisons, and a set of rights-based indicators for evaluating the international drug control regime.



Key publications:

- The Death Penalty for Drug Offences: Global Overview 2015
- HIV, HCV, TB and Harm Reduction in Prisons (Report and Monitoring Tool)
- Realising Rights: Developing Human Rights-based Indicators for Drug Control

HRI was the first organisation to undertake focused research and advocacy on the issue of the death penalty for drugs, starting in 2007. Since that time, our work transformed the issue from a place of invisibility to a central concern in the global debate on drug policy reform. Our 2015 overview of **The Death Penalty for Drug Offences**, the fourth edition in this series, provides updated figures on the number of people executed for drug-related offences, and where these executions happen. It argues that the majority take place in a small number of countries, forming an extreme fringe of the global response to drugs. Importantly, this goes against the clear obligations set out in international law restricting any use of capital punishment to the “most serious crimes”. As well as receiving numerous citations of this report, including in official UN reports, HRI was proud to present a joint statement on the death penalty at the reconvened 58th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, co-signed by leading global human rights organisations including Amnesty International, Penal Reform International and the World

Coalition Against the Death Penalty. It called on UN Member States to abolish the death penalty for drug-related offences as a first step towards its full abolition, and to implement effective and evidence-based drugs policies that respect and protect human dignity, the rule of law and human rights.

HRI is the lead partner in a seven country EU-funded project called Improving Prison Conditions by Strengthening Infectious Disease Monitoring. The project seeks to mainstream attention to harm reduction within the working practices of national and regional prison monitoring bodies, to strengthen the ability of those bodies to promote access to harm reduction for persons in detention. As part of this project we released a report and monitoring tool on **HIV, HCV, TB and Harm Reduction in Prisons**. The report gives an overview of prisoners’ health rights in relation to HIV, HCV, TB and harm reduction, and identifies broader minimum standards and guidelines than are normally applied by human rights-based prison monitoring bodies. The **tool** provides these bodies

with a practical framework for monitoring adherence to these standards, with the intention of improving prisoners' health, treatment and conditions, and the enjoyment of their human rights.

At a more general level, our briefing **Realising Rights: Developing Human Rights-based Indicators for Drug Control**, presented to UN Member States at a UN University event, makes the case for developing drug policy indicators relating to specific human rights. Former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Paul Hunt, described the current international drug control regime as having developed in a "parallel universe" to the UN human rights regime. This briefing shows why and how the gap between these universes can be bridged, to ensure that drug policy works to promote the health and welfare of humankind by respecting, protecting and fulfilling international human rights obligations.



Sector Strengthening

Strengthening the international harm reduction sector



“ A strong, effective civil society sector is essential for achieving a world where people benefit from drug policies.”

Harm reduction involves more than just high quality research and high-level advocacy – it is a global grassroots movement. We believe that a strong, effective civil society sector is essential for achieving a world where drug policies are driven by health and human rights principles. By working closely with harm reduction organisations and networks of people who use drugs around the world, we aim to strengthen the sector and form a united voice calling for harm reduction to become a central pillar of the global response to drug-related issues. This year, HRI's sector strengthening work included our biennial international conference, and a number of sector-wide activities in the run-up to the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in 2016 as convenors of the Harm Reduction Working Group.

Key activities:

- 24th International Harm Reduction Conference, Kuala Lumpur
- Harm Reduction Working Group



The **24th International Harm Reduction Conference** brought together over 900 delegates from over 70 countries in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference provided a unique opportunity for a diverse cross section of the global movement to meet and share knowledge, experience and expertise. The programme included high level speakers and panel discussions, practical workshops, research presentations and posters, site visits to local harm reduction programmes and an international film festival showcasing the talent of harm reduction and drug user activists.

The 2015 conference also served to kick off the sector's preparation for the 2016 UNGASS on drugs. Our call for a Harm Reduction Decade (see pp. 12-13) was launched under the banner of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration by Mme Ruth Dreifuss, former president of Switzerland and member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy. The Declaration was the result of the coordinated efforts of the **Harm Reduction Working Group**. We convened this group, whose membership includes harm reduction, drug policy and drug user organisations and networks from all regions of the world,

in 2014 to develop a set of shared goals and asks ahead of the UNGASS.

The group has more recently produced a set of shared asks for the UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in June 2016. In addition to the reallocation of spending called for by the 10 by 20 campaign (see pp. 12-13), the asks include calls on UN Member States to acknowledge that the provision of harm reduction must be recognised as a legally binding component of the right to health; to commit to a new target of a 75% reduction in new HIV infections among people who inject drugs by 2020; and to commit to intensify the participation of civil society organisations in designing and implementing services and advocacy programmes for people who use drugs.

After 2016, the group will continue to provide an invaluable platform for uniting the voice of the harm reduction movement in the run-up to the UN's Political Declaration on drugs in 2019.





Our 2017 conference will be in Montréal. Register your interest now at www.hri.global.

HR17 MONTRÉAL



25th International
Harm Reduction Conference
Montréal, Canada | 14 -17 May 2017
www.hri.global/hr17 | #hr17 | @HRInews



Statement of Financial Position

BALANCE SHEET	£
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2014	2014
<hr/>	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	306,501.00
Amounts receivable.....	47,357.00
FIXED ASSETS	4,696.00
	<u>358,554.00</u>
CREDITORS	(64,279.00)
NET ASSETS	<u>294,275.00</u>
CHARITY FUNDS	
Restricted Funds	232,859.00
Unrestricted Funds	61,416.00
	<u>294,275.00</u>

Statement of Operations

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

£

2014

REVENUE

Grants	679,097.00
Conferences	-
Voluntary Income	3,962.00
Investment Income	120.00

683,179.00

EXPENSES

Personnel	350,238.00
Project Costs	65,804.00
Consultancy	43,232.00
Other Staff Support Costs	2,560.00
Travel	34,729.00
Rent and maintenance	28,847.00
Printing, Postage & Stationery	8,202.00
Advertising & Promotion	6,116.00
Professional fees	2,545.00
Legal and regulatory fees	1,260.00
Audit Fees	7,414.00
Office Expenses	4,963.00
IT and Website	18,221.00
Meeting Expenses	10,887.00
Communications	6,376.00
Bank Charges	2,564.00
Insurance	424.00
Subscriptions	570.00
Depreciation	2,524.00
Recruitment & Training	3,840.00
Loss of disposal on fixed assets	1,041.00
Bad debt	3,557.00

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

598,800.00

NET INCOME

84,379.00

Total Funds as at 1 Jan 2014

209,896.00

Total Funds as at 31 Dec 2014

294,275.00

Board

John-Peter Kools (Netherlands) - Chair

Ratri Pearman (Indonesia) - Vice Chair

Patricia Haddad (Lebanon) - Treasurer

Ivan Varentsov (Russia) - Secretary

John Ryan (Australia)

Susan Masanja (Tanzania)

Susie McLean (UK)

Pat O'Hare (UK)

Jamie Bridge (UK)

Staff

Rick Lines - Executive Director*

Maria Phelan - Deputy Director*

Sarah Lowther - Finance Manager*

Cinzia Brentari - Project Manager

Catherine Cook - Senior Researcher

Pippa Gray - Operations Manager

Fionnuala Murphy - Campaigns and Advocacy Manager

Olga Szubert - Campaigns and Advocacy Manager

Lucy O'Hare - Conference Manager

Maddie O'Hare - Conference Manager

Gen Sander - Human Rights Research Analyst

Claudia Stoicescu - Public Health Analyst

Katie Stone - Research Analyst

Tom Henderson - Communications Officer

Natalie Keays - 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

UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

International HIV/AIDS Alliance

UNAIDS

UN Office on Drugs and Crime

World Bank

World Health Organization

ViiV Healthcare

Indivior

Ministry of Health, Government of Brazil

Ministry of Health, Government of Switzerland



HARM REDUCTION
INTERNATIONAL

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Company number: 3223265

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