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Middle England
Artist's 'real B

Thursday 10, 10-14
Published in London
and Manchester
theguardian.com

Newspaper of the year
Winner of the
Pulitzer prize

Punitive drug laws are failing, says minister

Home Office study finds no evidence that harsh sentencing curbs illegal use

Alan Travis
Home affairs editor

There is no evidence that tough enforcement of the drug laws on personal possession leads to lower levels of drug use, according to the government's first evidence-based study.

Examining international drug laws, the groundbreaking Home Office document published today brings to an end 40 years of almost unbroken official political rhetoric that only harsher penalties can

Washington and Colorado, and in Uruguay. It says that "it is too early to know how they will play out but we will monitor the impacts of these new policies in the years to come".

Regarding legal highs, Baker said the government would look at the feasibility of a blanket ban on new compounds of psychoactive drugs that focused on dealers and the "head shops" that sell tobacco paraphernalia rather than users. "The head shops could be left with nothing to sell but Rizla papers," Baker

First Commons debate
Suppressed Home

NIGEL MORRIS
AND OLIVER WRIGHT

A punitive approach to drug abuse including locking up addicts fails to curb levels of addiction, a Home Office study warns today, as MPs stage the first Commons

debate on drugs legislation in a generation.
The report suggests treating possession of drugs as a health rather than a criminal matter reduces drug deaths and HIV infection rates without increasing addiction levels.
Its findings, which have been kept under wraps for

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plete overha
43-year-old drugs
The MP leading call
A fresh approach today
The MP leading call
The MP leading call
The MP leading call
The MP leading call

Exclusive book offer
A Week in Paris by
Rachel Hore for just £2.99

Pick up at WHSmith, see page 38

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Telegraph

Coalition conflict on drug laws

Home Office report suggests
could have benefits

TRANSFORM
Getting drugs under control
ANNUAL REVIEW 2014

Right
Baby P



graph.co.uk



OUR VISION

An end to the war on drugs and the establishment of effective and humane systems of drug regulation

OUR MISSION

We will inspire countries to explore and establish the legal regulation of drugs

OUR GOALS

- Normalise and build trust in legal regulation with a range of audiences nationally and internationally
- Engage the many policy sectors impacted by the war on drugs to help bring the reform debate into the political mainstream
- Support and encourage a coalition of Latin American governments to call for the war on drugs to be replaced with legal regulation
- Maximise Transform's impact among policymakers by reaching a wide public audience, targeting key individuals and winning over the media

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Roger Golland OBE, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Transform's achievements this year are testimony to how far the organisation and the reform cause have progressed in the last 20 years. In particular, we were honoured to be invited to work with the prestigious Global Commission on Drug Policy – led by Kofi Annan and a host of former presidents – on their new report, 'Taking Control: Pathways to Drug Policies that Work'. Not only does this title echo our organisational tagline, 'Getting Drugs Under Control', but by calling for legal regulation the report underlines that the campaign for reform is now moving to the centre of international discourse.

Transform also supported the sponsors of the first parliamentary debate for years on UK drug policy, and diverse media channels, from the Sun to the New York Times, joined calls for moves towards a regulatory regime, while our authoritative publications and blogs reached unprecedented numbers.

It is gratifying to observe how such a small expert organisation can, with its partners, help nudge the world towards what promises to be a major transformation of a

failing approach. As the debate continues its move into the mainstream, Transform believes there is an opportunity to speak to a wider audience and challenge lazy assumptions. Our new project, Anyone's Child: Families for Safer Drug Control, fronted by the inspirational bereaved mother Anne-Marie Cockburn, is set to make a major contribution to that wider debate.

The dynamic policy environment at home and abroad means that there are more calls than ever on our resources. The trustees have greatly appreciated the unflagging energy and dedication of the staff, led by the outgoing Caroline Pringle. In response to this opportunity and challenge we are appointing a full-time Chief Executive and have streamlined our governance structures.

But we could not make progress without the continued support of our loyal donors and supporters, and we encourage anyone sympathetic to our cause to contribute to the best of their ability. To coin someone else's slogan this time, you really can help us make a difference. Once you have had a look at this report, please do get in touch.

THE GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY

The influential Global Commission on Drug Policy – whose members include Kofi Annan and eight former heads of state – commissioned Transform to provide technical assistance and be part of the drafting team for their latest report, 'Taking Control: Pathways to Drug Policies that Work'. This new report built on the Commission's first publication, produced in 2011, by exploring the specific details of how models of regulation could operate in a post-prohibition world.

With an eye on the upcoming 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on drugs (UNGASS), the report also placed the regulation debate within the context of a wider need to modernise the global drug control framework established by the UN drug treaties. The Commission is the most distinguished group of high-level leaders ever to call for such far-reaching reform.

Released in September 2014, the report generated huge media coverage globally, demonstrating the legitimacy of the arguments for legal regulation to a wider and more mainstream audience. Transform attended the New York

launch of the report and participated in the discussions, preparations and media activity around it.

Work to ensure that the report impacts on policy makers has begun, with the Commissioners presenting it at high-level forums across the world, including the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) in Guatemala, the Mexican House of Deputies, and to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York. As a result, it is already being proposed as the basis for a manifesto for progressive countries to rally around at the upcoming UNGASS in 2016.

“Ultimately the most effective way to reduce the extensive harms of the global drug prohibition regime and advance the goals of public health and safety is to get drugs under control through responsible legal regulation.”

**TAKING
CONTROL:**
PATHWAYS TO DRUG
POLICIES THAT WORK

Download the report: bit.ly/1plqfPq



Members of the Global Commission include:

Richard Branson
Kofi Annan, the former
presidents of Brazil,
Chile, Colombia, Mexico,
Poland and Switzerland,
and many more

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The Global Commission on Drug Policy commends the progressive and high-quality contributions of Transform to the wider international debate on ending the war against drugs. The organization provided an important contribution to the 2014 report entitled ‘Taking Control: Pathways for Drug Policies that Work’. Transform personnel bring energy and enthusiasm to the table and are recognized for their enduring commitment to more humane, public health oriented and rights-based approaches to drug policy.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy



UK WORK – 30 OCTOBER

The highlight of Transform's UK media work in 2014 was the publication of a long-suppressed Home Office report highlighting how its own approach to drugs is not based on evidence. The 'headline' finding of the report – which looks at the effectiveness of other countries' drug policies – is that harsh penalties for drug users have no effect on levels of drug use.

On the same day as the publication of the report, a parliamentary debate on drug policy was held, with the MPs present voting overwhelmingly in favour of an independent impact assessment of the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Coinciding with these developments, the UK's biggest-selling newspaper, the Sun, published the results of a large-scale opinion poll on drug policy reform, which revealed just how much the public debate has shifted. Among other positive findings, 58% of the UK public were in favour of trials with Portugal's model of drug decriminalisation, and 71% believed that the war on drugs has failed.

Transform worked solidly behind the scenes in the months leading up to this day, helping to make sure that evidence-based drug policy reform dominated the political and media agenda. As a result, on the day, it was the number one story across all the major UK newspapers and news websites. Transform staff were quoted in the vast majority of the print and online coverage – including in the Guardian, the Daily Telegraph, the Sun, the Daily Mirror and the Daily Mail – and gave more than 25 broadcast interviews on local and national radio and television.

100

VOICES

THE CHANCE TO REFORM THE UK'S BACKWARDS DRUGS POLICY IS FINALLY HERE – AND WE CANNOT WASTE IT

For the first time in over 40 years the Government has acknowledged that prohibition and populist rhetoric don't work

DRUGS BOMBHELL

IS IT HIGH TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Home Office study casts doubt on law

Poll: 71% say war on pushers a failure

51% Do you think the war on drugs has been a failure?

39% Do you think the war on drugs has been a success?

BBC News Sport Weather

NEWS HEALTH

Home World UK England N Ireland Scotland Wales Business Politics

Drugs a 'huge issue for government', charity says

3 hours ago

There is "no obvious" link between tough laws and levels of illegal drug use, a government report has found

THE INDEPENDENT

Reform our drug laws now, MPs tell Cameron

MPs have urged the government to reform drug laws, saying the current approach is outdated and ineffective.

THE Sun poll says...

58% of the UK public support trials of Portugal's model of drug decriminalisation

TRANSFORM www.tdgp.org.uk @transformdrugs

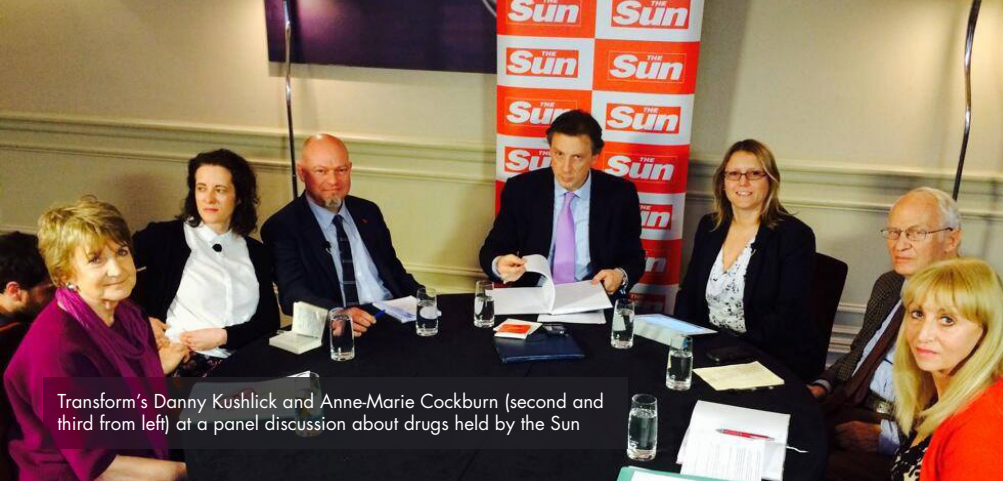


OTHER UK AND INTERNATIONAL WORK

Additional highlights of Transform's UK work in 2014 include:

- Running a seminar, in collaboration with Christian Aid, to encourage international development NGOs to engage with the drug policy reform debate
- Continuing our engagement with all UK political parties, including organising a fringe meeting at the Lib Dem party conference, at which the government's drugs minister Norman Baker MP spoke
- Being nominated in the 'One to Watch' category of Prospect Magazine's Think Tank of the Year Awards
- Working with Sir William Patey, the former ambassador to Afghanistan, as he publicly called for an end to the war on drugs, and the legal regulation of the heroin trade
- Briefing journalists on the costs of the war on drugs at a meeting of the UN Correspondents Association in New York
- Presenting at the thematic debate on drug supply reduction at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in Vienna, Austria
- Running workshops for the Open Society Foundations' West African and Latin American Advocacy Fellowships on Drug Policy Reform
- Other events included the European Harm Reduction Conference, in Switzerland; the International Harm Reduction Conference, in Lithuania; the launch of the European Commission's Alice Rap project report on cannabis regulation, in Amsterdam; the 2014 International AIDS conference, in Australia; a European Commission expert seminar on novel psychoactive substances, in Barcelona; and a meeting of the New York Bar Association's Drugs and Crime Committee

Transform staff were also invited to present at numerous events on the international stage:



Transform's Danny Kushlick and Anne-Marie Cockburn (second and third from left) at a panel discussion about drugs held by the Sun



The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs



The International Harm Reduction Conference, in Lithuania



Alice Rap report launch, in Amsterdam



Danny Kushlick briefing UN journalists in New York

PUBLICATIONS

Debating Drugs: How to Make the Case for Legal Regulation

Transform produced a debating guide to equip policy makers with the key arguments needed to win any reform debate. The guide has already been widely disseminated and used in training workshops for a range of policy makers, NGOs and opinion formers.

Country case study briefings

Successful real-world examples of drug policy reform make the prohibitionist position hard to defend. That is why many who oppose reform distort or misrepresent the facts about countries that have tried new approaches. Transform's authoritative country case studies enable advocates and policymakers to debunk these myths and demonstrate, using the best available evidence, that reform works.

The first two briefings produced as part of this series are 'Drug decriminalisation in Portugal: Setting the record

straight' and 'Cannabis policy in the Netherlands: Moving forwards not backwards'. Forthcoming briefings in this series will examine drug policy in Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, the US states of Washington and Colorado, and Uruguay.

Alice Rap project

Transform provided extensive input into a report entitled 'Cannabis: From prohibition to regulation', produced as part of the European Commission's Alice Rap project.

Academic journals

Transform staff were invited to publish a commentary in the journal *Addiction*, on the challenges for New Zealand's recently legislated regulatory model for novel psychoactive substances. Transform's work – in particular our cannabis regulation guide – was discussed or referenced in a range of academic journals, including the *British Medical Journal*, which drew upon the guide for a cover-story feature on cannabis policy (see page 12).

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This guide to winning arguments on legal regulation for recreational drugs is great, like all Transform output.

Dr Ben Goldacre
Award-winning science author

TRANSFORM
Getting drugs under control

DEBATING DRUGS

HOW TO MAKE THE CASE FOR LEGAL REGULATION

A CONCISE GUIDE TO THE ARGUMENTS

TRANSFORM Drug decriminalisation in Portugal: setting the record straight

Portugal decriminalised the possession of all drugs for personal use in 2001, and there now exists a significant body of evidence on what happened following the move. Both opponents and advocates of drug policy reform are appearing guilty of ignoring pressing evidence, leading to flawed advocacy. It is time to reassess the benefits of reform.

The reality is that Portugal's drug situation has improved significantly in several key areas. Most notably, the incidence of drug-related deaths has fallen dramatically since the introduction of the decriminalisation policy. Portugal's public health is also showing a steady and consistent improvement. In addition, the country has seen a reduction in prison overcrowding, a decrease in drug-related crime, and an increase in the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction. The decriminalisation policy has also led to a significant increase in the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction, which is a positive sign for public health.

Background

Portugal decriminalised the personal possession of all drugs in 2001. The move has led to a number of positive outcomes, including a significant reduction in drug-related deaths and a decrease in the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction. The decriminalisation policy has also led to a significant increase in the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction, which is a positive sign for public health.

The decriminalisation policy has also led to a significant increase in the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction, which is a positive sign for public health.

TRANSFORM Cannabis policy in the Netherlands: moving forwards not backwards

Understanding and misinterpreting of actual and proposed changes to Dutch cannabis policy in 2019 has led some opponents of cannabis reform to suggest the country is moving from its longstanding and pragmatic policy of tolerating the possession, use and sale of cannabis.

This is not the case. In reality, most of the more regressive measures that have either not been implemented, have been subsequently abandoned or have had only marginal impact. Additionally, there is growing public support for more progressive reforms, including a system of legal cannabis dispensaries to be established in shopping and eating outlets, and a pathway by national municipalities to establish such models of production and supply.

Background

The Dutch approach to cannabis policy has always been fundamentally pragmatic, rather than politically or ideologically driven. When the law changed in 2003, it was done so in a way that was designed to be a middle ground between the two extremes of prohibition and full decriminalisation. The policy effectively decriminalised the personal possession and use of cannabis for adults, but it did not remove the criminal penalties for those who produce and supply cannabis. This approach has been successful in reducing the number of people seeking treatment for drug addiction, which is a positive sign for public health.

TAKING CONTROL:
PATHWAYS TO DRUG POLICIES THAT WORK

GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2014

ALICE RAP Policy Paper Series
Policy Brief 5.
CANNABIS – FROM PROHIBITION TO REGULATION
"When the music changes so does the dance"

Cannabis policies and social/health harm: A conceptual model
Dionneke, 2013, March, 2009

MEDIA

In addition to the extensive media coverage Transform received on 30 October, the organisation maintained its high profile throughout the year, featuring over 100 times in print, online, and on radio and television. We appeared across all major media outlets in the UK, including the Daily Telegraph, the Guardian, the Sun, the Daily Mail, the Daily Mirror, BBC News and Sky News. A few other stand-out moments are listed below:

- Transform was referenced and quoted multiple times in a front-cover article on cannabis regulation in the British Medical Journal. Transform was also recognised for the advice it gave during the production of the piece
- Transform received international coverage in publications such as the Washington Post, Newsweek, the New Zealand Herald and National Geographic
- A Transform blog on the World Health Organization's call for the decriminalisation of personal drug possession went viral, receiving 195,000 page views

Online engagement

Transform has significantly improved its online engagement following the launch of our new website last year:

- Email subscribers have more than doubled, and our online publications are downloaded thousands of times a week
- Transform is now followed by more than 16,000 people on Twitter, and by over 5,500 on Facebook. Our Twitter followers include policy makers, journalists, government agencies, artists and celebrities
- Our growing social media presence means that our content, including links to Transform blog analysis, media quotes, and infographics produced in-house, are regularly shared by thousands of supporters to reach an even wider audience



LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAMME

Our Latin American programme, run in partnership with México Unido Contra la Delincuencia, continues to build momentum for drug policy reform across the region. Key achievements over the year include:

- Providing technical advice to local and national governments in the region. This has included advising the Mexican Congress, the Chilean Medical Association and Congressional Health Committee, and senior policy makers across the Caribbean
- Producing Spanish translations of Transform's new cannabis regulation book, debating guide, and country case study briefings
- Launching the Spanish translation of 'How to Regulate Cannabis: A Practical Guide' in Mexico, Costa Rica and Chile
- Working with members of the Mexican government, convincing them to take a leadership role in the run-up to the UNGASS 2016
- Facilitating six workshops on how to make the case for drug policy reform, held in Mexico, Chile, Vienna, Colombia, Jamaica and Costa Rica
- Participating in meetings of the Organization of American States' Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission in Colombia, Guatemala and the US
- Participating in a dialogue on drug policy reform in Medellin, Colombia, organised by the Colombian Ministry of Justice
- Participating in a dialogue of Caribbean policy makers and civil society groups, at the Center for Governance, in Kingston, Jamaica
- Taking part in over 50 regional and international events, including meetings with the Mexican Business Association in Washington DC
- Continuing to provide media comment and analysis to mainstream media outlets across Latin America



Transform/MUCD staff filming for Mexican TV

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Transform's workshop in Mexico about how to argue for drug law reform in general, and legal regulation in particular, was invaluable. It should be rolled out globally to advocates of drug law reform and all policymakers considering change.

Ambassador Edgar Gutiérrez Girón
Special Mission On Drug Policy Reform, Guatemala



The Chair of the Chilean Congressional Health Committee with a copy of Transform's cannabis regulation guide



Steve Rolles and Lisa Sánchez meeting the Minister of Justice, in Jamaica



Transform staff giving a briefing in the Mexican senate



Transform/MUCD's Lisa Sánchez with Richard Branson and MUCD's Armando Santacruz

ANYONE'S CHILD: FAMILIES FOR SAFER DRUG CONTROL

In November 2014, Transform began fundraising for a new public campaign called Anyone's Child: Families for Safer Drug Control. Working with Anne-Marie Cockburn – who has become a campaigner for drug policy reform since the death of her 15-year-old daughter, Martha, from an ecstasy overdose – the campaign intends to address one of the biggest remaining barriers to widespread reform: the fear that any move away from prohibition would endanger children.

Unscrupulous politicians and elements of the media whip up and play on this fear to further their own agendas. But this emotional response has proved difficult to dispel with evidence and analysis alone. We need to directly counter people's fears by putting a human face on the costs of the war on drugs, and by having the people who bear these costs tell their stories and explain why they believe there is a better way forward.

Anyone's Child will show the public that the current approach is endangering their children, and that legal regulation would help keep them safe. To do this, the

project will, for the first time, bring together and give a voice to families whose stories will reach and convince the public in a way that no other campaign ever has.

Their perspective will have huge media appeal, help build support for reform among new audiences, and crucially, stop politicians exploiting people's natural fears for their children to prevent reform.

ANYONE'S CHILD
Families for safer drug control



**"I WANT MPS TO STAND BY MY DAUGHTER'S GRAVE
AND TELL ME THAT OUR DRUGS POLICY WORKS"**



IF YOUR CHILD HAD A PROBLEM WITH
DRUGS, WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD
HELP THEM MOST?

A DOCTOR'S
APPOINTMENT

OR

A CRIMINAL
RECORD



ANYONE'S CHILD
Families for safer drug control



“

I am heartened by a touching new project in the UK. Launched by Transform Drug Policy Foundation, Anyone's Child: Families for Safer Drug Control seeks to put a human face on the costs of the war on drugs and show the public that it is the current approach which is endangering their children, and that legal regulation would help keep them safe.

Sir Richard Branson
Founder of the Virgin Group

NEW PROJECTS 2015/16

Below is our planned programme of work for the next year, for which we are seeking funding.

1. Anyone's Child: Families for Safer Drug Control

We plan to expand our Anyone's Child campaign by forging alliances with similar groups around the world, to include a much wider spectrum of families who have been negatively impacted by the war on drugs. We will also be developing a website, briefings and a series of videos to support the campaign

2. The Alternative World Drug Report, 2nd edition

We will be updating our 2012 publication, the Alternative World Drug Report, to use as an advocacy and outreach tool in preparation for UNGASS 2016. We will also produce a second volume that includes a series of country case studies and myth-busting briefings that detail real-world alternatives to criminalisation and prohibition

3. Preparatory work in the build-up to UNGASS 2016

We will continue to engage, inform, coordinate and work strategically with UN agencies, policy makers, country missions, and civil society groups in the lead-up to UNGASS 2016, which promises to be a landmark event for the drug policy reform movement

4. Latin American programme

We will expand our programme to meet the overwhelming demand from policy makers for expert advice, and play a key role in driving reform across the region

5. Study into the harms and benefits of drugs under different drug policy regimes

We aim to undertake a study with academic partners, to assess the harms and benefits of various drugs under a range of drug policy regimes, including prohibition and legal regulation

FINANCES AND PEOPLE

Income

Total incoming resources £249,694

Expenditure

Activities in furtherance of Charity's objectives: £239,412

Administrative and accountancy expenses: £10,917

Total resources expended: £250,329

Net (deficit): £635

Total funds as of 31/03/2013: £91,477

Total funds as of 31/03/2014: £108,111

Transform Funders

We would like to express our gratitude to all the individual donors and charitable trusts that support our work. We are particularly grateful to our long-term supporters, Henry Hoare, Paul Birch and Ken Aylmer, as well as the following trusts: the Open Society Foundations, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Allen Lane Foundation, the Linnet Trust, the Glass-House Trust and the JP Getty Jnr Charitable Foundation

Transform Board

Transform is a charitable foundation overseen by a board of Trustees: Roger Golland (Chair), John Moore (Treasurer), Paul Birch, Julia Buxton, John Whitaker, Clive Bates and James Varty

Transform Staff

Caroline Pringle, Chief Executive (left post October 2014)
Jane Slater, Operations and Fundraising Manager
Amanda Harper, Operations and Finance Assistant
Martin Powell, Head of Campaigns
Danny Kushlick, Head of External Affairs
Steve Rolles, Senior Policy Analyst
George Murkin, Policy and Communications Officer
Lisa Sánchez, Latin American Programme Manager
Aram Barra, Latin American Programme Officer

We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of all our interns and volunteers

TRANSFORM

Getting drugs under control

Transform Drug Policy Foundation
9-10 King Street
Bristol
BS1 4EQ
United Kingdom

0117 325 0295

info@tdpf.org.uk
www.tdpf.org.uk

Registered charity number 1100518
Limited company number 4862177