



Soutenir. Pa Pinir.

2016



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Glossary

ADSU	Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit
AILES	Aides, Infos, Libertés, Espoir et Solidarité
CAEC	Collectif Arc En Ciel
CARES	Centre for Alternative Research and Studies
CUT	Collectif Urgence Toxida
DDA	Dangerous Drug Act
ERB	Espoir Revive Barkly
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRI	Harm Reduction International
IDPC	International Drug Policy Consortium
INPUD	International Network of People Who Use Drugs
KANCO	Kenya Aids NGOs Consortium
LEAD	Leadership and Empowerment for Action and Development
MoHQL	Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
MNA	Mauritius Nursing Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSF	Open Society Foundation
PILS	Prévention Information Lutte contre le Sida
PWUD	People Who Use Drugs
SDP	Support Don't Punish

1.0 Introduction

CUT (Collectif Urgence Toxida), supported by other NGO partners (AILES- Aides, Infos, Libertés, Espoir et Solidarité, Bring A Smile Link, CARES- Centre for Alternative Research and Studies, Chrysalide, CAEC- Collectif Arc En Ciel, Dis-Moi, Dr Idrice Goomany Centre, ERB- Espoir Revive Barkly, Groupe A de Cassis, Kinouete, LEAD- Leadership and Empowerment for Action and Development, Parapli Rouz, PILS- Prévention Information Lutte contre le Sida , SIDATAK, Vivre Plus) join the international campaign [*Support Don't Punish*](#).

Support Don't Punish is an international advocacy campaign launched under the joint initiative of the *International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)*, the *International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD)*, the *Harm Reduction International (HRI)* and the *International HIV/AIDS Alliance*.

Support Don't Punish is an international campaign to raise awareness about the damage caused by the criminalization of people who use drugs and the non-respect of human rights of these people. Heavy penalties are imposed on people who use drugs and one of the consequences is that there is an increase of HIV and Hepatitis C.

These epidemics are driven by laws, policies and practices that impose penalties on people who use drugs. Initially based on the belief that severe repression will stifle the drug market, this punitive approach has failed to reduce drug consumption levels in the world. It also led to discrimination and stigmatization of people who use drugs, hindering their access to prevention, treatment and care that are essential to save lives and stop the spread of HIV and the hepatitis C. In addition, the imprisonment of people who use drugs for minor offenses related to drugs creates overcrowding, increasing the vulnerability of prisoners to HIV and hepatitis C. because of the lack of condoms and syringes sterile in prison.

In Mauritius, a little over half of people who inject drugs are living with HIV (51.6%, according to behavioral and biological study from 2011), while 97% of those living with the virus of hepatitis C. Some of them live in the shadows, away from emergency medical

services, for fear of arrest. The same study also shows that over 30% of people who inject drugs at home were stigmatized in health services.

The idea of Support Don't Punish is to create awareness and simultaneously sensitize the global population, on June 26th, date that is celebrated as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Drug smuggling.

In 2013 **CUT** gathered around 120 people for the [Support Don't Punish campaign for a flash mob](#) at the Caudan Waterfront in Port-Louis, the capital of Mauritius to raise awareness on the harms caused by the criminalization of drug use.

As a follow up on the 26th of June 2014, **CUT** with the help of different partners gathered 150 people to take a symbolic picture outside the "Petit Verger" prison, and then distributed tracks in Rose-Hill, Quatre-Bornes, and Port-Louis, 3 major towns in Mauritius.

To capitalize on the World Cup 2014, **CUT** designed T-shirts that looked like football shirts, in order to capture the attention of the general population.

In 2015 along with the traditional photo campaigns, you will find the links below, **CUT** decided to do something different from the past 2 years. Therefore, after various focus groups with People Who Use Drugs (**PWUD**) a musical gathering was the choice of the event to be organized to sensitize the maximum number of people.

The event this year was hosted on Friday the 26th of June from 13h00 – 18h00, at Place Margeot Rose-Hill, with **CUT's** partners; **AILES, PILS, LEAD, Kinouete, Groupe A de Cassis, SIDA-INFO, Dis-Moi, Parapli Rouz, Bring a smile, SIDATAK, ERB** and **CARES**. In all we had 175+ people as volunteers – based on the number of T-shirts distributed.

All the partners had stands, and engaged the public to explain the importance of the campaign, and the impact that repressive laws have on society in general.

Various artists lent their support as the 2nd half of the day was a musical gathering showcasing the support of various artists (Eric Triton, Richard Beaugendre, Jason Lily, Lindley Morvan among others) coordinated by Stephane Rezanah from Jorez Box.

In-between the artists, all our partners expressed their support to the campaign.

The Support Don't Punish campaign has two objectives:

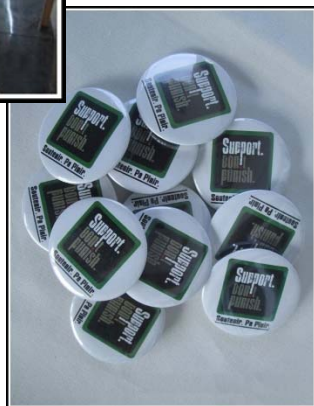
- **SUPPORT** people who use drugs. Encourage better implementation of services such as needle exchange programs and methadone that help stop the spread of HIV.
- **DO NOT PUNISH** people who use drugs. Improve and change policies that keep people away from health services.

Through the support Don't Punish campaigns we hope to advocate for better more humane drug policies.

2.0 SDP 2016 – Awareness Campaign

This year CUT wanted to reach out to people that often do not feel concerned about Drugs, and Drug Policies. Therefore, several information sessions were organized in shopping malls across the island to spread the message of Support don't Punish.

SDP at Bagatelle- June 17th - SDP at Flacq Coeurdeville (Super U)- June 18th - SDP at Grand-Baie Coeurdeville (Super U)- June 25th



To promote the Support Don't Punish campaign, the staff of the **CUT** participated in a sensitization campaign at the Bagatelle Shopping Mall, Flacq Coeurdeville Super U and Grand-Baie Coeurdeville Super U.

Over 300 people including doctors, police officers were exposed to the damage caused by the criminalization of people who use drugs including heavy penalties which results in an increase of HIV and Hepatitis C.

Flyers and pins were distributed to the public who also showed their support for the Support Don't Punish photo campaign. See **Annex 1** and **Annex 4** for details.

3.0 SDP at Mahebourg Waterfront – June 20th



Local partners of the Support Don't Punish campaign collaborated to organize a one-day sensitization event at the Mahebourg Waterfront. The public was sensitized about drugs, drug use, the HARM reduction programme, drug policies and the objectives of the campaign.

The public was invited to take a picture with the **SDP** logo. Brochures, pins and stickers were also distributed to the public. Some 200 people visited the stands of partners. Moreover, the **CUT** caravan in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (**MoHQL**) carried-out rapid testing for the public.

4.0 SDP at Batterie Cassée – June 26th

For the Global Day of Action, the Collectif Urgence Toxida chose to host an event at Batterie Cassée one of the first and main needle exchange site operated by **CUT**. Partners and the staff of the Collectif Urgence Toxida carried out door-to-door sensitization to inform people of the Support Don't Punish campaign and the services provided by **CUT**. The event saw the contribution of key person of the areas and buzzed with PWIDs who visited stands to collect information and safe injection materials. Moreover, the **CUT** caravan in collaboration with the **MoHQL** carried-out rapid testing for the public.



5.0 Drugs over Lunch – June 24th



The main event for Support Don't Punish this year, was the Drugs over lunch workshop. **'Drugs over Lunch'** was based on the concept of drugs over dinner, a website created specifically to provide information including documents,

audio files, and videos to anyone who wishes to talk about drugs, and drug policies. The targets for the workshops were members of parliament, political leaders, community leaders, people who use drugs, university staff, **MoHQL**, Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (**ADSU**), various partners from **NGOs**.

They key to this workshop, was that unlike over workshops where participants break up to have lunch, this time the lunch itself was the dialogue space. Participants were divided into six nations (tables): Canada, Jamaica, Netherlands, Portugal, Seychelles and Uruguay. Discussions were based on four key questions and were moderated by a 'Facilitator', while a 'Harvester' noted down key points which were discussed at his table.

Facilitators – Support Don't punish Workshop – Drugs over Lunch

The role of the facilitator

The facilitator was responsible to maintain the flow of discussions and ideas on the table they are assigned.

The role of the facilitator was to guide people on the various tables around the 4 themes that were laid out, and ensure that each person has time to share their views, experience on the subject being discussed.

The proposed 4 thematic questions that were discussed

1. Who is really affected by the war on drugs in Mauritius?
2. Do you think it is better to respond to drug use and drug dependency by repression or health based approach?
3. What is the place of morality in a national drug response?
4. How can we improve drug policies in Mauritius?

Additional question: How can I help further this debate?

The 4 thematic questions served the purpose of guiding the discussions, while the last question will give the various people at the tables the chance to personally give their inputs, and understand the role of their involvement and contribution in advocating for sensible Drug Policies.

The role of harvesters

Harvesters were present at each table, and their role will be to simply 'harvest' the conversation around the 4 themes that were discussed.

All in all, the harvester were the ears of the table, focusing on the discussion and reporting the main points discussed.

Facilitators:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Joelle Rabot-Honoré | 4. Nathalie Rose |
| 2. Nicolas Ritter | 5. Shidan Ragavadoo |
| 3. Sophie Montocchio | 6. Danny Philippe |

Harvesters:

1. Wilma Zoel
2. Annick Gachet
3. Stephania Jean
4. Pascaine Rita
5. Vanessa Diamasse
6. Pravind Rughoo

The workshop started with a keynote address from Joelle Rabot-Honoré **CUT** Coordinator, followed, a brief speech by Mr Salvator Niyonzima, the UNAIDS Country Director for Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles. The list of guests included members of the Mauritian parliament, members of local political parties, religious chiefs and heads of trade-unions amongst others. In all there were 50 people who participated in the workshop.

Following a brief introduction by participants a short video: [Why the War on Drugs has been a Failure](#) was shown. Then the Advocacy Officer of **PILS**, Ms. Nathalie Rose gave a presentation on the situation of drugs in Mauritius based on the TNS study on Drug perception in Mauritius, she also covered UNGASS – and the absence of Mauritius at the meeting.

This was followed by TED Talk video: [Ethan Nadelmann: Why we need to end the War on Drugs](#)

Mr. Danny Philippe from **LEAD** gave a brief history of Drugs in Mauritius. This was followed by the TED Talk: [Elizabeth Pisani: Sex, drugs and HIV -- let's get rational](#)

Participants started having lunch, and the dialogue started over the key themes mentioned above. See **Annex 2** for some of the answers to the key questions.

The event was graced by Mr. Salvator Niyonzima, the UNAIDS Country Director for Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles.

More pictures



6.0 Congress Drug Policies: Impact on health and society – July 26th



The Collectif Urgence Toxida together with **CARES**, **PILS** and the Mauritius Nursing Association (**MNA**) organized a one-day workshop on July 26th, 2016 between 9am and 3pm on drug policies at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Bel-Village in front of 269 people.

Guest speakers included the deputy chairperson of the National Preventive Mechanism Division of the Human Rights Commission Mr. Hervé Lassemillante, Dr. Vinod Ramkoosaling Consultant Psychiatrist.

The congress was organized as part of the Support Don't Punish campaign which started earlier in May.

According to the speakers the War on Drugs was failing as drugs was easily available and in larger volumes than the 80s. Instead they called for new drug policies which would protect the health of those found in possession of drugs. All highlighted the impact of imprisoning drug consumers: broken families, people failing to find jobs after their release (due to lack of certificate of character), no access to harm reduction services in Prison (Methadone induction was stopped in June 2015) thus resulting in higher rates of infection with HIV or hepatitis virus.

Ms. Nathalie Rose spoke on a survey on Drug perception conducted by TNS Analysis on the general population and which revealed a high number of Mauritians consumed drugs. Nathalie also highlighted that only about 10% of drug consumers have problematic drug use. Her presentation made the link between HIV and Drug use, and how a repressive approach causes more harm than good.

According to Dr. Ramkoosaling measures implemented by the government have failed as only 20 per cent of drugs entering Mauritius are seized by the government. He added new treatments implemented by the government for drug addicts (Suboxone and Naltrexone) was effective only on a few drug users, and will ultimately fail in the long term. As one of the doctors who introduced Methadone in Mauritius, he explained that methadone substitution or maintenance therapy is what is needed for users with problematic drug use. He explained that addiction is a chronic relapse disorder, and that individuals have a right to life-long care if they cannot control their addiction.

The president of the Mauritius Nursing Association, Mr. Ram Nowzadick spoke of the widespread use of synthetic drugs among youths and the sad effects of the drug on the new generation. He added the government was spending more money in detaining people in prisons rather than focusing on health measures, such as harm reduction: Methadone substitution therapy, and the needle exchange programme. He highlighted the fact that as a health professional: it is clear problematic drug use is a health issue foremost.

Mr. Lassemillante highlighted efforts put in by his division to protect the human rights of fellow inmates.

The Advocacy and Communication Coordinator of CUT Mr. Kunal Naik talked on the legal aspect including disproportionate sentences and fines associated with drug use and consumption. He gave various examples of alternative drug policies adopted by various countries: Portugal, Holland, Switzerland, Jamaica, Uruguay and New Zealand.

This event was co-sponsored by **CARES, PILS, MNA** and **CUT**.



7.0 Acknowledgment

These events were sponsored by:



CUT is thankful to all staff, volunteers and partners involved.



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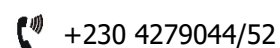
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Western lane, Candos, Quatre Bornes,
Mauritius.



8.0 Annex 1 – Awareness Campaign



More pictures



9.0 Annex 2 – Drugs over Lunch - answers

Who is really affected by the war on drugs in Mauritius?

- Society (tax payers), overall population
- People living in poverty – as they do not have access to have reliable lawyers
- Families, youth and children
- Ex-inmates do not have a certificate of character, thus making it hard for them to obtain jobs
- Drug Users who face stigma and discrimination

Do you think it is better to respond to drug use and drug dependency by repression or health based approach?

- A health based approach is better than repression!
- Repression forces drug users to hide as such they stay away from essential health services that they need, thus exposing themselves to various health hazards.
- It's a shame most politicians focus more on their image because as soon the subject of drugs is discussed they prefer not to engage as the subject is too taboo.
- Jail, is no barrier to anyone using drugs: as within prisons people still use drugs, what is the point then of imprisoning people?
- We need qualified personnel who have experience in psychology, social work, mental health, addiction to work with people who have a problematic drug use that can lead to long term addiction
- A holistic approach is needed to treat people with addiction, as psycho-social needs also to be extended to their family
- Repression has its place for traffickers (to be clearly defined by law) and health services for people who have problematic drug use

- Addiction is a primarily a medical issue.

What is the place of morality in a national drug response?

- Policies should be evidence based and also not opposed to what we term as morals
- Policies should be based on human rights
- Stigmatization and discrimination against people who use drugs, should be stopped. A holistic approach must be used to address all the issues of problematic drug use.
- Education system must be reviewed, and health modules included as prevention must start at a young age
- Police need to be trained on Addiction, drug use, what is harm reduction

How can we change drug policies in Mauritius?

- Advocate for drug policy reform by contacting members of parliament representing our respective districts, asking them to reflect on the damages caused by the war on drugs
- Work on 2 measures:
 1. Decriminalize recreational drug use, while also focusing on awareness campaigns
 2. Offer comprehensive treatment for people who have problematic drug use instead of sending them to prison
- Socio economic problems and problematic drug use are linked, policies should take this link into consideration
- A Shadow report on the Commission of Inquiry on drug trafficking should be worked on by civil society to show case the various view points of civil society on drug policy reform

- A network of People who use drugs must be set up to allow for stronger advocacy
- The dangerous drug act (**DDA**) must be reviewed and amended to reflect the various changes happening world wide including the region: Seychelles decriminalized drug use in June 2016 by amending their drugs misuse act
- A National Drug Control Master Plan must be developed focusing on prevention, rehabilitation, harm reduction and law enforcement

10.0 Annex 3 – Press Coverage

Support. Don't Punish 2016

<http://www.5plus.mu/opinions/meanwhile-mauritius>

<http://defimedia.info/selon-long-cut-entre-9000-et-11000-usagers-de-drogues-par-voie-intraveineuse-a-maurice-33430/>

<http://www.lemauricien.com/article/mahebourg-lancement-la-campagne-support-don-t-punish>

<http://www.lemauricien.com/article/campagne-support-don-t-punish-2016-contre-l-emprisonnement-l-espoir>

<http://ionnews.mu/video-la-politique-des-drogues-a-maurice-evaluee-lors-dun-atelier-270616>

http://www.actogether.mu/news_focus.aspx?id=4156

Congress:

<http://www.lexpress.mu/article/285998/conference-sur-droque-nous-navons-pas-envie-convaincre-gayan>

<http://www.lemauricien.com/article/conference-debat-lien-direct-entre-les-politiques-repressives-et-vihsida-declare-nathalie-ro>

<http://www.lexpress.mu/article/286252/maurice-sans-droque-objectif-impossible-danil-gayan>

<http://ionnews.mu/video-dr-ramkoosalsing-laddiction-ne-se-guerit-pas-il-faut-un-traitement-a-vie-300716/>

<http://www.lemauricien.com/article/conference-debat-lien-direct-entre-les-politiques-repressives-et-vihsida-declare-nathalie-ro#.V6C4nEcc9tw.facebook>

<http://www.lemauricien.com/article/kunal-naik-cut-des-politiques-alternatives-axees-sur-les-droits-humains-et-la-sante-publique#>

11.0 Annex 4 – Support Don't Punish Brochure

Recto

Partenaires:



Soutenir. Pa Punir.



Pour plus d'informations sur la campagne:

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Western lane, Candos, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius



Soutenir. Pa Pinir.

Soutenez. Ne Punissez Pas est une campagne mondiale de plaidoyer dont l'objectif est de promouvoir de meilleures politiques des drogues qui mettent la priorité sur la santé publique et les droits humains.

Verso

Support Don't Punish (SDP) est une campagne de sensibilisation internationale lancée dans le cadre de l'initiative conjointe du International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), le International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), Harm Reduction International et International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

Le Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT) avec l'appui de divers partenaires, coordonne cette campagne depuis 2013 à l'Ile Maurice.

Les objectifs de la campagne:

Soutenez: les personnes qui utilisent des drogues. Encourager une meilleure implémentation des services tels que les programmes d'échanges de seringues, et la méthadone qui aident à stopper la propagation du VIH.

Ne Punissez Pas: les personnes qui utilisent des drogues. Améliorer et changer les lois et les pratiques qui éloignent les individus des services de santé.

CUT est un réseau d'ONGS mauriciens créé en 2005 et œuvrant dans le domaine de la Réduction des Risques liés à la consommation de drogues et du plaidoyer.

Pourquoi 26 Juin?

L'idée de SDP est de créer une prise de conscience et une action de sensibilisation simultanées au sein de la population mondiale, pour la journée du 26 juin, date à laquelle est célébrée la Journée Internationale contre l'Abus et le Trafic Illicite de Drogues.

Jour d'action 2016

Le SDP est plus précisément une campagne internationale pour éveiller les consciences autour des dégâts causés par la criminalisation des personnes qui utilisent des drogues et le non-respect des droits humains de ces mêmes personnes. De lourdes pénalités sont imposées sur ces personnes et l'une des conséquences est l'accroissement du VIH et de l'Hépatite C.

L'une des activités principales de la campagne « SOUTENIR, PA PINIR », est une journée d'action mondiale qui a lieu tous les ans le 26 juin.



Recommandations

Les risques accrus dont font face les consommateurs de drogues ne peuvent plus être ignorés. CUT demande que la loi Mauricienne soit révisée, car il est temps de traiter le problème de drogue comme un problème de santé et non criminel.

"La dépendance aux drogues est avant tout un problème de santé publique" - Le président des États-Unis d'Amérique - Barack Obama

1. Mettre l'accent sur un système de santé publique moins répressif.
2. Baser les politiques de drogues sur les modèles internationaux qui respectent les droits humains.
3. Améliorer les services de santé liés aux drogues tels que les programmes de réductions de risques (comme le programme d'échange de seringues et la méthadone).
4. Étudier les modèles alternatifs aux réglementations des drogues qui respectent les droits humains et la santé publique.

Soutenez nous:

Suivez nous sur notre page Facebook: [sdpmurice](https://www.facebook.com/sdpmurice)

Vous pouvez aussi nous envoyer votre photo avec le logo Soutenir. Pa Pinir.



12.0 Annex 5 – Social Media Campaign

