

## Media Note

**Support. Don't Punish Campaign**  
**A Dialogue on drug policy reforms**  
**Friday, June 26, 2016**  
**India Habitat Centre**  
**New Delhi**

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### **Delhi, Bihar and Uttarakhand to join global advocacy campaign for better drug policies.**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016, New Delhi will be a part of the global 'Support. Don't Punish' campaign to highlight the harm that is being caused by the criminalization of people who use drugs. The day's events will bring together policymakers, government representatives, media, civil society organizations and concerned individuals to discuss on and advocate for harm reduction, policy reform, better funding for health services, and the removal of criminal sanctions for people who use drugs and other low-level drug offenders.

26th June is the United Nations' International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (World Drug Day) – a day which has traditionally been used by governments to 'celebrate' drug arrests, seizures and even executions. The *Support. Don't Punish* Global Day of Action aims to change the narrative and to highlight the need for a better approach that prioritizes public health and human rights.

India HIV/AIDS Alliance is organizing solidarity events to mark the day. In New Delhi, a discussion at India Habitat Centre has been organized from 09:30 am to 1:30 pm on that day, to institute support to ensure that people who use drugs are not criminalized.

Key actors from the Government, community networks such as Indian Drug Users' Forum (IDUF), Delhi Drug Users Forum, media, NGOs, civil societies and bilateral agencies will be part of this dialogue.

India HIV/AIDS Alliance is also organizing solidarity events such as street plays, TV discussions, signature campaigns and state-level meetings in the states of Bihar and Uttarakhand to promote respect for the human rights of people who use drugs and raise awareness of the harms being caused by criminalisation.

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#### ***About India HIV/AIDS Alliance:***

Founded in 1999, India HIV/AIDS Alliance is a non-governmental organisation operating in partnership with civil society, government and communities to support sustained responses to HIV in India that protect rights and improve health. Complementing the Indian national programme, we build capacity, provide technical support and advocate to strengthen the delivery of effective, innovative, community-based HIV programmes to vulnerable populations affected by the epidemic.

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