

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

According to the UN Special Rapporteur *on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health*, the current international system of drug control has focused on creating a drug free world, almost exclusively through use of law enforcement policies and criminal sanctions. Mounting evidence, however, suggests this approach has failed, primarily because it does not acknowledge the realities of drug use and dependence. While drugs may have a pernicious effect on individual lives and society, this excessively punitive regime has not achieved its stated public health goals, and has resulted in countless human rights violations. Criminalization and excessive law enforcement practices undermine health promotion initiatives, perpetuate stigma and increase health risks to which entire populations may be exposed.

Widespread implementation of interventions that reduce harms associated with drug use and of decriminalization of certain laws governing drug control would improve the health and welfare of people who use drugs and the general population demonstrably.

The Report is available at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10532&LangID=E>