



INVITATION

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY

Organised by the Global Health Centre and the Global Commission on Drug Policy

THE
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE
GENEVA

GLOBAL
HEALTH
CENTRE



GLOBAL
COMMISSION ON
DRUG POLICY

SAVE THE DATE

PUBLIC EVENT

Tuesday, 3 October 2017

16:30 - 18:00

Maison de la paix, Auditorium Ivan Pictet B

The impact of drug policy on public health: the role of the scientific community

Drug policies often have detrimental outcomes for public health. The prohibition and criminalisation of drug use are at the heart of the matter. The associated high incarceration rates have not only undermined the right to health but also continue to fuel infectious diseases, especially HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis, among people who use drugs both in prisons and in the wider communities.

The Johns Hopkins University-Lancet Commission on International Drug Policy and Public Health (JHU-Lancet Commission) examined the scientific evidence from around the world and reconfirmed the above findings in its report published in March 2016. One month later, the UN General Assembly held a Special Session on drugs with hopes of reducing the demand and the supply of illicit drugs, and strengthening the judicial cooperation between UN Member States.

Despite these efforts, a consensus on drug policy reform is still far from reached and many challenges remain in protecting the health and human rights of people who use drugs, especially within a changing global political context.

The Global Health Centre, the Global Commission on Drug Policy, and the Geneva Platform on Human Rights, Health and Psychoactive Substances have invited three members of the JHU-Lancet Commission to draw attention to this policy area which directly impacts over 250 million people globally. The following questions, among others, will be addressed in the panel discussion:

- How successful was the Commission's report in bringing the scientific voices into the global discourse on drug policy?
- What is needed to foster the political will for action on harm reduction and health promotion among drug using populations?
- Are the SDGs on NCDs, infectious diseases and access to essential medicines achievable without drug policies reforms?
- What are the most important next steps to ensure that no one is left behind?

OPENING REMARKS

GIAN LUCA **BURCI**

Senior Fellow, Global Health Centre; Adjunct Professor, the Graduate Institute

PANEL DISCUSSION

CHRIS **BEYRER**

Desmond M. Tutu Professor of Public Health and Human Rights, Johns Hopkins University

ADEEBA **KAMARULZAMAN**

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases, University of Malaya; Co-chair, JHU-Lancet Commission

MICHEL **KAZATCHKINE**

Member, Global Commission on Drug Policy; Co-Chair, JHU-Lancet Commission

Moderator

ANNE **HASSBERGER**

Counsellor, Development and Health, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organisations in Geneva

The Geneva Platform on Human Rights, Health and Psychoactive Substances

The Geneva Platform on Human Rights, Health and Psychoactive Substances, launched in 2017, is an initiative to bring together civil society organisations – NGOs, academia and networks representing affected communities – operating in the field of health, human rights and drug policy to share information between relevant actors and ensure the promotion of health and human rights in all drug-related questions addressed in Geneva.

The Platform aims to improve the quality of the debate on psychoactive substances in “International Geneva”, by organising conferences, discussions, and side-events at important meetings of United Nations agencies, held in Geneva. It also shares the most pressing information related to psychoactive substances with its membership.