



A BECKLEY FOUNDATION MESSAGE

TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MEXICO

Amanda Feilding and the Beckley Foundation are full of admiration and encouragement for Mexico's latest moves towards more rational and humane cannabis policies. We congratulate the Supreme Court's decision to recognise the 'right to free development of personality' where there is no harm to others, and the Mexican Government's willingness to debate this issue on a national scale.

The Beckley Foundation was founded 18 years ago by Amanda Feilding with a mandate of promoting drug policies based on health, harm-reduction, cost-effectiveness and respect for human rights. Since it was established in 1998, the Foundation has been working to reform global drug policies by building a scientific evidence-base on which to form policy alternatives that better protect the health and security of citizens.

Evidence has shown that the prohibitionist approach does not reduce drug consumption, but instead results in untold violence, corruption, and suffering in producer and transit countries such as Mexico. It is therefore particularly heartening to see the creation of a better route forward forming in Mexico, one of the countries suffering most greatly from the unintended consequences of the 'war on drugs'.

Mexico's November Supreme Court cannabis decision is part of a global movement recognising the human rights of those who use drugs. The tide is turning towards safer, more effective drug policies as we move towards the watershed meeting on drug policy: the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs on 19-21 April 2016, in New York.

The process of drug policy reform is no easy task; it demands great courage and wisdom from politicians, and knowledge from experts and the community. We would like to offer our support to the Mexican people and the government in finding a better approach to regulating cannabis and other drugs. This is the path for rationality and peace, and we are thrilled for Mexico to be an example to the rest of the world. We offer our scientific and policy expertise, experience and contacts to assist, however we can, in informing your national debate towards more effective and compassionate drug policies.