

Dear Joint Interim Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

While attending the hearing and hoping to testify before you yesterday I listened very closely to what the concerns from those wanting to recriminalise were and I believe the main theme was the open consumption of drugs and debris associated with it. I believe having Safe Consumption sites would help to remedy this situation. Back in the early 1900's Portland, Oregon actually had a public Narcotics Clinic where those suffering were dosed by physicians with safe heroin and proceeded to carry on with their lives. Yes, you read that correctly. It was working beautifully and would work beautifully again.

Also the World Health Organisation and United Nations issued a joint statement back in 2017 stating:

Reviewing and repealing punitive laws that have been proven to have negative health outcomes and that counter established public health evidence. These include laws that criminalize or otherwise prohibit gender expression, same sex conduct, adultery and other sexual behaviours between consenting adults; adult consensual sex work; drug use or possession of drugs for personal use; sexual and reproductive health care services, including information; and overly broad criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, exposure or transmission.

Here is the statement in it's entirety

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/27-06-2017-joint-united-nations-statement-on-ending-discrimination-in-health-care-settings>

[Joint United Nations statement on ending discrimination in health care settings](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/27-06-2017-joint-united-nations-statement-on-ending-discrimination-in-health-care-settings)

The joint UN statement on ending discrimination in health care settings calls for health workers to fulfil their responsibilities, but also to have their rights protected.

www.who.int

Please hold the line and do not cave and regress to placing suffering humans in cages. The past 50 years of the War on the humans who consume Drugs has torn this country and families to shreds. Please stay the line and allow us to regroup and move forward with compassion.

Thank you,
Tara Barling