



The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs and professional networks that specialise in issues related to illegal drug production and use.

The Consortium aims to promote objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harm. It produces occasional briefing papers, disseminates the reports of its member organisations about particular drug-related matters, and offers expert consultancy services to policymakers and officials around the world.

Second Meeting of the Brazilian
Commission on Drugs and Democracy - October 2009

“A new role for drug law enforcement”

Tom Lloyd QPM MA (Oxon)
Chief Constable (retired)

If your child was arrested for
drug possession would you
want them to be prosecuted
and convicted...

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2016

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What is the purpose of law enforcement?

It is NOT to cause
more harm than good

It IS to tackle organised and serious crime as effectively as possible

Senior law enforcement leaders need to manage their scarce resources effectively

Antonio Maria Costa
Executive Director of the UNODC

identifies five areas of 'unintended
consequences' of drug law enforcement



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A large-scale criminal black market

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Policy displacement

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Policy displacement

Geographical displacement

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Policy displacement

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Substance displacement

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Policy displacement

Geographical displacement

Substance displacement

Marginalisation of users

“Clearly, we must humanise our
drug control regime.”

Gil Kerlikowske

Office of National Drug Control Policy, USA

"Quite frankly people in neighborhoods, police officers, etc., are tired of recycling the problem. Let's try and fix it."

"Regardless of how you try to explain to people it's a 'war on drugs' or a 'war on a product,' people see a war as a war on them," he said. "We're not at war with people in this country."

Gil Kerlikowske, May 2009

£10 billion

£10 billion

£6 billion

£10 billion

£6 billion

EVERY YEAR

Kerlikowske has suggested the government should devote less effort to prosecuting nonviolent drug users.

"We have finite resources, we need to devote those finite resources toward those people who are the most dangerous to the community."

Death and injury to law
enforcement officers
Overcrowded prisons
Damaged communities
Corruption

Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)

“To collaborate with partners in the UK and internationally to maximise efforts to reduce harm.”

Do we really think that we will eradicate heroin, cocaine and cannabis from the earth?

Should we be thinking about
tackling this problem in
different ways?

Prosecution is more expensive
than treatment

Drug use is independent of
enforcement activity

Enforcement contributes to
death and disease

Focus on the **consequences not scale** of drug markets

Four areas in which
**the police can be the lead
agency,**
not just a supporting player.

Reducing the amount of drug use

Reducing the amount of drug use

**Reducing the harm drug users
experience per unit of drugs
used**

Are the policies of the
“Management Cops”
being carried out by the
“Street Cops”?

Reducing the amount of drug use
Reducing the harm drug users experience
per unit of drugs used

**Reducing the harm drug users
impose on others**

Reducing the amount of drug use
Reducing the harm drug users experience
per unit of drugs used
Reducing the harm drug users impose on
others

**Reducing the harms caused by
the production, trafficking and
distribution of drugs**



Four areas of activity:

Refocusing the fight against
organised crime



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Refocusing the fight against organised crime

Reducing market-related violence



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Reducing market-related violence

Referring dependent drug users to treatment



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Supporting public health

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Four areas of activity:

Refocusing the fight against
organised crime

- Add police to areas with high ratio of crimes to officers
- Focus police attention on reducing crime and disorder, not on making arrests
- Identify and target high-rate serious offenders, and send them to prison
- Identify and warn the next level

- Select specific, easy to observe crimes for special attention
- Break up flagrant retail drug markets that generate disorder, crime and fear with pre-announced low-arrest crackdowns
- Outside these areas, choose dealers according to their violence, disorder and use of minors
- Give bench warrants the highest priority

Remember arresting and imprisoning people is a COST

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What is the
BENEFIT?



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Listen and learn

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Listen and learn
from everybody



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Work with partners

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Law enforcement is a cost, not a benefit

Law enforcement is a cost,
not a benefit

Don't waste resources

Concentrate on those who cause the most crime and harm

Deliver swift, certain consequences

Deliver swift, certain
consequences
Rather than simply
increasing severity

Deliver swift, certain
consequences

And tell them what you are
going to do



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Work in partnership

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Leadership from the top

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Four areas of activity:

Refocusing the fight against organised crime

HARMS	INDIVIDUAL/LOCAL	COMMUNITY/REGION	COUNTRY/INTERNATIONAL
PHYSICAL	Death, injury, illness	Death, injury, illness within a particular community or geographical area	Levels and patterns of death, injury, illness in the country
SOCIAL	Damage to individuals and others through criminal and other undesirable behaviour	Damage to sense of “well-being” in a particular geographic area, or within or between ethnic or other identifiable social groups	Damage to society, undermining social responsibility, belief in the rights of others, respect for the law
ENVIRONMENTAL	Degeneration of a locality	Damage to an area, e.g. an estate, neighbourhood, town	Damage to the country as a whole, or to large areas, or to other countries
ECONOMIC	Costs to/economic impacts on individuals or families	Costs to/ economic impacts of serious organised criminal activities on businesses, services and communities in a particular town, city or region	Costs to/economic impacts on the country of serious organised criminal activities and trades
STRUCTURAL	Damage to individual perceptions of the integrity of public and private institutions and systems	Damage to commonly shared perceptions of the integrity of public and private institutions and systems	Damage to the perception of the country in the international community

Harms to: Harms from:	Individual Users	Neighbourhood Families, Neighbours, business, local institutions	National Institutions, business	International
Use				
Supply				
Production				
Enforcement				

- Focus of traditional harm reduction programmes
- Main focus for consideration for harm reduction through local policing
- Main focus for consideration for harm reduction through national enforcement agencies.

What gets measured is what gets done

Practical issues need to be addressed by operational officers

DON'T arrest users

DON'T arrest users

DO arrest dangerous criminals

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Thank you

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How to reduce the profits and power of organised crime?

**How to increase the efficient use of
resources in reducing different forms of
drug related crime?**

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How to tackle the corruption of public officials and institutions?

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How to increase the efficient use of resources in reducing different forms of drug related crime?
How to tackle the corruption of public officials and institutions?

**How to avoid the indiscriminate
stigmatisation and marginalisation of drug
users?**

How to reduce the profits and power of organised crime?
How to increase the efficient use of resources in reducing different forms of drug related crime?
How to tackle the corruption of public officials and institutions?
How to avoid the indiscriminate stigmatisation and marginalisation of drug users?

How to support efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS?

How to reduce the profits and power of organised crime?

How to increase the efficient use of resources in reducing different forms of drug related crime?

How to tackle the corruption of public officials and institutions?

How to avoid the indiscriminate stigmatisation and marginalisation of drug users?

How to support efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS?

How to support efforts to get dependent drug users into treatment, thereby reducing their criminality?

To uphold the law and protect
the internal integrity of the
state.

To maintain law and order so
that citizens can conduct their
lives without fear of crime or

IDPC Project

“A New Role for Law Enforcement”

Balance between policies

Reduce supply

and

Reduce harm

Three Principles

UN Human Rights Conventions outrank
UN Drugs Conventions.

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Police need to engage with partners to maximise
impact.

Looking at
law enforcement objectives
resource allocation
with fresh eyes

How to reduce the profits and power of organised crime?