



Students for  
Sensible  
Drug Policy.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members, Partners, and Friends of SSDP,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that Students for Sensible Drug Policy International (SSDP) has accomplished in 2024. This year has been one of growth, resilience, and profound impact as we worked tirelessly to advance evidence-based drug policies, amplify the voices of young people, and build a global community committed to reform and harm reduction. Throughout the year, we strengthened our network, welcoming new chapters from diverse regions of the world, including Africa and Asia. The passion and dedication of our members continue to drive our mission forward. In every corner of the globe,

students and youth have led advocacy campaigns, engaged with policymakers, and mobilised their communities to challenge the status quo and demand change. SSDP International also deepened its engagement with global policy processes, ensuring that youth voices were heard in critical spaces. From the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to the African Union, our members made powerful contributions, advocating for policies rooted in health, human rights, and social justice. Notably, we hosted the Overdose Awareness Day webinar, which centred on Africa's overdose prevention challenges and brought attention to the need for context-specific, harm reduction-based solutions.

We were proud to see SSDP members spearhead local initiatives that tackled drug-related stigma, promoted harm reduction, and called for humane and compassionate drug policies. While we celebrate these achievements, we also recognise that much work remains. Across the world, punitive drug laws continue to harm the most vulnerable, and youth, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds, bear the brunt of these policies. SSDP will remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for reforms that prioritise health, dignity, and human rights. As we look ahead to 2025, I am energised by the possibilities that lie before us. We will continue to foster collaboration, build strategic alliances, and push the boundaries of what youth-led advocacy can achieve. I invite you to join us in this journey—whether as members, allies, or supporters—to create a future where drug policies are just, humane, and effective.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in the power of young people to transform the world.

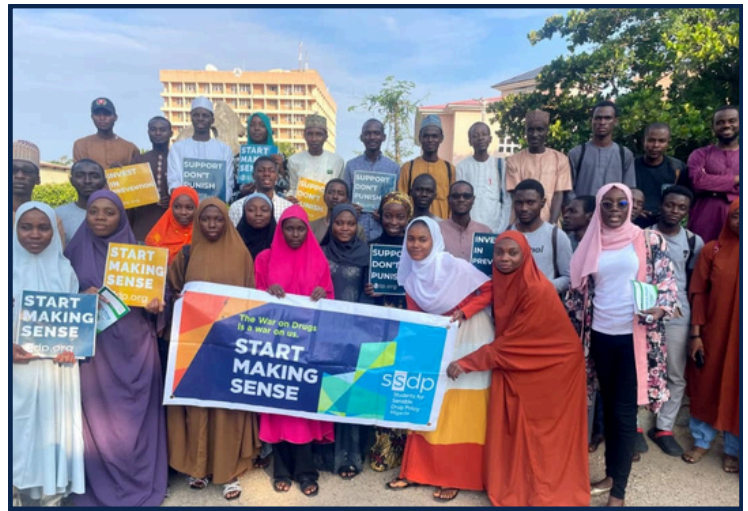
In solidarity,

Charity Monareng  
Executive Director

Students for Sensible Drug Policy International

# About Us

SSDP International is a grassroots network of students and young people advocating for sensible drug policies. With chapters in various countries, we work to empower young leaders, engage in advocacy, and promote harm reduction strategies. This strategic plan serves as a roadmap to guide our efforts over the next four years, outlining our priorities, objectives, and strategies for achieving our mission.



# Vision and Mission



## VISION

A world where youth are empowered to drive meaningful change in drug policy and combat the harms caused by the war on drugs. We neither condone nor condemn drug use, but instead, we promote youth civic engagement as a powerful tool for reform. Our vision is rooted in respect for the diverse experiences and identities of our constituents. We stand against the stigmatisation of people who use drugs and advocate for policies based on justice, respect, compassion, evidence, and human rights. Through leadership development and advocacy, we strive to create a future where young leaders advocate for policy changes that prioritise the well-being of all individuals and communities.

## MISSION

To promote youth civic engagement and develop leaders who advocate for change based on justice, liberty, and compassion. At SSDP, we believe that young people have a critical role to play in shaping drug policy at the local, national, continental, and global levels. Through mobilisation and empowerment, we empower our members to participate in political processes and reduce the harms of counterproductive policies.



# Our Team of volunteers

At the heart of SSDP International's work is our dedicated team of volunteers, whose passion and commitment drive the success of our mission. Comprised of students, activists, and advocates from diverse backgrounds, our volunteers are instrumental in advancing drug policy reform and harm reduction globally. They bring energy, creativity, and a shared vision for a world where young people and key populations have access to the support, rights, and opportunities they deserve. Through their tireless efforts, SSDP International continues to foster youth-led advocacy, ensuring that the voices of young people who use drugs are heard and valued in the global policy arena.



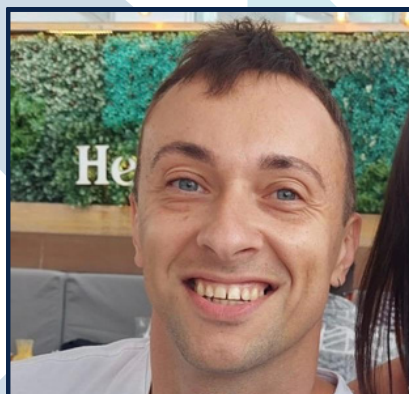
**Charity Monareng**  
Executive Director



**Precious Mtshweni**  
Programmes and Policy



**Iulia Vatau**  
UN Global Fellow



**Ruan Carstens**  
Finance



**Allistair De Jongh**  
Communications

# Meet our Board



**JACOB CHAGNON:  
BOARD CHAIR**



**UCHENNA IMO**



**EWELLE WILLIAMS**



**MMESOMACHI OJI:  
WEST AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE**



**MOLLY OGBODUM**



**MARVELINE ATIENO:  
EAST AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE**



**SAM LASHAM:  
OCENIA REPRESENTATIVE**



**HONEY ANDRES:  
ASIA REPRESENTATIVE**



**CHICHI CHEWE:  
SOUTHERN AFRICA  
REPRESENTATIVE**

# A year in review

2024 was a transformative year for SSDP International, marked by significant progress in our mission to empower young people and advocate for drug policy reform globally. This year, we made substantial strides in strengthening our presence and impact, particularly within the Southern African region.

A key milestone was the **official relocation of SSDP International's headquarters to South Africa**, which positions us to better serve the growing demand for youth-led drug policy reform across the continent. Our advocacy efforts were further enhanced through our collaboration with **Youth RISE** on their **Global Fund Elevating Youth Voices project**, which focuses on strengthening advocacy and engagement for young people who use drugs and other YKPs within the Global Fund Ecosystem.

SSDP International was also honoured to participate in **capacity-building trainings** hosted by **Amref**, with a focus on **Organisation Development Systems Strengthening (ODSS)** and another on **Advocacy and Campaigning**, which provided valuable tools and strategies to advance our mission.

In 2024, SSDP continued to amplify the voices of youth in drug policy discussions, hosting important events and dialogues. Our work with the **South African Network of People Who Use Drugs (SANPUD)** and the **Central Drug Authority (CDA)** contributed significantly to advancing harm reduction strategies and pushing for a shift towards evidence-based approaches in tackling drug-related issues.

Our **education programmes** included vital dialogues, such as the **Educator Drug Education Survey** and the **Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention webinar**, fostering greater understanding and action on overdose prevention. Additionally, SSDP was honoured to present at international conferences and forums, underscoring the importance of youth-led reform efforts.

In 2024, SSDP International also continued to empower our **student chapters**, providing them with tools and resources to engage in impactful campaigns and advocate for policy changes within their respective communities.

As we reflect on the year, SSDP remains committed to fostering youth leadership and driving meaningful change in drug policy around the world.





# 2024 Activities.

Meetings

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**1**

UN Training Series

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**2**

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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**3**

Support.Don't.Punish Initiative

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**4**

Youth Chapter in the GSHR

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**5**

Elevating Youth voices project

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**6**

Overdose Awareness Day webinar

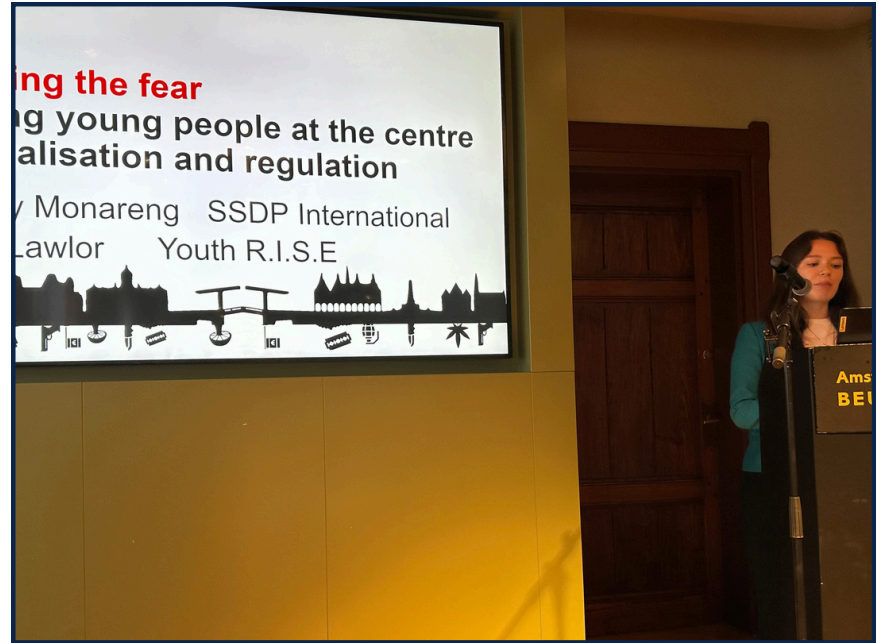
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**7**

Media engagement

**8**

# Meetings.



In January, SSDP International and Youth RISE were invited by the Mayor of the City of Amsterdam to attend and present at the Dealing with Drugs meeting, where we presented on putting young people at the centre of legalisation and regulation



In October, SSDP International was invited to be part of a youth-led accountability group to discuss issues relating to children and young people. The first meeting was based on a review of South Africa's National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children (NSAAC)

In October, SSDP International was invited to speak at a plenary session at the Key Populations Summit



In August, as part of our involvement in the Youth-in-Action coalition, SSDP International was invited to a meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Health Chairperson, to present on the need to address vaping and tobacco use among children and adolescents in schools and to advocate for the signing and assent of the Tobacco Bill.



In March SSDP International was invited to speak at the East and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs' High-level meeting, where we presented on the importance of youth engagement in policy and the role of civil society in policy development



In December, SSDP International was invited as a stakeholder to a meeting to develop a roadmap for the Decriminalisation of drug use and possession in South Africa



In December, SSDP International, on behalf of the African Civil Society Forum on Drugs was invited and presented on Civil Society's commitments to addressing the drug situation in Africa at the Africa Union's Continental Consultation on Drug Demand Reduction



In September, SSDP International was invited to participate in an advocacy workshop where the Africa-led Think Tank to Strengthen Advocacy for Climate Change, Health, and Sexual Reproductive Health in Southern Africa was launched. Our Executive Director was elected the Chair of the Think-Tank

# UN Training Series 2024.



We hosted our annual UN training series in February which included introductory sessions, civil society best practices, public speaking, and networking sessions.

## Commission on Narcotic Drugs



Our Executive Director was selected to make a statement on behalf of the Paradigma Coalition, emphasising the importance of meaningful youth engagement during the High-level midterm review session

# Youth Advocacy.

We drafted a Youth Common Position which will guide our advocacy at the UN and working towards formalising a youth working group as part of the VNGOC.

## PARADIGMA COALITION COMMON POSITION ON DRUGS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

**The Paradigma Coalition is a global network of youth-led and youth-focused organisations, as well as young people who use drugs, that centre harm reduction and human rights in working to amplify the voices of young people in support of efforts to end the War on Drugs.** The members of our network strive for a new approach toward drugs that is evidence-based, compassionate, and driven by full-spectrum Harm Reduction. Current approaches that dominate drug policy fail to meet their stated aims and do not invest in evidence-based solutions that acknowledge the realities of people who use drugs.

In contrast, full-spectrum harm reduction incorporates all people who use drugs and their different methods of consumption; it accounts for the multiplicity of political, social, and environmental factors that shape the risks of drug use and the different needs of people who use drugs across the world, including youth.

In March 2019, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) adopted the '[Ministerial Declaration](#)<sup>1</sup> on Strengthening Our Action at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem.' At the time, Member States had agreed to conduct a mid-term review of progress made 'in implementing all our international drug policy commitments' in 2024, with a final review planned in 2029.

The mid-term review will be held at the margins of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the CND in March 2024. This high-level segment is set to take place against the backdrop of devastating human rights abuses and major drug-related public health crises affecting numerous countries. These human rights abuses can be directly and indirectly attributed to an international drug control system that is rooted in colonial history. Moreover, initiatives to regulate drugs at the national level and calls for global reform raise concerns about the justification of international control rooted in prohibition.

According to the [CND Resolution 66/1](#)<sup>2</sup> civil society organisations including youth organisations were invited to participate in consultations to share their contributions to the challenges identified in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, informing the preparatory process in the lead-up to March 2024. For the first time, some Member States have highlighted the importance of putting youth at the centre of drug policy discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2019), Ministerial declaration on strengthening our actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/2019/Ministerial\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/2019/Ministerial_Declaration.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2023), Resolution 66/1. Preparations for the midterm review to be held during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2024, [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/Drug\\_Resolutions/2020-2029/2023/Res\\_66\\_1\\_2305857E.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/Drug_Resolutions/2020-2029/2023/Res_66_1_2305857E.pdf)

# Youth Advocacy.

We hosted two side events during the regular segment of the CND. the first one was on the disproportionate impact of drug policies on specific groups and another on cannabis and young people.





# Support Don't Punish Initiative

## Drug Education Educator Survey

As part of our ongoing Support Don't Punish initiative, SSDP International launched the Drug Education Educator Survey in 2024. This survey is designed to gather insights from educators on current drug education practices and the challenges they face in addressing drug use within schools. The initiative has received widespread attention for its potential to shape better drug education programs and contribute to the shift toward harm reduction and support-based approaches.

The survey has garnered significant interest from key stakeholders, including the Central Drug Authority (CDA), which has expressed a desire to explore how this survey can be expanded and implemented on a larger scale across South Africa. The success of this initiative demonstrates the growing recognition of the need for evidence-based, supportive drug education, and we look forward to furthering this collaboration to create impactful, long-term change in the way drug education is approached.

**ssdp** Students for Sensible Drug Policy.  
INTERNATIONAL

**Support. Don't Punish.**

### EmpowerED Africa: Amplifying Voices, Shaping Tomorrow's Choices

#### Whats's happening?

We're launching a school-based drug survey to understand students' perspectives on drug education, drug use, and treatment. This survey is crucial for developing a curriculum that addresses African learners' unique needs and influence initiatives like CHAMPS, by promoting harm reduction and treatment for young people.

#### Phase 1: Educator survey.

We're starting with a survey for teachers to gather their insights, knowledge, and experiences related to drug education and prevention programs in schools. This will set the foundation for our larger project, ensuring the curriculum we develop is informed by those on the front lines of education.

#### Phase 2: Educator survey.

Following the educator survey, we will gather data directly from students to understand their views and experiences. This step is essential to tailor an effective and relevant drug education program.

#### How Can You Help?

Spread the word about our initiative and participate in the surveys if you're an educator in Kenya, South Africa, or Nigeria. Your insights are invaluable! Let's work together to promote evidence-based drug education and harm reduction across Africa. Support. Don't. Punish.

[www.ssdp-intl.org](http://www.ssdp-intl.org) [Supportdontpunish.org](http://Supportdontpunish.org)

# Youth Chapter in GSHR.

SSDP International, in collaboration with Youth RISE, contributed to the Youth Chapter of the Global State of Harm Reduction report. This chapter focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities for young people who use drugs, providing a comprehensive overview of the state of harm reduction for youth globally. Through this partnership, SSDP and Youth RISE were able to bring the critical voices of young people to the forefront, advocating for stronger, youth-centric harm reduction policies and services. Our contribution aims to highlight the importance of youth engagement in the development of drug policies and the need for inclusive, evidence-based approaches to support young people affected by drug use

## YOUTH

For the first time, the *Global State of Harm Reduction* includes a chapter dedicated to young people and harm reduction. This chapter, based on data from a newly conducted survey, provides valuable insights into the experiences and challenges faced by young people who use drugs, and offers a comprehensive overview of the current state of harm reduction services available to this age group.

The past two years have seen some recognition that harm reduction services are crucial for protecting the health and human rights of people who use drugs. However, young people who use drugs remain underserved, as most harm reduction services have been designed for adults who use drugs (30 years and older).<sup>1</sup> This has created a gap in addressing the unique needs of adolescents (10-15 years old) and young people (15-24 years old).<sup>2</sup> Interventions for adolescents and young people continue to focus primarily on prevention and abstinence-based treatment, making harm reduction for this group a controversial subject.<sup>3</sup>

**Young people represent one of the largest demographic groups that uses drugs and have distinct substance use patterns that require specific, evidence-based and tailored harm reduction services.<sup>4</sup>**

Young people who inject drugs are 50% more likely to acquire HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) than their adult counterparts.<sup>5</sup> HIV and HCV prevalence among young people who inject drugs is notably high across various settings.<sup>6</sup> For example, in North America, young people are disproportionately affected by overdoses<sup>7</sup> and drug poisonings, and overdose is now the third leading cause of death among this age group.<sup>8</sup>


Adolescents and young people are often subject to different ethical and legal frameworks than older people who use drugs, which dictate the extent to which young people can access harm reduction services. These frameworks are often based on paternalistic paradigms, which prioritise young people's 'protection' against drug use over their autonomy.<sup>9</sup> This results in restrictive policies that do not fully address the realities of adolescent's and young people's lives and their drug use. The legal status of certain harm reduction interventions varies widely across regions and countries, leading to inconsistencies in the availability and accessibility of these services for adolescents and young people.<sup>10</sup>

Young people who inject drugs are 50% more likely to acquire HIV and hepatitis C than their adult counterparts.<sup>4</sup>




**50%**  
HIV and HCV prevalence among young people who inject drugs is notably high across various settings

AUTHORS OF YOUTH CHAPTER: Charity Monareng and Ruby Rose Lawlor



Charity Monareng is the Executive Director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy International. She has previously worked with TB HIV Care in South Africa, where she passionately advocated for drug policy reform at national, regional and international levels. She serves on the Board of the South African Network of People Who Use Drugs (SANPUD), Digital Girl Africa and Stand Action. Charity is also pursuing her PhD in the Department of Public Law at the University of Cape Town, reflecting her deep commitment to law and public policy.



Ruby Rose Lawlor is the Executive Director of Youth RISE. She is a drug policy reform and harm reduction activist, with a background in grassroots youth activism. Ruby has worked with Students for Sensible Drug Policy, provided festival harm reduction through Chill Welfare in the UK, and while living in Uganda, she worked with the Human Rights Centre Uganda, and the Uganda Harm Reduction Network, implementing projects tailored to youth harm reduction and advocacy.

**GLOBAL STATE OF HARM REDUCTION 2024 REPORT LAUNCH**



**Sam Rivera**  
OnPoint NYC



**Colleen Daniels**  
Harm Reduction International



**Charity Monareng**  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy International



**Vince Ludmila**  
UnMode



**Tracey Potiki**  
Whare Tūkutu National Māori Addiction Centre

29 October, 1:00 PM UK  
Register at: [tinyurl.com/globalstate2024](https://tinyurl.com/globalstate2024)

We also participated in a webinar to launch the GSHR report

# Elevating Youth Voice project.

## "Elevating Youth Voices: Strengthening Advocacy and Engagement for Young People Who Use Drugs and other YKPs in the Global Fund Ecosystem"

SSDP International partnered with Youth RISE on their Global Fund project titled "Elevating Youth Voices: Strengthening Advocacy and Engagement for Young People Who Use Drugs and Other YKPs in the Global Fund Ecosystem." This project aims to empower young people who use drugs (YPWUD) and other young key populations (YKPs) by enhancing their capacity to participate meaningfully in advocacy within the Global Fund ecosystem.

The collaboration focuses on generating evidence, building advocacy skills, and managing knowledge to support the project's objectives. As part of this project, SSDP International hired three talented YKPs from South Africa, underscoring our commitment to centring youth leadership and amplifying diverse perspectives in harm reduction and policy reform. The project, which concludes in March 2025, represents a significant step toward creating a more inclusive and impactful global health policy advocacy landscape.



**Saidy  
Brown**



**Munnira-Afrikana  
Katongole**



**Kamogelo  
Moleane**

# Overdose awareness day webinar

## Commemorating International Overdose Awareness Day: Webinar on Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

On the 30th of August, SSDP International, in collaboration with SANPUD and NACOSA, hosted a webinar to commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day. The event aimed to spotlight the overdose crisis in South Africa and foster collective action towards harm reduction and overdose prevention strategies. A notable feature of the day was a watch party held at the Belhaven Harm Reduction Centre in eThekweni, bringing together community members and harm reduction advocates to engage with the discussions in real-time.

The webinar's key objectives were:

- Understanding the CND Resolution on Harm Reduction: Exploring the resolution's global implications and its relevance for African countries, particularly South Africa.
- Examining the Drug Overdose Crisis: Presentation of overdose data from eight districts implementing the People Who Use Drugs Programme, funded by the Global Fund through NACOSA.
- Highlighting Overdose Prevention Strategies: Identifying gaps, sharing best practices, and discussing successful models from other regions.
- Promoting Naloxone Provision: Advocating for increased accessibility and distribution of naloxone as a lifesaving overdose reversal drug.
- Fostering Collaboration and Advocacy: Encouraging dialogue among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community organisations to develop cohesive strategies for improving harm reduction services and policies.

The event featured a diverse line-up of speakers, including representative from the USA Mission in Vienna, representatives from SANPUD, NACOSA, and experts from UNODC. The panel discussion offered a rich exploration of overdose prevention efforts, challenges, and policy gaps, while a case study presentation on naloxone accessibility provided actionable insights for South Africa. This webinar underscored SSDP International's commitment to harm reduction advocacy and the urgent need for responsive, human-centred drug policies to prevent overdose deaths and safeguard communities.



**SSDP** Students for Sensible Drug Policy. **NACOSA** **SANPUD** South African Network of People Who Use Drugs. **PWUD SUB SECTOR**

**PRESENTS**

**Title: Exploring Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention: Implications of the US's Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolution for South Africa**

**TIME TO REMEMBER. TIME TO ACT.**

**NALOXONE**

**Date: Friday, August 30, 2024**  
**Time: 12:00 AM - 2:00 PM (SAST)**  
**Platform: Zoom Webinar: Registration link:**  
<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJ0sfuCspj4rHdLiyRWq24frERTVW5AqOpAG>

**#END OVERDOSE**



# Media engagement.

## Exploring Harm Reduction for Young People: Online Radio Interview

SSDP International's Executive Director was invited to speak on an online radio show to discuss tobacco harm reduction and the harm reduction services available for adolescents and young people in South Africa. The interview provided a platform to explore the unique needs of young people in harm reduction efforts, highlight existing gaps in services, and advocate for greater accessibility to youth-centered interventions.

By addressing key challenges in tobacco harm reduction, SSDP International continues to champion evidence-based strategies and policy reforms that prioritise the health and rights of young people.

**YOUTH IN ACTION**

**HOST**  
CHANTELLE MAVIMBELA

**GUEST**  
CHARITY MONARENG  
SANPUD

**TOPIC**  
**TOBACCO ADDICTION**  
UNDERSTANDING THE STRUGGLE AND FINDING SUPPORT

**THURSDAY, 11/07/2024**  
**15H00 - 16H00**

WWW.SMYNONLINERADIO.AIRTIME.PRO

@smyn\_online\_radio  
083 800 4448  
@smyn\_online\_radio  
www.showmeyournumber.org.za

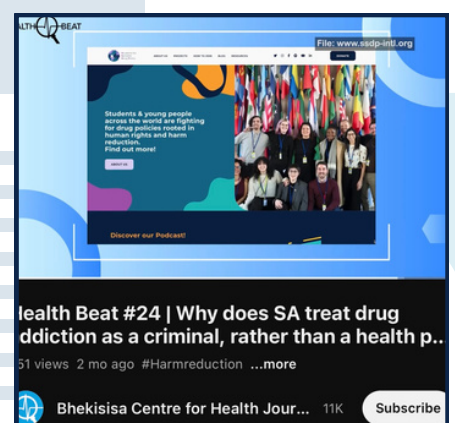
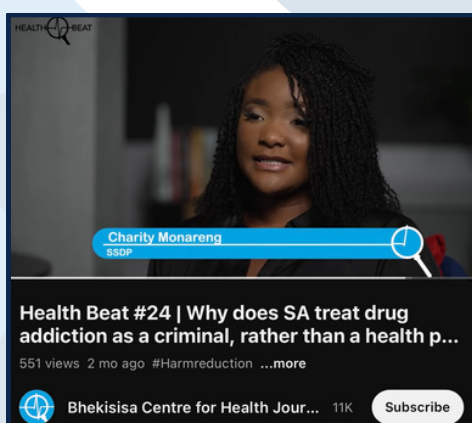
083 800 4448  
SMYN Online Radio  
@smynonlineaudio

**Y-ACT**  
YOUTH IN ACTION

## SSDP International on HealthBeat (eNCA)

In October, SSDP International's Executive Director was featured on Bhekisisa's HealthBeat to highlight the organisation's mission and the importance of youth-driven drug policy reform. The interview delved into SSDP's work in advancing harm reduction, advocating for evidence-based approaches, and amplifying the voices of young people in policy discussions. Key topics included the current state of South Africa's drug laws, the need for decriminalisation of drug use, and the vital role youth play in shaping progressive, human rights-based policies.

This media engagement provided a valuable platform to raise awareness about SSDP's initiatives and reaffirm the importance of inclusive policymaking that prioritises public health and human rights.



# Global overview.

## EUROPE

AUSTRIA  
GERMANY  
IRELAND  
UNITED  
KINGDOM

## OCEANIA

NEW ZEALAND

## MIDDLE EAST

## ASIA

NEPAL  
PHILIPPINES

## LATIN AMERICA

## AFRICA

BURUNDI  
CHAD  
DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF  
THE CONGO  
GAMBIA  
GHANA  
KENYA  
LIBERIA  
NIGERIA  
RWANDA  
SIERRA LEONE  
UGANDA  
ZIMBABWE  
ZAMBIA  
MALAWI  
SOUTH AFRICA



# SSDP Chapter highlights.

SSDP Kenya Chapter Leader Marveline Atieno and former SSDP Calabar President and former board member received funding to attend the United Nations Civil Society Meeting in Kenya, where they also hosted a booth that showcased stories of young people who use drugs who are affected by drug policies from across the world



SSDP Zimbabwe and SSDP Liberia received funding to organise event to commemorate International Drug User Day



SSDP Sierra Leone appeared in the Media in Sierra Leone, discussing drug use among young people in Sierra Leone

## Alhaji Alusine Conteh, Students for Sensible Drug Policy

by [ManoReporters](#) — July 24, 2024



Alhaji Alusine Conteh is the National President for Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Sierra Leone Chapter.

Here, he speaks on the effect of the ongoing drug epidemic on students, particularly at universities, and he explains

ADVERTISEMENT

# SSDP Chapter highlights.

SSDP Philippines Chapter Leader Honey Andres received a fellowship to attend the IDPC's regional advocacy strategy consultation on drug decriminalisation for Southeast Asia in Bali



## Students for Sensible Drug Policy Aotearoa New Zealand (SSDPAoNZ) – 2024 Highlights.

This year marked significant growth for SSDPAoNZ, doubling our chapters from one to two with the launch of our second chapter in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

### Key Achievements of SSDP Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland

- New Chapter Establishment: Affiliated with the University of Auckland, focusing on partnerships with staff to develop a student drug use survey aimed at reducing drug-related harm on campus.
- Drug Discussion Events: Hosting biweekly forums on drug regulation, informing future policy positions and articles on ideal regulatory models.
- Policy Advocacy: Submitted written and oral submissions opposing new drug-driving legislation, highlighting issues of scientific validity, human rights, and discriminatory enforcement.
- Harm Reduction Initiatives: Developed an overdose prevention resource and planned harm reduction and naloxone training with local experts.

### Key Achievements of SSDP Ōtepoti/Dunedin

- Deep South Alcohol and Harm Reduction Hui: Hosted a multi-day event with 80 attendees from diverse sectors to address alcohol and drug harm.
- Naloxone Training and Advocacy: Provided training to alcohol venues, museum staff, and students; continued efforts to bring naloxone to campus despite university resistance.
- Policy and Enforcement: Led efforts to close an unlicensed store selling nitrous and vape products, advocating for responsible regulation rather than prohibition.
- Alcohol Policy Advocacy: Organised consultations and advocated for improved local alcohol regulations to reduce harm.
- Inquest Participation: Provided evidence on alcohol and party culture issues at a student death inquest, pushing for university action.
- Research and Collaboration: Conducted a study on alcohol and drug harm in Dunedin's student area and collaborated with local police to expand naloxone access for first responders.



# SSDP Chapter highlights.

SSDP ABU Zaria, Kaduna Nigeria had successfully carried out a training program for student on Campus on the 3rd of August 2024 where we have an amazing number of participants joining us. The Program was in line with the "SUPPORT DON'T PUNISH" Campaign.



## SSDP ABU ZARIA

Nigeria



Given the high costs associated with both harm reduction and complete eradication of problematic drug use in the community, investing in the prevention of drug misuse has become even more imperative. On June 26th, the Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) University of Calabar, Nigeria, held a multi-stakeholder engagement program centered around the 2024 Global Day of Action theme: "The Evidence is Clear; Invest in Prevention."

The event brought together various civil society organizations (CSOs) and representatives from the Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Immigration Service, and other organizations focused on adolescents and young people. The global theme was not only thoroughly discussed, but a call to action was also made to actualize the information conveyed by the theme. A panel discussion centered around the global theme was held, during which actionable strategies to invest in prevention were extensively discussed. This was a call to action for individuals to avoid problematic drug use and for relevant stakeholders to re-strategize and adopt practices that prevent drug misuse, rather than creating more hardened criminals.

## SSDP CALABAR

Nigeria

# SSDP Chapter highlights.

At the recent SSDP Kenya event held in Kibra, Nairobi, centered around the 2024 Global Day of Action Theme "The Evidence is Clear: Invest in Prevention," we engaged in productive group discussions and peer-to-peer conversations that highlighted the importance of preventive measures. Participants from various backgrounds shared insights and experiences, creating a rich dialogue about the challenges and opportunities in preventing substance abuse. These discussions underscored the necessity of community involvement and the role of peer support in building a supportive environment that discourages drug use and promotes healthy lifestyles

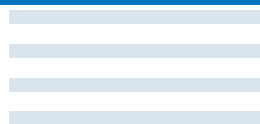


**SSDP KENYA**  
Kenya



SSDP Sierra Leone successfully carried out an advocacy and awareness day with young people and law enforcement to commemorate the Global Day of Action, Support.Don't.Punish

**SSDP SIERRA LEONE**  
Sierra Leone



# SSDP Chapter highlights.



SSDP Uganda's Theme for 2024's Support Don't Punish Campaign was Harm Reduction and Human Rights for PWUIDs Now more than Ever. The campaign offered an opportunity to all stakeholders advocating for harm reduction, drug policy reform and human rights for PWUIDs to evaluate the commitments made in the SDP 2023 campaign and devise better

advocacy strategies going forward. The campaign gave SSDP Uganda an opportunity to hold discussions on crucial topics such as mobilization of resources to facilitate advocacy campaigns and also to create more engagement between all stakeholders in synergy to advance their advocacy agenda. SSDP Uganda is working on establishing a supportive network of active national supporters and international partners to foster advocacy actions to world drug policy change and harm reduction. With these activities SSDP Uganda is aiming to promote and create a National Healthcare access for PWUIDs and also creation of learning and knowledge sharing platforms to build the capacity of health professionals in providing care for Harm reduction and also community activities. This year's campaign brought together a good number of people all with the same passion and aim to make a difference and end the war on drugs.

## SSDP UGANDA

Uganda



SSDP United Methodist University successfully hosted a dialogue where students had the opportunity to share their views on how to counteract the issue of drug use in Liberia

## SSDP UNITED METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Liberia

# SSDP Chapter highlights.



Students for Sensible Drug Policy - Philippines convened a roundtable discussion focusing on key issues. A focal point of the discussion was harm reduction—a rights-based and scientific approach that mitigates the negative consequences of drug use and existing policies through community-based strategies. SSDP PH discussed the principles of harm reduction. As an organization, we want to emphasize the urgent need to integrate harm reduction into Philippine drug policies and even in community-based organizing to mitigate the harms caused by punitive measures.

## SSDP PHILIPPINES

Philippines



A Colorful and successful Global Day of Action Support, Don't Punish commendation for SSDP Zimbabwe.



## SSDP ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe



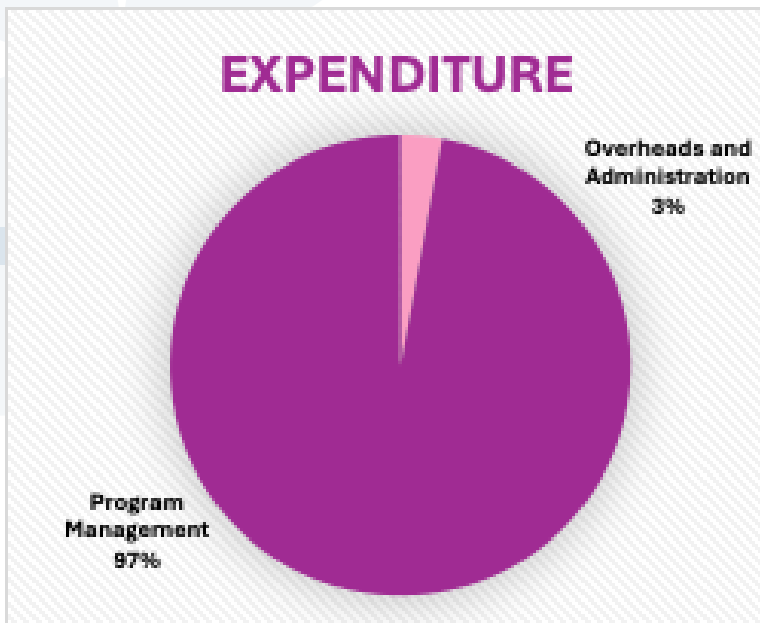
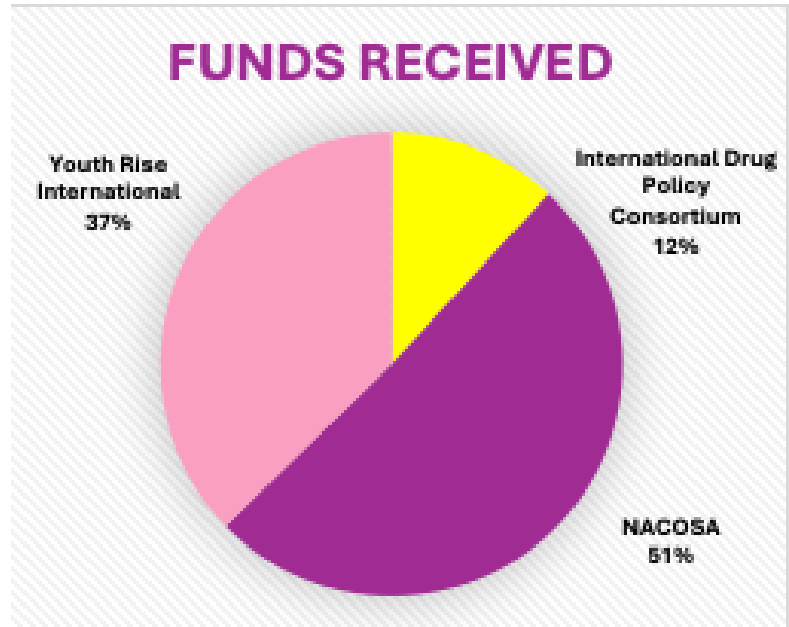
# Financial Overview.

Report on Funding Received and Expenditure of Sensible Drug Policy International NPC  
Sensible Drug Policy International NPC envisions a world where youth are empowered to drive meaningful change in drug policy through justice, compassion, and evidence-based reforms. Our mission is to mobilize young leaders, challenge harmful drug policies, and promote harm reduction strategies. Through advocacy, education, and international collaboration, we strive to eliminate stigma, support decriminalization, and ensure policies prioritize human rights and well-being.

The organization has secured financial support from three key sources:

- International Drug Policy Consortium R 8,652 (\$450)
- NACOSA R 37,088 (\$2016)
- Youth Rise International R 27,179 (\$1477)
- Total Funding Received R 72,919 (\$3963)

These funds are crucial in supporting the organization's mission and operational activities.



The funds were allocated across various operational and activity expenses, including:

#### Overheads and Administration

- Bank Charges R 1,711

#### Program Management

- Consultant Fees R 41,468 (\$2254)
- Printing & Stationery R 174 (\$10)
- Stipend R 7,752 (\$420)
- Stipend - Internet R 6,794 (\$369)
- Travel & Accommodation R 697 (\$38)

The total expenditure amounts to R 58,596 (\$3184,43).

The organization maintains a surplus of R 14,323 (\$778,39), ensuring financial stability and the ability to continue its advocacy work.

Sensible Drug Policy International NPC has successfully secured new funding from Amref – Y-Act, amounting to R 183,963 (\$10 000) per year for two years, further strengthening our financial position and enabling continued efforts towards our mission. The financial support received has been efficiently utilised to sustain key operational activities. The remaining surplus reflects prudent financial management, ensuring long-term sustainability and impact. Sensible Drug Policy International NPC remains committed to transparency and responsible fund allocation to drive positive change in drug policy worldwide.

# Future Outlook.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, SSDP International is poised to continue its leadership in the global movement for drug policy reform, with a clear focus on empowering youth and key populations.

Our strategic priorities are centred around expanding our network of student chapters, strengthening partnerships with like-minded organisations, fundraising, and advancing our advocacy for evidence-based drug policies.

We will continue to support our volunteers and student leaders, providing them with the tools, resources, and training needed to drive meaningful change in their communities. Building on our recent capacity-building training, SSDP is committed to furthering our outreach and ensuring that our advocacy is impactful and aligned with global initiatives

Finally, we will continue to push for stronger legal frameworks that protect vulnerable populations and advance drug policy reform.

The future holds immense potential as we work towards creating a more just, equitable, and harm-reduction-focused world, where youth voices are not only heard but lead the charge for systemic change.



# Acknowledgments.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, and volunteers. Your support and dedication have been instrumental in our achievements over the past year. Together, we are making a difference and creating a future where sensible drug policies prevail.

**Thank you for standing with us.**



# Contact Us.



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