

The International Network of People who Use Drugs' (INPUD) Human Rights of and Demands from People who Use Drugs

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The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) is a global peer-based organisation that seeks to promote the health and defend the rights of people who use drugs. INPUD will expose and challenge stigma, discrimination, and the criminalisation of people who use drugs and its impact on the drug-using community's health and rights. INPUD will achieve this through processes of empowerment and advocacy at the international level, while supporting empowerment and advocacy at community, national and regional levels.
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INPUD is part of Bridging the Gaps – health and rights for key populations. This unique programme addresses the common challenges faced by sex workers, people who use drugs and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in terms of human right violations and accessing much needed HIV and health services. Go to www.hivgaps.org for more information.

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The Human Rights of and Demands from People who Use Drugs



The Human Rights of People who Use Drugs

INPUD's Consensus Statement collates a declaration of rights of people who use drugs. It is around these rights that the Consensus Statement is structured. The Consensus Statement builds on established and recognised human rights, tailoring them to the specific needs of people who use drugs in emphasising the human rights that are most pertinent specifically to them. For ease of accessibility and convenience, these human rights of people who use drugs are collated below, and references to the relevant pages of the Consensus Statement are provided.

RIGHT 1: The Right to Rights	Page
People who use drugs are entitled to their human rights, which must be protected by the rule of law	5
RIGHT 2: People who use drugs have the right to non-discrimination	9
RIGHT 3: People who use drugs have the right to life and security of person	14
RIGHT 4: People who use drugs have the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment	14
RIGHT 5: People who use drugs have the right to the highest attainable standard of health	18
RIGHT 6: People who use drugs have the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment	28
RIGHT 7: People who use drugs have the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention	30
RIGHT 8: People who use drugs have the right to bodily integrity	34
RIGHT 9: People who use drugs have the right to found a family entitled to protection by the law, entitled to privacy, and entitled to be free from arbitrary interference	36
RIGHT 10: People who use drugs have the right to assemble, associate, and form organisations	38

INPUD's Essential Demands

In order to realise the human rights of people who use drugs, the following essential demands must also be realised. This list is *not* exhaustive; however, the consultations that have informed INPUD's Consensus Statement have demonstrated that these demands at the very least must be met in order to respect and promote the health, wellbeing, and rights of people who use drugs. For convenience, they are provided with references to the relevant pages of the Consensus Statement.

Demand 1: People who use drugs, and drug use, must be decriminalised.	7
Demand 2: Decriminalisation alone is not enough: people who use drugs must have access to legal justice and police protection.	7
Demand 3: Those who enforce the law, particularly the police and members of the criminal justice system, must be sensitised to the needs and rights of people who use drugs.	8
Demand 4: People who use drugs must not be assumed to be sick, deviant, or criminal.	13

Demand 5: Drug-userphobia and drug-shaming must be legally recognised as discrimination and hate speech.	13
Demand 6: Violence perpetrated against people who use drugs, both in civil society and at the hands of the authorities, the police, and healthcare providers, must be investigated and prosecuted.	17
Demand 7: Executions and extrajudicial killings of people who use drugs, and for drug-related offences, must end.	17
Demand 8: People who use drugs must have access to the highest attainable standard of healthcare, service provision, and harm reduction.	25
Demand 9: Harm reduction services must be available accessibly, freely, and comprehensively, and must take into account people's nuanced and variable realities.	25
Demand 10: Service and healthcare providers, as well as the police and staff in all closed settings, must be sensitised to the specific needs of people who use drugs.	26
Demand 11: Comprehensive healthcare and harm reduction services must be available in <i>all</i> contexts, including closed settings such as prisons and pre-trial detention.	26
Demand 12: People who use drugs must be involved in the conception, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of service and healthcare provision. Where possible, service provision must be peer-led.	27
Demand 13: Barriers to health must be undermined and dismantled: not only must people who use drugs be decriminalised, but drugs must be produced in a legal and regulated context.	27
Demand 14: People who use drugs must not be treated differently from their co-workers on the basis of their drug use. They have the same right to employment as all others.	29
Demand 15: People who use drugs are entitled to a stable, non-hostile workplace environment.	29
Demand 16: People who use drugs must be able to work without threat of arbitrary termination, discrimination, and harassment.	29
Demand 17: People who use drugs must not be subject to arbitrary detention or arrest, arbitrary stop and search, compulsory treatment, or forced labour.	33
Demand 18: People who use drugs must not have their bodily integrity violated through drug testing, or through being pressured or coerced to terminate their pregnancy or to be sterilised.	35
Demand 19: Drug use alone must never justify the invasion or disruption of privacy or of family and/or domestic life.	37
Demand 20: People who use drugs must be respected as experts on their own lives and lived experiences.	41
Demand 21: Participation of people who use drugs in debate and policy formation must be meaningful, not tokenistic.	41
Demand 22: The wellbeing and health of people who use drugs and their communities must be considered first and foremost in the formation of laws and policies related to drug use.	41
Demand 23: Networks of people who use drugs must be able to legally register and be recognised as formal organisations with political legitimacy.	42
Demand 24: People who use drugs must be able to organise and network without fear of discrimination, arbitrary interference, or violence.	42