INPUD on a Mission

INPUD's members have created a mission statement that clearly sets out its agenda. INPUD is a global peer-based organisation that seeks to promote the health and defend the rights of people who use drugs.

“We will expose and challenge stigma, discrimination and the criminalisation of people who use drugs and its impact on our community’s health and rights. We will achieve this through processes of empowerment and international advocacy.”

Why does the world need an international network of activists who use drugs? We are people from around the world who use drugs; For this reason alone, we are stigmatised, marginalized and discriminated against; killed, abused, exploited and harmed unnecessarily, incarcerated in detention centres and prison, often in the name of treatment, treated inhumanely and unjustly and stereotyped as dangerous and disposable. Now it is time to raise our voices as citizens, establish our rights and reclaim the right to be our own spokespeople striving for self-representation and self-empowerment: Through collective action, we will fight to change existing local, national, and international drug laws and formulate evidence informed drug policies that respects people’s human rights and dignity. See the Vancouver Declaration in its entirety at www.inpud.net

INPUD is a global network that seeks to represent people who use drugs in international fora such as the United Nations and agencies undertaking international development work, and believe that people who use drugs must be “meaningfully represented in decision-making processes that affect our lives”. INPUD is also committed to demonstrating at country level how people who use drugs can constructively contribute to the development and delivery of services for their own communities. Their unique insight and perspective can help money be effectively targeted, spent wisely thus delivering better results for individuals and the wider community. “We are asking the international community to stop framing us as the problem and recognise that we are part of the solution when it comes to addressing problems associated with drugs and drug policy around the world.”

The 5th Anniversary of the Vancouver Declaration, 2011

The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) is a movement of people who use drugs (current and former) who support the Vancouver Declaration. The Vancouver Declaration was created by a large number of leading drugs activists, setting out key demands such as the human rights of people who use drugs should be respected and for harm reduction measures to be put in place to protect individual and public health.

International Remembrance Day 21st July

International Remembrance Day is gaining momentum as a very special day in the calendar for people who use drugs and their loved ones. The day provides a special moment for the friends and loved ones of people who use drugs to be able to remember their friend’s passing with the warmth, dignity and acknowledgment of their lives as a person - without the shame or pretense that can occur at funerals when someone has died from drugs. This year, you can join the cause on FaceBook and help to raise awareness of the issue in your country, and share ideas about how to put on a remembrance day event in your part of the world. Many groups will have a theme to their event such as overdose prevention, access to treatment, or challenging the war on drugs. Some events are sombre and reflective, others are more vocal and demanding of awareness, action or support but all of them provide a chance for people who use drugs to remember their friends, in their way. Germany is one country that has been doing events to mark this day for many years has been an inspiration for many others to get involved. Dirk Schaeffer, from Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe told INPUD “In Germany we will be celebrating the 14th International Remembrance Day. Recently, , more than 40 cities in Germany alone have been involved and...”
International Remembrance Day
(cont. page 1)
- around 100 organisations, so attendance has been huge. This year, you can join the cause on FaceBook and help to raise awareness of the issue across your country. This is a peer led initiative and as such, it is important that those who use drugs are leading the process. From the INPUD blog, Facebook page, or forum of your choosing, you can get ideas about how to put on an event in your town. From a candle on a window sill, a remembrance book at your local drug clinic to a rally in the town square demanding action to reduce the number of unnecessary deaths. The Facebook page is also a chance to write up your experiences and share your memories of loved ones with other members. (almost 4000 and growing). Log in to find information on International Remembrance Day or type in www.causes.com/causes/549549. and don’t forget -paste the link on your site/FB page!

Aims of INPUD:
1. To advocate and lobby at the international level for the rights of people who use drugs.
2. To maintain an organisation that is effective, transparent and accountable to its membership.
3. To promote effective prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs who are living with and affected by HIV, Hepatitis, TB and other relevant health issues.
4. To advocate for intermediate reforms in drug laws to order to reduce the criminalization and stigmatization of people who use drugs while striving in the longer term to an end to prohibition.
5. To support and seed the development of self-determining networks of drug users that advocate for the health, citizenship and human rights of people who use drugs.
6. To promote and advocate for harm reduction as a means of supporting safer drug use and reducing drug related harm among people who use drugs.

7. To build alliances with like-minded organisations and the broader civil society to further the aims of INPUD.

Finding Partners and Allies
INPUD’s core membership criteria are defined as follows: Essentially, it is people who face the most harms through their drug use. Though primarily this is people who inject drugs, we also recognise:

- People who smoke stimulant drugs; who use opioid drugs by non-injecting routes of administration; People on Substitution Therapy programmes; People on Substitution Therapy programs. People living with, HIV, TB, and Hepatitis who have a history of drug use; who use drugs who are incarcerated and / or those in drug detention centres or coerced through some groups of stimulant snorters who may have patterns of use that would be familiar to those snorting or smoking stimulants.

Another ground for application is what is called the ‘community connectedness’ criteria. This applies to people who did perhaps at one time have their lives fall within the work description and who still through their work or activism maintain an active and current connection with our community. Agreement with the Vancouver Declaration - is obligatory for all INPUD members. Contact INPUD Membership Secretary at membership@inpud.net

The GIPA Principle - More Talk - or Tools for Change?
INPUD and GNP+ / Global Network of People Living with HIV senior a Memorandum of Understanding to commit both organisations to joint working around the needs of people who use drugs and live with HIV and mutual support.

INPUD has been able to work with some of the progressive tools that have been developed by civil society organisations, in order to leverage it itself into working alongside global agencies. One of the main tools has been GIPA - The Principle of Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Developed at the Paris AIDS Summit in 1994, GIPA has evolved to become an important document and tool that has increasingly opened the doors of government and civil society to marginalized groups. Through the years, people who use drugs and HIV/AIDS policy and law, embrac

MEMBERSHIP
INPUD’s core membership criteria are defined as follows: Essentially, it is people who face the most harms through their drug use. Though primarily this is people who inject drugs, we also recognize:

- People who smoke stimulant drugs; who use opioid drugs by non-injecting routes of administration; People on Substitution Therapy programmes.

INPUD and GNP+ / Global Network of People Living with HIV senior a Memorandum of Understanding to commit both organisations to joint working around the needs of people who use drugs and live with HIV and mutual support.

INPUD has been able to work with some of the progressive tools that have been developed by civil society organisations, in order to leverage itself into working alongside global agencies. One of the main tools has been GIPA - The Principle of Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Developed at the Paris AIDS Summit in 1994, GIPA has evolved to become an important document and tool that has increasingly opened the doors of government and civil society to marginalized groups. Through the years, people who use drugs and HIV/AIDS policy and law, embrace drug culture. Over the years it has almost become a language in its own right that not only speaks to people in the PUD’s community but operates best within legal frameworks that specifically protect the human rights of people from diverse and marginalized backgrounds affected by HIV/AIDS. For example, it is a powerful tool that the rights of people and policies that empower and educate. Memorandums of Understanding (see pic) can also be very important tools that confirm an agreement, working practices and ethical standards between two or more organisations. They can be particularly useful for organisations with limited resources when working with larger organisations as it helps to cement your relationship with more influential bodies, increase your standing and commit to progress and understanding on certain processes. Worth looking into when looking into partnership working.

INPUD’s Work on the World Stage

- Nov 2008: INPUD protests at the CND*

- June 2010: INPUD, WHO, HT, and UNAIDS, undertake joint work on TB and HIV advocacy

- July 2010: World AIDS Conference: INPUD involved in staff training over on International Drug User Day to relaunch IPDF.

- Nov 2009: INPUD Launch Drug User Peace Initiative (a roadmap to peace outside of the global drugs war) and presented declaration at United Nations High Level Segment for UNODC on HIV/AIDS at the International Conference on HIV/AIDS in Vienna, in collaboration with other NGOs.*

- Jul 2010: INPUD joins UK government's remem-

- Nov 2009: INPUD attend UNAIDS PCT as NGO advocate for a resolution that passed UNAIDS - to intensify its assistance to, and work with, drug users and drug use

- Jan 2010: INPUD attends donors conference on Harm reduction in Amsterdam and secures a commit-

- Dec 2009: INPUD attends US conference on harm reduction in Miami, and secures a commit-

- Nov 2010: INPUD/rarely open an agreement, working practices and ethical standards as it helps to cement your relation-

- Aug 2010: INPUD attend UNAIDS PCT as NGO advocate on Co-Infection with HIV.

- March 2010: INPUD/rarely open an agreement, working practices and ethical standards as it helps to cement your relation-

- March 2010: INPUD/rarely open an agreement, working practices and ethical standards as it helps to cement your relation-

- March 2010: INPUD/rarely open an agreement, working practices and ethical standards as it helps to cement your relation-