



## ABOUT US

Transform is a UK-based independent charity working to reduce drug-related harm through evidence-based reforms to policy and practice.

We believe the current drug laws harm everyone in society, especially the most vulnerable.

We want to see a world where drugs are regulated effectively, and where drug policy promotes public health, human rights and social justice.

## A VISION FOR A BETTER WORLD

Our vision is a world where drug policy promotes health, protects the vulnerable and puts safety first. To achieve this we educate the public and policymakers on effective drug policy; we develop and promote viable alternatives to prohibition; we provide a voice for those directly affected by drug policy failures; and we support policymakers and practitioners in achieving positive change.

In addition to our long-term goal, we work actively to support pragmatic changes to drug policy that can save lives.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR JANE HICKMAN



We have been very fortunate this year to win fresh funding from both new and existing funders, as well as some substantial private individual donations. This has allowed us to make a small increase in staff numbers, including a part time Operations Manager. As we have a growing portfolio of research, publications, talks, meetings and partnerships to sustain, the fresh funding has been of great value. We are immensely grateful to all those who support our work financially.

*OUR MOST AMBITIOUS AIM THIS YEAR WAS TO ENSURE OUR GROWING COLLECTION OF AUTHORITATIVE WORKS ON REGULATING DRUGS REACHES A MUCH WIDER AUDIENCE*

Our most ambitious aim this year was to ensure our growing collection of authoritative works on regulating drugs reaches a much wider audience. In particular

we aimed to engage with an extensive circle of policy makers and parliamentarians who are interested in improving the law in this area, as well as keeping the public informed. Although this was another year affected by the pandemic, despite conditions that inhibit many forms of public discussion, Transform staff rose to the challenge again and performed in stalwart fashion.

With our allies Release, DrugScience and LEAP we launched 'MDA at 50', a devastating critique of this country's out of date legislation on the production, marketing and use of drugs. As noted elsewhere in this report the campaigning we supported was an outstanding success and has helped to create a solid foundation both for law reform and for much better health and social provision. We go forward with firm support from 65 parliamentarians, and with public debate better informed than ever.



We are also delighted too to have formed a new partnership with the social action network, Blaksox. We are to work together on issues of drugs, race and economic justice, and have hired a joint Coordinator accountable to our two organisations jointly.

Meanwhile our local work continued apace, with further initiatives around the UK including diversion projects, heroin assisted treatment, overdose prevention centres, phone lines and apps. Happily there is a growing number of local authorities, senior police officers and health providers who want to see a better system for protecting people from drug harms and we are indebted to them for their vision and leadership.

At the end of the year we bade a sad farewell to our outstanding CEO, Dr James Nicholls. We are grateful for his role over the last three years in ensuring Transform continues to lead and to inform the policy debate with outstanding research. We wish him the best good fortune in his continuing work in this field and look forward to fruitful collaboration with him in the future.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO DR JAMES NICHOLLS



2021 was, despite the many challenges caused by Covid-19, another successful year for Transform. Our campaign marking the 50th anniversary of the UK's Misuse of Drugs Act exceeded expectations, gaining the support of over 60 Parliamentarians, leading to a debate on the floor of the House and considerable media coverage. Recognition that the UK's drug laws represent 50 years of failure has become mainstream as consensus grows that change is inevitable. While there is still work to do in persuading some political leaders to openly support reform, arguing for a new approach is no longer marginal or politically risky. Drug policy reform now has the public backing of elected representatives across the country – at national, regional and local levels. We also have growing support among the police, public health and the treatment sector.

*THE TIDE OF HISTORY IS MOVING TOWARDS A NEW WAY OF DEALING WITH DRUGS, AND TRANSFORM CAN BE PROUD OF THE ROLE IT HAS PLAYED IN DRIVING THIS CHANGE FORWARD*

The tangible shift in attitudes towards drug policy in the UK also reflects the swift changes happening across the world. In 2021, we not only saw a greater consolidation of reform in the Americas but also the beginning of a transformation

in Europe. The legal regulation of cannabis is now Government policy in Germany and has been introduced in Malta, while other countries including Switzerland and Luxembourg are set to introduce similar reforms. The tide of history is moving towards a new way of dealing with drugs, and Transform can be proud of the role it has played in driving this change forward.

Transform can also be proud of maintaining its political and financial independence. The growth of new industries associated with cannabis and, increasingly, psychedelic markets is inevitable, but it remains vital that organisations such as Transform remain independent and objective. Having spent years challenging

the iniquities of prohibition, Transform is equally committed to ensuring that legal regulation is focused on public health, social justice and the defence of human rights – not the creation of commercial markets geared towards profit at any costs. We will remain committed to achieving this goal – free from conflicts of interest that arise from commercial backing – and are immensely grateful to the funders, donors and supporters who make this possible.

This was my final year as Chief Executive Officer of Transform, a role which I have felt privileged to perform. I have been fortunate in having had the full support of an excellent board of trustees and in working with a talented and dedicated staff team whose commitment to their work has been incredible. I have also had the opportunity to collaborate with wonderful partners across the UK and globally. I am confident that Transform is in a strong position to continue its vital work, and I hope to continue my association with the organisation for many years to come.

I would, therefore, like to thank everyone who supports, engages and works with Transform for helping to ensure that decades of drug policy failure are ended and that we can look forward to a more just, equitable and positive future.

## THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT TURNS 50 50 YEARS OF FAILURE

2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the UK's main drug law, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. In January, we launched a campaign in partnership with Release, DrugScience and Law Enforcement Action Partnership UK to highlight 50 years of drug policy failure and push for an urgent review of the legislation. The campaign will conclude with our annual lobby of parliament by our Anyone's Child campaign.

### *THE CAMPAIGN'S CALL FOR A REVIEW HAS GARNERED MEDIA ATTENTION IN MANY OF THE MAIN UK OUTLETS OVER THE YEAR*

Our campaign achieved significant political support, with 65 cross-party MPs and Peers backing a call for a review of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 on the basis that it is not fit for purpose. For this number of parliamentarians to publicly support our work marks a significant advance in our political credibility

and visibility and we are delighted with how the campaign has gone so far. In June, MPs debated the Misuse of Drugs Act, with speakers from all parties taking the opportunity to set out why the Act had failed and why it needed to be reviewed. Transform helped with planning for this debate and its briefing was used by a number of speakers, with several mentioning our Anyone's Child campaign.

Other campaign activities included speaking on panels organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group and Cross-Party Parliamentary Group on Drugs (who have both endorsed the campaign); the Criminal Justice Alliance (where we spoke alongside Dame Carol Black among others); and the Labour Campaign for Drug Policy Reform. We also gave a keynote presentation at the annual conference of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Addiction Faculty, and took part in a Parliamentary roundtable exploring options for reform.



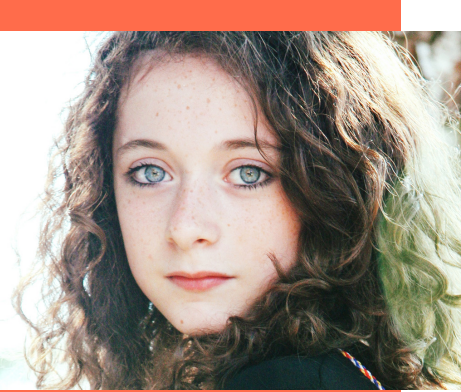
The campaign's call for a review has garnered media attention in many of the main UK outlets over the year, including The Times, The Guardian, The Independent, BBC, and the BMJ.



# 65 SUPPORTIVE PARLIAMENTARIANS



## VOICES FOR REFORM



Martha Fernback

**"I will leave the final words to Anne-Marie Cockburn, who is a campaigner for Anyone's Child: Families for Safer Drug Control. Anne-Marie's daughter Martha, like people through the generations for thousands of years, just wanted to have a bit of fun and get high. She researched on the internet how to get high safely. She was 15 years old when she took an overdose of MDMA that killed her. Anne-Marie says: "As I stand by my daughter's grave, what more evidence do I need that UK drug policy needs to change?" Jeff Smith MP, 24th June 2021**

*OUR MEMBERSHIP NOW STANDS AT OVER 45 FAMILIES, AND WE ARE REGULARLY CONTACTED BY OTHERS WISHING TO JOIN*

now stands at over 45 families, and we are regularly contacted by others wishing to join. The families continue to stand at the forefront of our effort to change the public narrative around drugs, as we amplify the testimonies of those most directly affected by drug policy failures.

This year we have produced six new films for the campaign, featuring both families involved in the campaign and key individuals who are pioneering reform - including Daniel Ahmed, who runs a Heroin Assisted Treatment facility in Middlesbrough; Peter Krykant, who established the UK's first Overdose Prevention Centre in Glasgow; and Chris Daw QC.

As part of the Misuse of Drugs Act at 50 campaign we also collected 50 short films featuring families, activists, lawyers, politicians and police officers calling for root and branch review of the law.

It has been another strong year for the Anyone's Child campaign, as we have welcomed new family members and activists into the network. Our membership

We have continued to run a programme of training this year helping over 100 new activists to make the case for reform and get active locally. Despite Covid-19, we were also delighted to hold a sold-out live event in Leeds, where we were joined by Neil Woods, former undercover police officer, Julia Buxton from Manchester University, Peter Krykant, Chris Brady from The Loop, and representatives from Anyone's Child. Following the success of the meeting, we have delivered training in Leeds and formed a core group that will continue to meet and push reforms locally.



Lockdown this year meant that once again we could not hold an in-person lobby of Parliament in June, however families and activists have continued to write and meet with their MPs over the course of the year. Over 200 letters have been sent calling on MPs to support a review of the Misuse of Drugs Act and we have held over 20 online meetings with MPs. We are now starting to plan our return to Parliament for our annual lobby this June.

We are delighted to have secured continuation grants from the Tudor Trust and the John Ellerman Foundation to continue our programme of work over the next three years, in addition we are incredibly grateful to the committed individuals who continue to fundraise on behalf of the campaign.

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL REFORMS

2021 was a triumphant year for local reform work, as we helped facilitate significant movements in policy, particularly on the issue of Overdose Prevention Centres.

The success of Peter Krykant's mobile Overdose Prevention Centre operating in Glasgow put the issue firmly in the media spotlight and triggered a commitment from the Scottish Government to find a way to open them. In recognition of the important role Transform has played in supporting his work, Peter generously donated his Overdose Prevention Centre vehicle to us for campaigning use. This year, we took it to events in Leeds and Bristol, and plan to take it on a national tour in 2022 - including to Westminster.

We worked with the Faculty of Public Health and 65 other organisations including 9 of the Royal Colleges to call for the Government to pilot Overdose Prevention Centres as a necessary and evidence-based intervention to save lives and protect health.

The number of police drug offence diversion schemes (a form of de facto decriminalisation) continues to grow,

*THE CLEAR POLITICAL MOMENTUM  
BEHIND DIVERSION SCHEMES IS A  
SIGNIFICANT VICTORY FOR REFORM*

with over a dozen forces now using them, including pilots in London, where the Mayor's office is keen to explore a wider programme. Diversion schemes are now widely supported by police and health bodies, and there is an explicit call and funding in the new UK Government Drug Strategy to encourage their rollout. In Scotland, the Lord Advocate announced a major expansion of diversion for drug possession, including expanding issuing police warnings to include Class A drugs - something Transform has long called for. We are now encouraging the Scottish Government to ensure the right measures are in place for people to be diverted to, building on work connecting them with Police and Crime Commissioners in England. The clear political momentum behind diversion schemes is a significant victory for reform.





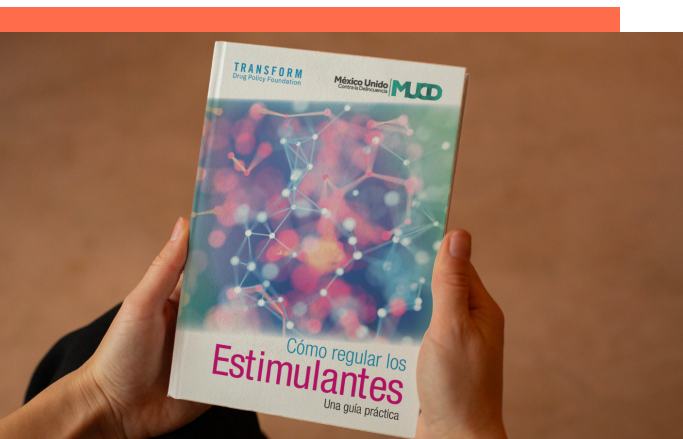
Peter Krykant

Transform gave oral evidence to the London Assembly Health Committee on provision of drugs testing services in London and we continue to work closely with The Loop to support their work in encouraging drug safety testing at festivals and in city centres. We are also working in a number of areas on proposed Heroin Assisted Treatment clinics, building on those already established in Glasgow and Middlesbrough.

## SHAPING THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE

The work of Transform continues to have an international impact. Despite our size, we remain one of the leading organisations shaping the global debate on the future of drug policy. This year, our staff have been invited to discuss drug policy reform with leading policymakers in Luxembourg, Malta, France, Mexico and Colombia.

This year, following the growing momentum in the Americas, saw the first European country, Malta, legalise recreational use and growing of cannabis. The new German Coalition Government has also announced plans to legally regulate non-medical cannabis markets, and a host of other European countries are debating or implementing similar reforms including Luxembourg and Switzerland. 2022 looks set to see a seismic shift in the debate around cannabis reform across Europe.



We continue to work closely with our Mexican partner organisation México Unido Contra la Delincuencia to promote reform, including co-hosting a side event on cocaine regulation at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna. We have translated our books How to Regulate Stimulants and How to Regulate Cannabis into Spanish and are planning a number of launch events in early 2022.

A Bill to legally regulate coca and cocaine was debated in the Colombian senate last April, gaining considerable political, media and public support. The groundbreaking Bill was significantly based on our book, *How to Regulate Stimulants: A Practical Guide*, and contained detailed and credible proposals for coca leaf and cocaine regulation. We were thrilled to have played a role in this, and to also have been invited to present evidence at a Colombian Senate hearing on drug policy reform on proposed cannabis regulation.

Our Senior Policy Analyst, Steve Rolles travelled to Oslo in Norway, to speak at the Nordic Reform Conference, also receiving an honorary award in thanks for helping establish the Norwegian Association for Safer Drug Policies in 2017. We also gave expert testimony in the Indonesian Supreme Court in an important case on access to controlled medicines.



Steve Rolles

## PUTTING SOCIAL EQUITY INTO DRUG POLICY REFORM

**“Current drug policy fails everybody. But it fails Black communities in particular. Black people are six times more likely to be stopped and searched than their white counterparts, and nine times more likely when the reason given is suspected drug possession. And this is despite white people reporting higher rates of drug consumption.” Sir Simon Woolley**

### *WE HAVE CO-HOSTED A 'HACKATHON' LOOKING AT HOW FUTURE CANNABIS MARKETS CAN PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY*

We have formed a new allyship with the Social Action Network BLAKSOX that aims to amplify the voices of Black communities as drug policy reform comes to Europe and the UK. The project is funded by Trust for London and builds on previous work with Black communities across London as we work to ensure those most impacted by our current policies take centre stage in the reform debate.

The programme was launched in April with a webinar featuring a range of international experts. We have since co-organised a side event at the Labour Party annual conference, and co-hosted a ‘hackathon’ looking at how future cannabis markets can promote social justice and racial equality.

The allyship is producing a podcast series that will be launched in the new year.





## GETTING OURSELVES HEARD

We continue to be one of the leading global voices on drug policy reform and have maintained a high media profile this year, due to our reputation for producing engaging and ground-breaking resources and news stories. This year we have produced 45 blogs and appeared in over 220 articles, and numerous broadcast appearances. We have written op-eds, letters, and appeared on multiple podcasts. We have featured in The New York Times, The Guardian, The Times, Wall Street Journal, The Telegraph, The Mirror, Metro, BBC News and Radio 4 among many others.



Brian (Anyone's Child Campaigner), Martin Powell

**226 MEDIA ARTICLES**  
**37K+ 🐦 FOLLOWERS**

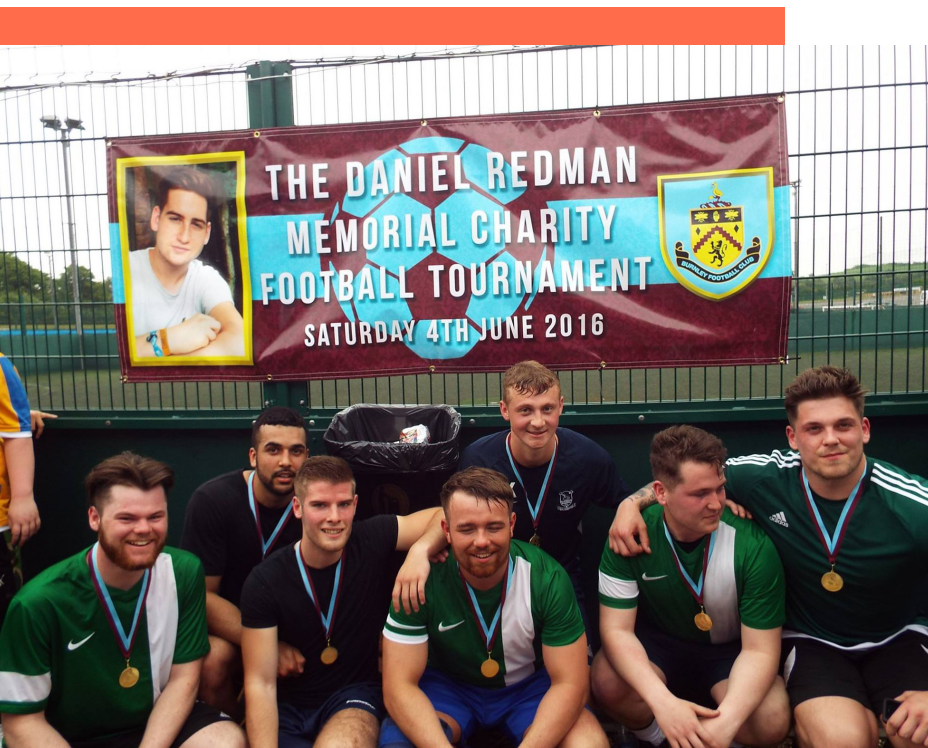
Our staff have published articles in major research journals including Addiction, the International Journal of Drug Policy, the Pharmaceutical Journal and the British Medical Journal. We also acted as co-investigators for a research project in partnership with the University of Stirling on Overdose Prevention Centres, with the final report being submitted to the Scottish Government's Drug Death Taskforce.

We have also updated our country case study on Portuguese decriminalisation, with support from leading Portuguese policy makers. This report has proved incredibly popular, it consistently is the most downloaded report from our website and it is regularly quoted in media articles about decriminalisation.



## FUNDING AND SUPPORT

We remain deeply grateful to everyone who provides us with financial support: from the largest trusts and foundations to every individual supporter. We could not do our work without them, and hope that they continue to value our achievements. We would like to thank Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Glass-House Trust, Open Society Foundation, Tudor Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, The Linnet Trust, Trust for London and the hundreds of generous and committed individuals who have supported our work through sponsored activities and regular donations.

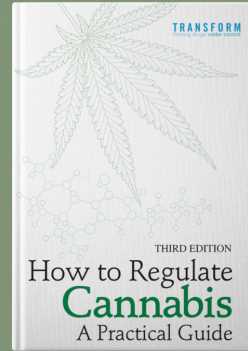


## LOOKING FORWARD

We are pleased to be welcoming Alex Feis-Bryce as the new CEO of Transform from February 2022.

We have significant plans for the year ahead, including celebrating the 25th anniversary of Transform, the publication of a third edition of our book *How to Regulate Cannabis: A Practical Guide*, and the launch of a Spanish edition of our book *How to Regulate Stimulants: A Practical Guide* in both Mexico and Colombia. We are planning more 'Take Drugs Seriously' events in conjunction with the tour of our mobile Overdose Prevention Centre, and an event with St George's House bringing together Christian faith leaders to discuss drug policy reform.

We are grateful for the support of all those who have helped us so far. We strongly believe that, in the new world that is emerging around us, there will no longer be a place for outdated and harmful drug policies. Our commitment to not only showing where policy has failed, but setting out the alternatives, is more important than ever.



## FINANCES

### Financial information (for the year ended 31 March 2021)

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 total £	2020 total £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations	73,923	301,395	<b>375,318</b>	309,166
Charitable activities	-	3,096	<b>3,096</b>	6,816
Other trading activities	-	-	-	2,518
Investments	-	460	<b>460</b>	718
<b>Total income</b>	<u>73,923</u>	<u>304,951</u>	<b><u>378,874</u></b>	<u>319,218</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	-	9,838	<b>9,838</b>	8,516
Charitable activities	96,568	288,257	<b>384,825</b>	390,237
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>96,568</u>	<u>298,095</u>	<b><u>394,663</u></b>	<u>398,753</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	(22,645)	6,856	<b>(15,789)</b>	(79,535)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(22,645)	6,856	<b>(15,789)</b>	(79,535)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	<u>100,312</u>	<u>264,887</u>	<b><u>365,199</u></b>	<u>444,734</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>77,667</u>	<u>271,743</u>	<b><u>349,410</u></b>	<u>365,199</u>

## VOLUNTEERS

Transform would like to thank Anna Wade for providing ongoing support for our MDA at 50 campaign, and Zibby Jahns, who interned with us to develop ideas for better visualising our messages.

We would also like to thank all of the families and activists involved with the Anyone's Child campaign.



## TRANSFORM TEAM

Transform has been delighted to expand this year and take on a number of new staff members. The current team includes:

**James Nicholls:** Chief Executive Officer (outgoing)

**Jane Slater:** Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Campaign Manager for Anyone's Child

**Steve Rolles:** Senior Policy Analyst

**Martin Powell:** Head of Partnerships

**Kate Elliott:** Digital Communications Manager

**Nikki Phillips:** Operations Manager

**Ester Kincová:** Research and Policy Officer

**Rebecca Stamp:** Anyone's Child Coordinator

**Shaun Flores:** Blaksox Allyship Coordinator



## TRANSFORM BOARD

Jane Hickman: Chair

Nina Edmonds: Treasurer

Howard Jacobs

Vicky Unwin

Rowan Miller

Hannah Slater



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