



International Geneva

## Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

### GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY

[www.globalcommissionondrugs.org](http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org)

PO Box 1672 | 1211 Geneva 1

Tel.: +41 22 908 43 75 | [secretariat@globalcommissionondrugs.org](mailto:secretariat@globalcommissionondrugs.org)

### BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The Global Commission on Drug Policy was established in 2011 by political leaders, cultural figures, and globally influential personalities from the financial and business sectors. The Commission currently comprises twenty-seven members, including twelve former Heads of State or Government, and a former Secretary-General of the United Nations. Its mission is to promote evidence-based drug policy reforms at international, national and regional levels. These reforms must also address issues of public health and social integration, with strict regard for human rights. The Commission carries out this role through the annual publication of a comprehensive, detailed, evidence-based policy report including the commission's recommendations, as well as other targeted reports, opinion pieces, and interviews with government officials.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- the right to health
- public health concerns in drug policy reform
- access to essential medicines
- harm reduction measures
- HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C transmission rates

### HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Global Commission on Drug Policy is committed to raising awareness on the urgent need to ensure greater access to controlled medicines around the world. It calls for greater balance in drug policies regarding controlled medicines and access to prevention and treatment services. This includes a higher priority to be given to the treatment of physical and mental pain, as well as harm reduction measures for people who use drugs, such as substitution therapy, needle exchange programs, safe consumption facilities, and emergency opioid antagonist kits to prevent overdoses. The Global Commission also calls for the review of the rescheduling

system of drugs, in order to base it in scientific evidence and allow greater research into the potential medical benefits of certain substances.

## **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

The daily operations of the Global Commission are handled by a Secretariat of five people, based in Geneva, Switzerland, with strategic oversight provided by the Chair and a steering committee of six members. The current Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy is Ruth Dreifuss, former President and Federal Counsellor of Switzerland in charge of Home Affairs. The Executive Secretary is Khalid Tinasti.

## **FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET**

The Global Commission on Drug Policy receives funding from the Open Society Foundations, Virgin Unite, Oak Foundation and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

For all publications, see: <http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/reports/>

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