Our Vision

An end to the war on drugs and the establishment of an effective system of regulation that promotes peace and security, development and human rights

Our Mission

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

Our Goals

• Persuade policymakers worldwide to advocate for and implement drug policy review and reform

• Increase support globally for review and reform in specific sectors and across the wider public

• Build a strong research base to support our mission and vision
A tipping point has been reached in the drug law reform debate - and I am proud of Transform’s continuing role in making this happen. This annual review offers a snapshot of the Transform team’s incredible work over the past year, and a pointer to exciting developments on the horizon, as the fulfilment of our core vision to end the war on drugs edges closer.

There has been a critical shift from merely theoretical debates to real world reforms - with multiple countries and states now actively implementing new policies. These range from ending the criminalisation of people who use drugs, to regulating markets for cannabis and exploring options for other drugs. Transform’s authoritative research and advocacy continue to play a role in supporting many of these developments.

The global prohibitionist consensus has decisively fractured, with an increasing number of member states now openly expressing dissent at the United Nations (UN). Even a few years ago this would have been considered heretical. Working closely with non-govermental organisation (NGO) colleagues, we are building solidarity among reform-minded countries, and forging common positions on key issues, in readiness for the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs in April 2016. We will build on this work as we approach the next UN General Assembly in 2019.

Public and media debate remains far ahead of policy makers. A petition signed by 250,000 Britons forced a parliamentary debate on cannabis legalisation. However, despite progress on the international stage, leadership in the UK government is still absent.

But winning the argument is about hearts as well as minds. Our new Anyone’s Child campaign, drawing on experiences of families harmed by the war on drugs, is successfully reaching mainstream audiences.

The board acknowledges the tireless energies of our staff, and would like to thank all our donors and supporters for the indispensable contributions they have made to Transform’s work.
Anyone’s Child: Families for Safer Drug Control

Transform launched its new campaign Anyone’s Child: Families for Safer Drug Control in July 2015 with a new website www.anyoneschild.org. Anyone’s Child is a network of families whose lives have been wrecked by the UK’s drug laws and are now campaigning to change them.

The families launched the campaign by taking a letter to 10 Downing Street calling on David Cameron to carry out a review of UK drug policy and to look at all alternative approaches, including legal regulation. Families also met with their local Members of Parliament. To support the project launch, we produced a series of case studies to send to MPs.

The launch attracted widespread mainstream media attention, including an extended interview on Channel 4 news, and articles in the Daily Mail, the Mirror, Huffington Post, Politics.co.uk, Sky News, The Oxford Times and the Scottish Daily Record, as well as features on the BBC World Service and Radio 5 live.

We will now expand the project, bring more families on board, attract media, and write to and meet with local policymakers and opinion formers to encourage them to support the project, and spread our message.
Ten miles from here is a natural burial ground; two of my sons are lying there. I’m hoping that with the Anyone’s Child Campaign we might be able to prevent other people’s children ending up in the same way.

Rosemary Humphries, Anyone’s Child member
Aimi Garidis speaks to ITV news at our Anyone’s Child event in Bristol

Anyone’s Child and our NGO partners, including Moms United to End the War on Drugs, demonstrating outside the White House

Neil Woods, of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), speaks at our event in Bristol
Anyone’s Child: UK and International

Transform took the Anyone’s Child project into the international arena this year at the Drug Policy Alliance conference in Washington DC, USA. Members of our families group spoke and filmed interviews for case studies of families affected by the war on drugs. As a result, we now have new, high quality video content, and a growing group of participants and supporters. By working with NGOs across the world and establishing them as hubs to collect and share stories for Anyone’s Child, we are building a genuinely global campaign.

While we were in Washington, we took part in a jointly organised demonstration outside the White House with other NGO partners, including Moms United to End the War on Drugs.

We have also made a number of short films with some of the family members. These have proved an excellent campaigning tool, and we plan to make more of them in the coming year.

Finally, back in the UK, we held our first local Anyone’s Child event in Bristol, with a film and a Q&A session in partnership with LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition), covered by ITV news. Future events are planned for Oxford, Edinburgh and London.
Leaving the drugs market in the hands of criminals causes huge and unnecessary harms to individuals, communities and entire countries, with the poor the hardest hit. It is time to replace our failed war on drugs with a strict system of legal regulation, to make the world a safer, healthier place, especially for our children.

Bob Ainsworth, former UK drugs minister
UK Work

Transform’s UK political work has focused on encouraging the opposition parties to maintain progressive policies on drug reform, while holding the government to account. We have been working with police and crime commissioners (PCC) to support their calls for reform, and have used the Anyone’s Child campaign to approach individual MPs. Other work includes:

- Spoke at conferences organised by the treatment sector, including: Sands Cymru, AdFam, HIT
- Spoke at the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race, with key US reformers from Afro-American and Christian Communities
- Supported Christian Aid staff in developing a ground-breaking report looking at the impact of the drug war on international development
- Chaired and presented at an Economic Social Research Council workshop on New Psychoactive Substances at Durham University
- Spoke at a UK Home Affairs Committee Event in Cambridge on drug policy reform, sharing a panel with Roberto Dondisch, Director-General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
- Participated in a debate with Jacob Rees-Mogg MP at Eton College
- Trained a group of West African activists on making the case for reform, and the work of Transform
- Worked with Release to respond to the Psychoactive Substances Bill, including briefing journalists and parliamentarians
Transform in the Media

Transform maintained its high profile throughout the year, featuring over 200 times in print, online, and on radio and television. We appeared across all major media outlets in the UK, including the Guardian, the Independent, the Daily Mirror, BBC News, Daily Star, The Times, The Herald Scotland, The Economist, Vice and the Telegraph.

- Transform received international coverage in publications such as the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune and RT

- The launch of our Anyone’s Child campaign also received substantial media coverage, including Channel 4 News, BBC Radio, the BBC World Service, The Mirror and Sky News

Online engagement with Transform has significantly improved over the past year. 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.

- Transform broke the 20,000 follower mark on Twitter, and gained 3,000 more followers on Facebook, bringing its total to over 9,000. Twitter followers include policy makers, high-ranking journalists, government agencies, artists and celebrities

- Transform’s two blog posts on decriminalisation’s success in Portugal went viral, generating nearly 90,000 combined hits in one day; these proved the two most successful articles on the website
Print and broadcast appearances: 200+
Twitter followers: 21,000
Facebook users reached: 4.1 million
Transform’s international work spans the globe. In addition to our overseas Anyone’s Child work, our main focuses were our Latin American project and UNGASS work (described in more detail below), engaging with UN and other international bodies, and supporting countries considering or implementing reform. Highlights included:

1. Participated in a roundtable with Caribbean academics and policy makers in Jamaica on implementing cannabis reform
2. Spoke at a high-level conference hosted by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna
3. Briefed the Jamaican Minister of Justice and built relationships with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
4. Organised a UN side event in New York with the missions of Mexico and Benin attended by a further 10 UN missions
5. Presented to the Irish President and Health Minister on regulation models at a Citywide conference in Dublin
6. Visited Toronto and spoke to policy makers and health officials on drug policy reform
7. Spoke on drug policy reform at the International Music Summit in Ibiza
Transform's Steve Rolles (right, kneeling) with members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

The Caribbean roundtable in Jamaica attended by Steve Rolles and Lisa Sanchez

Mexico supreme court rules ban on marijuana use unconstitutional

Growing, possession, and smoking the drug deemed acceptable in decision that applies only to plaintiffs and does not approve sale of the substance

Justin Trudeau Takes a First Step Toward Marijuana Legalization in Canada

New Justice Minister asked to set up legal framework

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called on Canada's newly appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Jody Wilson-Raybould to look into implementing marijuana legalization in the country.

Ireland to 'decriminalise' small amounts of drugs, including heroin, cocaine and cannabis, for personal use

Minister also announced intention to implement 'injection rooms' in Dublin for addicts
UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs 2016

The UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs in New York will take place from April 19th-21st, 2016. The General Assembly is the highest policy making and representative organ of the United Nations, and its infrequent Special Sessions focus on key topic areas at the request of member states. The UNGASS on Drugs has the potential to be a groundbreaking, open debate about the international drug control system, not least because it was requested by three Latin American states – Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia – who expressed a clear desire to review the failings of the war on drugs and consider alternative approaches, specifically including legalisation and regulation.

Transform has been working with colleagues in New York and around the world to support preparations for UNGASS for the past two years. Our partnership with MUCD in Mexico has proven particularly important here, providing access at the highest levels in Latin America, and a place on the Mexico UN country delegation.

Together with our NGO partners we have:

- Co-hosted events to engage with representatives from various UN missions
- Led strategic planning between NGOs for public campaigns around the UNGASS
- Worked with policy makers to ensure that the UNGASS delivers a substantive debate that considers all policy options
- Produced targeted expert briefings to support and inform the wider UNGASS debate
We need to regulate drugs because they are risky. Drugs are infinitely more dangerous when produced and sold by criminals who do not worry about any safety measures. Legal regulation protects health. Consumers need to be aware of what they are taking and have clear information on health risks and how to minimize them.

“Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General

Latin Programme Manager Lisa Sanchez, advisor to the Mexican UN Delegation
Latin American Programme

For global drug policy to change, a coalition of countries must advocate for it. We have been working with our Mexican partners, México Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD), to support Latin American countries pushing for change, both internationally and domestically.

Main achievements include:

- Official accreditation as members of the Mexican delegation to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND); the European Union Community of Latin American and Caribbean States summit (EU-CELAC), and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
- Published ‘Marihuana como medicina: Usos médicos y terapéuticos del cannabis y los cannabinoides
- Helped Mexican diplomats to organise a side event at the UN in New York: “An agenda for UNGASS”
- Organised successful regional training workshops for journalists, NGOs and policy influencers
- Assumed a leading role on the Board of the New York NGO Committee on Drugs
- Made presentations at regional and international conferences (Organization of American States (OAS), CND, CELAC, COPOLAD, Latin American Drug Policy Conference)
- Featured in over 100 articles/quotes in mainstream media, 20 television appearances and 20 radio interviews in mainstream media, with numerous online mentions
- Co-sponsored (with Mexico and Colombia) an UNGASS strategy event for UN missions in US and Colombia
Our work in Mexico

1. Led the first strategic litigation on legal regulation of cannabis, by a cannabis social club set up by MUCD. In November 2015, the Supreme Court declared the prohibition on possession and cultivation for personal use unconstitutional.

2. Provided technical and political support for a set of bills to ensure the Mexican legislature debated decriminalising drug possession for personal use in an effective way.

3. Led the #PorGrace campaign, that forced the Mexican Government to allow the import of cannabis-derived medicine to treat a chronically ill child in a test case.

4. Distributed Spanish translations of Transform/MUCD publications.
Count the Costs briefings

We produced the latest in our series of groundbreaking reports that count the costs of the war on drugs (www.countthecosts.org). Our latest briefing, ‘The War on Drugs: Harming Not Protecting Young People’ focuses specifically on the impact of global prohibition on children. We will now be disseminating this briefing to policy makers, NGOs and civil society in advance of the UNGASS, which is being run on the theme of ‘A Better Tomorrow for the World’s Youth’.

Country case study briefings

Building on our widely used suite of briefings, we produced ‘Cannabis regulation in Colorado: early evidence defies the critics’ and ‘Cannabis social clubs in Spain: legalisation without commercialisation’. We also produced ‘Drug policy in Sweden: a repressive approach that increases harm’ to show that a country often lauded by prohibitionists as having effective drug policies is no success story at all.

Transform’s authoritative country case studies demonstrate, using the best available evidence, that reform works.
UK Parliamentary submissions

Transform continued to play an important role producing submissions to inform parliamentary debates and committees about drug policy, often working jointly with allies. These included:

1. Joint submission with Release to the Home Affairs Committee’s Short Inquiry into the Psychoactive Substances Bill

2. Joint submission with Release to the Public Bill Committee on the Psychoactive Substances Bill

3. Joint submission with Release, Harm Reduction International (HRI) and International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) to the Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on its review of Ireland’s approach to the possession of limited quantities of certain drugs

4. MP Briefing for the Parliamentary Cannabis Legalisation Debate

Translations

Transform’s major publications have been widely translated. Key texts are now available in Spanish, Italian, German, Russian, and Indonesian.
Upcoming work 2016

Anyone’s Child International

This international campaign will draw attention to the April 2016 UNGASS by highlighting how families suffer as a result of the war on drugs, featuring stories of bereavement, criminalisation, violence and ill-health from a range of countries and from people of all backgrounds.

The slogan for the UNGASS is ‘A better tomorrow for the world’s youth.’ However, we want to show how global drug policy is actively putting our children and families in danger. This initiative will continue after the event as an extension of our UK campaign, Anyone’s Child.

Anyone’s Child will continue to build its web presence, creating films, audio and photo resources to support its social media and events programme. We will be aiming for coverage by media outlets that currently pay little attention to drug policy, by using features and story creation to generate interest from the wider public.

“Transform has been at the cutting edge of drug policy analysis for almost twenty years and is an NGO that is increasingly recognised as one of the motivating forces for global reform.”

Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland
**UNGASS on Drugs**

Transform will be actively participating in the run-up to, during and after the UNGASS as part of a broad coalition of NGOs pushing for an open and meaningful debate. This will include the global reform network’s shared web platform (StopTheHarm.org), collaborative events and demonstrations, and our usual advocacy work.

We are working closely with three key international civil society forums operating on the drugs issue at the UN:

1. The Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, which focuses on Vienna-based UN activities

2. The New York NGO Committee on Drugs, which focuses on New York-based UN activities

3. The Civil Society Task Force, established by VNGOC and NYNGOC as a formal channel for civil society to input into the UNGASS

**Publications**

Our programme of publications will become more responsive to cope with our fast changing environment. It will comprise shorter briefings for policymakers and key influencers, with stronger visual content. Film and audio resources will also be used more frequently to support this work.

Our major publications will include:

- A report exploring how levels of use and levels of harm would likely be affected by legal regulation

- The second edition of our groundbreaking Alternative World Drug Report will include new sections on security and examples of successful drug policies

- An exciting new partnership with the publisher, New Internationalist (NI), to produce a guide to ending the war on drugs, as part of their ongoing ‘No-Nonsense’ series. This will open up new audiences via their international distribution network
Transform Staff

- **Nicky Saunter**, Chief Executive
- **Jane Slater**, Head of Operations and Fundraising; Campaign Manager, Anyone’s Child: Families for Safer Drug Control
- **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
- **Jessica Irving**, Communications Associate
- **Lisa Sanchez**, Latin American Programme Manager
- **Aram Barra**, Latin American Programme Officer

We would also like to acknowledge and thank all our interns and volunteers for their invaluable contributions.
Finances

**Income**
Total incoming resources: £248,881

**Expenditure**
Activities in furtherance of Charity’s objectives: £273,439
Administrative and accountancy expenses: £11,115
Total resources expended: £284,554
Net (deficit): (£35,673)
Total funds as of 31/03/2014: £108,111
Total funds as of 31/03/2015: £72,438

**Transform Board**
Roger Golland OBE (Chair)
John Moore (Treasurer)
Clive Bates
James Varty
John Whitaker

**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 Linnet Trust
- The Glass House Trust
- The Allen Lane Foundation
- The JP Getty Jnr Charitable Foundation