

Global

[Countries should put women at the forefront of the UN drug policy debate](#)

The Conversation (18/04)

Globally, women make up one-third of all drug users, including around 3.8 million women who inject drugs. Women who use drugs are at higher risk than men of acquiring disease, including HIV. These unique challenges are due to biological differences, social and structural vulnerabilities, and decreased economic opportunities.

[A drug-free world is an impossible dream](#)

The Age (19/04)

In 1998, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly agreed to set a 10-year deadline to make the world “drug free”. After an embarrassing failure to achieve this goal, the deadline was extended a further 10 years, setting the world up for another inevitable failure in 2019.

[Righting the Wrongs of Global Drug Policies](#)

Huffington Politics (19/04)

In the U.S. and many countries around the world, drug policies have not only failed to curb drug use, they are causing massive harm to the people and societies they are supposed to serve, from spurring violence to driving epidemics of infectious disease.

[The World Needs a Healthier, Rights-based Approach Towards People Who Use Drugs](#)

The World Post (19/04)

Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, has asked member states committed to the sustainable development agenda for 2030 to treat people who use drugs with dignity and respect, including equal access to healthcare and social services.

[Six Mekong Countries Reinforce Regional Drug Strategy](#)

Indepthnews.net (20/04)

The six nations that form the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control (MOU), have agreed to continue the programme with assistance from UNODC. The agreement was signed on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem (UNGASS).

[As the US Is Awash in Painkillers, the Developing World Is in Dire Need of Them](#)

Vice (22/04)

While certain wealthy countries like the United States are awash in prescription opioids, which has led to rising rates of abuse and a surge in overdose deaths, precisely the opposite problem besets mostly poorer countries. Roughly [5.5 billion people](#) — three quarters of the world's population — have insufficient or no access to morphine, codeine, and other controlled substances used for pain relief.

[Hopes for global drug policy reform dashed at UN Assembly](#)

Insight Crime (25/04)

The United Nations' special assembly on drug policy ended without significant changes to existing drug conventions despite a push for reform from Latin American countries seeking a less prohibitionist regime. With the huge obstacles to a new international consensus made apparent, reformist countries around the region instead look set to continue national level experiments with drug policy.

Australia

[Plan to increase cannabis penalties to match harder drugs under attack](#)

The Guardian (18/04)

Queensland is planning to increase state penalties for cannabis to match those of harder drugs, in order to simplify enforcement by removing the distinction between 'hard' and 'soft' drugs. Local academics and experts say the policy move has no evidentiary basis.

[We Need A Joint Approach On Drug Reform](#)

Huffington Post (20/04)

Ultimately, as with so many other issues, strong voices will have to keep coming from outside of parliament in order to keep the pressure on those inside. But parliamentarians must also take the risk of being brave, coming together and working within their parties to achieve the reforms we so desperately need.

[Life after Myuran and Andrew: The Legacy of the executed Bali nine](#)

Sydney Morning Herald (24/04)

Late in 2015, a draft bill for a new criminal code was submitted to Parliament. Under the draft, which is yet to be debated, Todung (Myuran and Andrew's lawyer) says someone given the death penalty could have their sentence commuted to life or 20 years if they could demonstrate they had changed. "That's the third way, the Indonesian way, in solving this problem," he says.

Afghanistan

[UN Drug Control Is Destroying Our Families](#)

Huffpost Politics (20/04)

Murtaza Majeed, International Coordinator for Youth RISE, describes the devastating impact of UN drug policies while growing up in Afghanistan. Majeed points out that in spite of a tough punitive approach to drug policy, consumption has grown six fold in the country in the past three years.

[Afghanistan calls for world aid in fight against drug problem](#)

Shanghai Daily (20/04)

Slamat Azimi, the minister of counter narcotics of Afghanistan, called for "extensive" support from the international community, to help Afghanistan in its anti-narcotics operation under the principles of common and shared responsibility.

China

[China crucial to successful cooperation in Mekong Sub-region: UNODC official](#)

Shanghai Daily (19/04)

China's financial support and capacity building is crucial to the Mekong MOU, a strategic group bringing together six countries in Southeast Asia to constrain the threat of illicit production and drug trafficking, according to Jeremy Douglas, regional representative for UNODC. Mr. Douglas urged states to continue far reaching cooperation, while insuring that enforcement was balanced with drug treatment and alternative development programmes.

[Chinese state councilor calls for partnerships to advance drug control](#)

Shanghai Daily (20/04)

Chinese State Councilor Guo Shengkun encouraged countries to respect sovereign equality, and not use drug laws as pretext to interfere in others countries domestic affairs. Mr. Shengkun rejected calls for drug legalization and decriminalization. The statements were made at the UNGASS.

Indonesia

[Death penalty defended by Indonesian leader](#)

Sky News (19/04)

During a visit to Germany, the Indonesian leader Joko Widodo defended his countries use of the death penalty, saying that drug abuse is a national emergency that requires a tough response. He claimed that the penalty was “carried out very cautiously” in the face of Angela Merkel’s strong opposition. 130 people are on death row in Indonesia, many of them for drug offenses.

[Top-level narcotics enforcer busted in nightclub by his own agency](#)

Asian Correspondent (20/04)

Commissioner Elly Jamaludin, who leads the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) in North Maluku, was apprehended in a karaoké room of the night-club situated in Central Ternate. He faces suspension from his position, and a possible legal case should he test positive for narcotics consumption.

[Indonesia jeered at UN meeting after backing death penalty for drug offenses](#)

Rappler.com (20/04)

Indonesia defended its use of the death penalty for drug offenses, despite delegates from the European Union, Switzerland, Brazil, Costa Rica and Uruguay expressing strong opposition.

[Indonesia stops ‘soap opera’ executions like Andrew and Myuran’s](#)

The Australian (22/04)

“Of course there will be (executions). When and where we still don’t know,” Co-ordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Luhut Panjaitan said in Jakarta in response to questions from journalists. “But there won’t be a soap opera like the last time, because I think that wasn’t pretty. It will just be three days’ notice and then execution. I don’t think there should be a big fuss.”

India

[Gandhi blames NDPS Act for state’s drug menace](#)

The Times of India (18/04)

Vice President Rahul Gandhi said that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Act (NPDS) act of 1985, which banned natural intoxicants, had created a space for synthetic and chemical drugs that were more addictive and harmful. Gandhi claimed this had led to the creation of powerful drug mafias pushing synthetic drugs, at the cost of the “poor man’s intoxicants” like Cannabis, Bhukki and Opium; which he insisted should be decriminalised under an amendment to the act.

[How history and paranoia keep morphine away from India’s terminally-ill patients](#)

Quartz India (18/04)

Despite a long history as one of the world biggest opium producers, India’s NPDS act 1985 has created a licencing obstacle course of for health practitioners, resulting in just 4% of those in need of opioid pain relief receiving treatment.

Iran

[Iran Urges Europe's Serious Contribution to Anti-Drug Fight](#)

Tasnim News Agency (19/04)

Iran's interior minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli implored European leaders to contribute more to Tehran's anti-drug fight, as Iran has made considerable and costly efforts in stopping the trafficking of substances from Afghanistan to Europe. 4,000 Iranian police officers have died over the past three decades, and the country confiscates eight times more heroin and 3 times more opium than all other countries in the world combined.

Malaysia

[Actions against drug traffickers urged to be intensified](#)

Borneo Post (22/04)

PBB Supreme Council member Datuk Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah has said actions against drug-related offences must be intensified and drug traffickers severely punished.

[Time to change tactics when it comes to drugs](#)

Star 2 (24/04)

If science and public health experts were to choose, the treatment option wins hands down. Globally, there is solid evidence of how it can have a dramatic impact in improving the health of drug users and society as a whole. But politics often weighs heavier than science.

New Zealand

[Dunne Speaks: UNGASS 2016](#)

Scoop Politics (22/04)

Simply perpetuating a system that sees the international drug syndicates become more powerful and more victims suffer unreasonable punishments for their addiction is as crazy as it is wrong. The system has to change.

[What Did This Week's Mega UN Drug Summit Mean for Kiwi Stoners?](#)

Vice News (23/04)

New Zealand's Associate Minister of Health, Peter Dunne, stood up at the United Nations this week and told the world's nations to go for boldness on drug policy.

Pakistan

[Pakistan "gravely concerned" over emerging trends to legalize use of illicit drugs](#)

Shanghai Daily (20/04)

Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, the Pakistani minister of interior and narcotics control, said the "so-called human rights-based approach are likely to further complicate the issue" of drug abuse. Mr Khan expressed grave concern with regards to "the emerging trends in some parts of the world to legalize use of illicit drugs", which he said created obstacles for Pakistan's pursuit of a drug free society.

Philippines

[Harsh solutions to drug problem a total failure](#)

Inquirer (22/04)

Last week, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, a candidate in the upcoming presidential election, pledged to declare drug-related problems as a national security threat and to allocate two divisions of the Philippine Army and 3,000 policemen to fight it. In other parts of the world, governments are turning away from the use of harsh punishment to manage drug-related problems.

[If my kid is into drugs, 'kill him' – Duterte](#)

Inquirer (25/04)

Presidential candidate Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug campaign will spare no one—even his family members.

Singapore

[Singapore will not soften stand on drugs: Shanmugam](#)

Asia One (22/04)

Minister K. Shanmugam rejected calls at the UNGASS to reconsider a tough approach on drugs and stated that Singapore wanted to pursue a drug free society, rather than a “drug tolerant” one.

Vietnam

[Int'l cooperation helps with combating drug crime in Vietnam](#)

Vietnam. Net (21/04)

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly, Deputy Minister of Public Security Le Quy Vuong has said the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements has helped Vietnam curb drug trafficking.

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