



Beckley Foundation Policy Publications

PATHS FOR REFORM: PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE DRUG POLICIES IN GUATEMALA (2013)

Amanda Feilding, Project Director; Corina Giacomello, Field Researcher

These initial drug policy proposals, produced at the invitation of President Otto Pérez Molina, were presented to the President and his key advisors in January 2013. They were received enthusiastically, and President Pérez Molina has since announced his intention to investigate adopting several of the recommendations, such as legalising the opium poppy crop to provide pain-relieving medications for the Guatemalan people and decriminalising minor drug related crimes. The proposals also influenced the Declaration of the OAS General Assembly in June 2013.

View the proposals at www.beckleyfoundation.org/Paths-for-Reform.pdf

ROADMAPS TO REFORMING THE UN DRUG CONVENTIONS (2012)

Edited by Robin Room; Contributions by Robin Room and Sarah Mackay

This report maps out how the Conventions can be amended in order to give countries greater freedom to adopt drug policies better suited to their individual needs. In particular, the report details the treaty amendments that would be necessary if a country (or a group of countries) wished to experiment with either i) explicit decriminalisation or ii) a regulated market in one or more controlled substances.

View the report at: www.beckleyfoundation.org/Roadmaps-to-Reform.pdf

CANNABIS POLICY: MOVING BEYOND STALEMATE (2008/2010)

Robin Room, Wayne Hall, Peter Reuter, Benedikt Fischer, Simon Lenton (Ed. Amanda Feilding)

The Beckley Foundation's Global Cannabis Commission was convened by Amanda Feilding in 2006 to bring attention to cannabis, its health harms, and how it is currently controlled. The Commission analysed current approaches and identified possible routes forward, including decriminalization and a regulated legal market. The report also discusses how individual countries can move towards reform. The report was presented at a Beckley Foundation Seminar in 2008, and later co-published with Oxford University Press in 2010.

View the report at: www.beckleyfoundation.org/Cannabis-Commission-Report.pdf

Seminars and Proceedings

SOCIETY AND DRUGS: A RATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

A series of seminars convened and hosted by Amanda Feilding

Since the establishment of the Beckley Foundation in 1998, Amanda has drawn together high-level academics from different disciplines, together with politicians and policy experts, to discuss drug policy and science in a confidential setting.

These meetings have been very influential in educating thought leaders and in producing academic papers. The Beckley Foundation was at the forefront of the creation of an evidence-base for the development of new drug policies. Until that point, there had been very little academic analysis of the successes and failures of current national and international drug policy approaches.

Now, the principle of evidence-based drug policy is widely accepted.

In 2002, the seminars developed into a series entitled *Drugs and Society: A Rational Perspective*, held mainly at the House of Lords in London.

It is interesting to note that several of the distinguished contributors owe their particular interest and involvement in the science and policy of psychoactive substances to their early involvement with the Beckley Foundation's Seminar Series.

Following discussions between Amanda Feilding and Professor Colin Blakemore in 2003, Prof Blakemore gave two presentations at the Beckley Seminars of 2003 and 2004 entitled '*A Scientifically Based Scale of Harm for All Social Drugs*'. This work was later developed by Professor David Nutt *et al.* and published in the *Lancet* in 2007 as the highly influential paper '*Development of a rational scale to assess the harm of drugs of potential misuse*'.

At the 2004 seminar, the Beckley Foundation set up two networks, both of which were formally launched at the 2005 Beckley Foundation seminar. The first is the *International Society for the Study of Drug Policy* (ISSDP), an international group of policy analysts and academics initially chaired by Professor Peter Reuter. The second, the *International Drug Policy Consortium* (IDPC), is a global network of NGOs initially chaired by Mike Trace, then director of the Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme. Both are now well-respected and influential independent bodies.

Proceedings Documents for the Seminar Series: 'Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective'

1. Drugs and the Brain (2002)

Proceedings of the **First International Seminar** on '**Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective**', Magdalen College, Oxford, 22 October 2002.

Brain Mechanisms of Reward and Addiction, Professor **Trevor Robbins**,
University of Cambridge

Cannabis and Ecstasy – Soft Drugs?, Professor **Leslie Iversen**, University of Oxford
Amphetamine and Cocaine – Mechanisms and Hazards, Professor **Barry J Everitt**,
University of Cambridge

Heroin and Related Opiates, Professor **David J Nutt**, University of Bristol
Psychedelics, Professor **Mark A Geyer**, University of California, San Diego

How Can We Translate Science into Policy and Action?, Dr **Michael Farrell**,
National Addiction Centre

The Dutch Policy on Drugs, **Jan Wiarda**, Head of Police, The Hague

Drug Policy in the UK, **Bob Ainsworth MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary
responsible for drug co-ordination

2. The Role of Drugs in Society (2003)

Proceedings of the **Second International Seminar** on '**Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective**', Royal Society, London, 19 February 2003.

The Role of Drugs in Society, **Kary Mullis**, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Is it Possible to Have Recreational Drugs Which are Relatively Safe?, Professor
Leslie Iversen, University of Oxford

Are Drugs Here to Stay?, Professor **Cieran Regan**, University College Dublin

How Can Society Best Deal With Drugs?, **Simon Jenkins**, former editor, *The Times*;
member of the Independent Enquiry into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Future Drugs: Designing Safer Drugs, Professor **Gustav Born**, William Harvey
Research Institute

3. An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Alcohol and Other Recreational Drugs (2003)

Proceedings of the **Third International Seminar** on '**Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective**', Organised in association with the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit, Admiralty Arch, London, 15 July 2003.

Alcohol and the Brain, Professor **David Nutt**, University of Bristol
Comparing Cannabis and Alcohol, Professor **Leslie Iversen**, University of Oxford
Alcohol and Physical Health: A complex equation, Professor **Ian Gilmore**, Royal Liverpool University Hospital
The Dangers of Alcohol and Costs to the NHS, Professor **Colin Drummond**, St George's Hospital Medical School
Treatment Strategies and Individual Differences, Dr **Jonathan Chick**, University of Edinburgh
The Economics of Alcohol Compared to Other Drugs, Professor **Christine Godfrey**, University of York
Why Alcohol Is Legal and Other Drugs Are Not, Professor **Virginia Berridge**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Towards a Pragmatic Policy, **Hazel Blears** MP, Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety
Costs and Benefits of Alcohol and Drugs Policies, **Mike Trace**
A Scientifically Based Scale of Harm for All Social Drugs, Professor **Colin Blakemore**, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council

4. Global Drug Policy: Future Directions (2004)

Proceedings of the **Fourth International Seminar on 'Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective'**, House of Lords, London, 25 October 2004.

How Can Research Improve Drug Policy?, Professor **Peter Reuter**, University of Maryland

Assessing the Harm of All Social Drugs, Professor **Colin Blakemore**, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council

Drug Policies to Minimise Aggregate Harm, Professor **Mark Kleiman**, UCLA

Responding to Drugs – How?, **Margaret Hamilton**, University of Melbourne

Prospective Drug Policies, **Viktor Cherkosov**, Chairman, Federal Control of Narcotics of the Russian Federation

The Truth Has Sometimes to be Suspended, **Jan Wiarda**, Chairman, European Chiefs of Police

The New EU Drug Strategy – How to Create a Meaningful European Policy Framework, **Franz Trautmann**, Head of International Affairs Unit, Trimbos Institute

No Reason to Make the Same Mistake Twice, **Josef Radimecky**, National Drug Policy Co-Ordinator, Czech Republic

5. Global Drug Policy (2005)

Proceedings of the **Fifth International Seminar on ‘Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective’**, organised in association with Foresight (UK Home Office), House of Lords and IME, London, 21–23 November 2005.

Law Enforcement and Supply Reduction, Dr **Marcus Roberts**, Head of Policy and Parliamentary Unit, MIND; Professor **Francisco Thoumi**, Universidad del Rosario, Colombia

Reducing Drug-Related Crime: An overview of the global evidence, Dr **Alex Stevens**, University of Kent; Professor **Mark Kleiman**, UCLA

Reducing Drug-Related Harm to Health, Professor **Gerry Stimson**, Executive Director, International Harm Reduction Association; Dr **Anindya Chatterjee**, UNAIDS

The Medical Potential of Cannabis, Professor **Leslie Iversen**, University of Oxford

The Effects of Medical Regulation of Cannabis in the USA, **Robert Kampia**, Executive Director, Marijuana Policy Project

The Scientific and Therapeutic Potential of Psychedelics, Professor **Dave Nicholls**, Purdue University

Cognitive Enhancers: Blurring the Boundaries, Dr **John Marsden**, Institute of Psychiatry

Strategic Challenges, Dr **Andrew Jackson**, UK Government Office of Science and Technology

The Science Behind the Future of Recreational Drugs, Professor **David Nutt**, University of Bristol

Harm Reduction and the Wider Social Context: Social, ethical and regulatory implications, Professor **Gerry Stimson**, Executive Director, International Harm Reduction Association

Why Do People Use Drugs?, Professor **Robert MacCoun**, UC Berkeley

Is Evidence-Based Drugs Policy Possible?, Professor **Mark Kleiman**, UCLA

Blurring the Boundaries – The future of cognitive enhancers, Professor **Trevor Robbins**, University of Cambridge; Professor **Barbara Sahakian**, University of Cambridge

Ethical Dilemmas: Rights and responsibilities, Dr **Harald Schmidt**, Nuffield Council on Bioethics; Professor **Alastair Campbell**, University of Bristol

Closing Discussion, Professor **Colin Blakemore**, Executive Director, Medical Research Council; Dr **Charles Schuster**, Wayne State School of Medicine

6. UNGASS and the Contribution of Civil Society (2006)

Sixth International Seminar on ‘**Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective**’, House of Lords, London, 4 December 2006.

Current Status of Plans for the UNGASS, Alison Crockett, UK Mission to the UNODC

The Work of the Vienna NGO Forum, Michel Perron, Chief Executive, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

The Work of the International Drug Policy Consortium, Mike Trace, Chair, IDPC

New Approaches to Source Country Control, Fabrice Poithier, Senlis Council

Rescheduling of Substances within the Conventions, Martin Jelsma, Transnational Institute – Coca Leaf; Katy Swain, Release – Scales of Harm

A Clear Position on Harm Reduction, Daniel Wolfe, International Harm Reduction Development Programme

The Role of the UNODC and INCB, Dave Bewley-Taylor, International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP)

7. Where Can We Go With Cannabis Control? (2008)

Launch of the **Report** of the Beckley Foundation’s **Global Cannabis Commission**.

Seventh International Seminar on ‘**Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective**’, House of Lords, London, 2 October 2008.

Introduction to the Cannabis Commission, Professor Robin Room, University of Melbourne

A Review of the Health Consequences of Cannabis Use, Professor Wayne Hall

The Effects of the Current System of Prohibition, Professor Peter Reuter

A Review of Policy Initiatives of Reforms within the International Prohibition System, Professor Benedikt Fischer

An Assessment of the Effects of Reforms within the System, Associate Professor Simon Lenton

Beyond the Conventions, Professor Robin Room

Conclusions and Recommendations, Professor Peter Reuter, University of Maryland

A Personal View on the Case for Reforming Cannabis Laws, Rt. Hon. Peter Lilley, MP

Do the More Potent Forms of Cultivated Cannabis Pose Additional Adverse Risks?, Professor Les Iversen

Policing Cannabis in Europe, Jan Wiarda, Former Chair of the European Police Chiefs

Net Widening and Stigma in the Policing of Cannabis Laws, Professor Mike Hough & Professor Paul Turnbull

The Swiss Attempts to Reform Cannabis Policy: A Case Study for Europe?,

Professor **Ambros Uchtenhagen**, Chair of the World Health Organisation-affiliated Research Institute for Public Health and Addiction

Closing Comments, Professor **Colin Blakemore**, **Ethan Nadelmann** and **Wayne Hall**

8. The United Nations Drug Policy Review: Assessing International Drug Control (2008)

Eighth International Seminar on ‘Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective’.

Organised in conjunction with IDPC, House of Lords, London, 3 October 2008.

Tensions between Science and Politics in Drugs Policy, Prof. **David Nutt**

Summary of The Beckley Foundation’s Global Cannabis Commission: Cannabis

as a Case Study for Wide Reform?, Prof. **Robin Room**, University of Melbourne

How should the International Drug Control System be Evaluated?, Dr. **David**

Bewley-Taylor, University of Swansea

The Vienna NGO Committee ‘Beyond 2008’ Initiative, **David Turner**, Vienna NGO

Committee on Narcotic Drugs

The International Drug Policy Consortium Programme, **Martin Jelsma**,

Transnational Institute; **Daniel Wolfe**, Director, International Harm Reduction Development Program, Open Society Institute

The Latin American ‘Blue Ribbon’ Commission, **Rubem Cesar Fernandez**, Latin

American Initiative on Drugs and Democracy

The UN Review – How is the European Union Preparing?, **Carel Edwards**, Head of the European Commission’s Drug Policy Coordination Unit

What happens next with the UN Review, **Mike Trace**

Closing Comments, Prof. **Robin Room**, **Martin Jelsma** & Prof. **Ambro Uchenhagen**

9. Drug Policy Reform (2011)

*Launch of the **Global Initiative for Drug Policy Reform.***

Ninth International Seminar on ‘Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective’

Organised in conjunction with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Drug Policy Reform, House of Lords, 17–18 November 2011.

Report from the Global Commission on Drug Policy, **Paul Volcker**, Former

Chairman of the US Federal Reserve

Principles of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, **Ruth Dreifuss**, Former

President of Switzerland

Effects of Punitive Drug Policies on HIV Epidemics, **Kasia Malinowska**, Open Society Institute

Establishing the Conditions for the Debate, Senator **Murillo Karam**, President, International Affairs Committee, Mexico

Effects of the War on Drugs in Colombia, Interior Minister **German Vargas-Llera**, Minister of the Interior, Colombia

Drugs, Poverty and Segregation in South America, **Julio Calzada**, National Drug Board General Secretary, Uruguay

Case Studies in the Liberalisation of Drug Policy, Chair **Mike Trace**, International Drug Policy Consortium

Drug Use in Portugal – A Background, Dr **João Goulão**, National Drugs Coordinator, Portugal

Drug Policy in the Czech Republic, Dr **Pavel Bém**, Former Drug Policy Coordinator and Member of Parliament, Czech Republic

Cost-benefit Analysis of Regulation & Taxation of Cannabis, Professor **Stephen Pudney**, University of Essex

Reforms to Cannabis Policy in the USA, **Tamar Todd**, Drug Policy Alliance, USA

The Challenges in Introducing a Regulated Heroin Treatment, Professor **Ambros Uchtenhagen**, Chair, Addiction and Public Health Research Foundation, Switzerland

Swiss Heroin Clinics – Costs & Benefits of Heroin-Assisted Treatment in Switzerland, Dr **Barbara Gugger**, medical doctor to the Berne Opioid Substitution Treatment Service, Switzerland

UK Opioid Treatment Trial (RIOTT), Professor **John Strang**, King's College London; **Sarah Byford**, Institute of Psychiatry

Beckley Foundation Reports and Briefing Papers (2004–2008)

Commissioned and Edited by Amanda Feilding and Mike Trace.

REPORTS

Report 1. Towards a Review of Global Policies on Illegal Drugs

Marcus Roberts, Axel Klein, Mike Trace, May 2004.

Report 2. Assessing Drug Policy: Principles & Practice

Marcus Roberts, Axel Klein, Mike Trace.

Report 3. Law Enforcement and Supply Reduction

Marcus Roberts, Axel Klein, Mike Trace.

Report 4. Reducing Drug Related Harms to Health: A Review of the Global Evidence

Neil Hunt, Mike Trace, Dave Bewley-Taylor.

Report 5. Reducing Drug Related Crime: An Overview of the Global Evidence

Alex Stevens, Mike Trace, Dave Bewley-Taylor.

Report 6. Facing the future: The Challenge For National and International Drug Policy

Marcus Roberts, Dave Bewley-Taylor, Mike Trace.

Report 7. The International Narcotics Control Board: Watchdog or Guardian of the UN Drug Control Conventions?

Dave Bewley-Taylor, Mike Trace, February 2006.

Report 8 Cannabis and Mental Health Responses to the Emerging Evidence

Neil Hunt, Simon Lenton, John Witton, April 2006,.

Report 9. Monitoring Drug Policy Outcomes: The measurement of drug related harm

Marcus Roberts, Dave Bewley-Taylor, Mike Trace, July 2006.

Report 10. Treatment for Dependent Drug Use: A guide for policymakers

Alex Stevens, Christopher Hallam, Mike Trace, September 2006.

Report 11. The funding of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; an unfinished jigsaw

Dave Bewley-Taylor, Mike Trace, November 2006.

Report 12. Prisons & Drugs: a global review of incarceration, drug use and drug services

Kate Dolan, Effat Merghati Khoei, Cinzia Brentari, Alex Stevens, June 2007.

Report 13. Recalibrating the Regime: The need for a human rights-based approach to international drug policy

March 2008.

Report 14. Understanding Drug Markets And How To Influence Them

Laura Wilson, Alex Stevens.

Report 15. Drug Markets and Urban Violence: Can tackling one reduce the other?

Report 16. The Incarceration of Drug Offenders: An Overview

Dave Bewley-Taylor, Chris Hallam, Rob Allen, March 2009.

BRIEFING PAPERS

Number 1. Reclassification of Cannabis in the United Kingdom

Mike Trace, Axel Klein, Marcus Roberts, May 2004.

Number 2. Drug Policy and the HIV Pandemic in Russia and Ukraine

Axel Klein, Marcus Roberts, Mike Trace, May 2004.

Number 3. Drug Consumption Rooms

Marcus Roberts, Axel Klein, Mike Trace.

Number 4. Upheavals in the Australian Drug Market: Heroin Drought, Stimulant Flood

William Bush, Marcus Roberts, Mike Trace.

Number 5. Thailand's 'War on Drugs'

Marcus Roberts, Mike Trace, Axel Klein.

Number 6. Decriminalisation of Drugs in Portugal: A Current Overview

Laurence Allen, Mike Trace, Axel Klein.

Number 7. Incarceration of Drug Offenders: Costs and Impacts

Dave Bewley-Taylor, Mike Trace, Alex Stevens, June 2005.

Number 8. The Rise Of Harm Reduction in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Bijan Nissaramanesh, Mike Trace, Marcus Roberts, July 2005.

Number 9. *UNAIDS & The Prevention of HIV Infection Through Injecting Drug Use*

Mike Trace, Diane Riley, Gerry Stimson, September 2005.

Number 10. *Drug Policy in India: Compounding Harm?*

Molly Charles, Dave Bewley-Taylor, Amanda Feilding, October 2005.

Number 11. *Report of the Third Beckley International Drug Policy Seminar*

Mike Trace, Gábor Somogyi, Christopher Hallam, Dave Bewley-Taylor, January 2007.

Number 12. *The Australian “Heroin Shortage” Six Years On: What, if any, are the Implications for Drug Policy?*

Louisa Degenhardt, Carolyn Day, Wayne Hall, Dave R Bewley-Taylor, July 2007.

Number 13. *At a Crossroads: Drug Trafficking, Violence and the Mexican State*

Maureen Meyer, with contributions from Coletta Youngers and Dave Bewley-Taylor, November 2007.

Number 14. *The Effects of Decriminalization of Drug Use in Portugal*

Caitlin Hughes, Alex Stevens, December 2007.

Number 15. *Drug Control in Georgia: Drug Testing and the Reduction of Drug Use?*

David Otiashvili, Péter Sározi, Gábor L Somogyi, May 2008.

Number 16. *Ten Years of Plan Colombia: An Analytic Assessment*

Beatriz Acevedo, with Dave Bewley-Taylor and Coletta Youngers, September 2008.