



## **A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS AT UNGASS 2016**

Encod has been working since 1993 to empower the drug reform movement led by citizens who have been particularly affected by drug prohibition, such as drug consumers and small-scale growers of cannabis, coca leaves and opium. Since the first UN General Assembly's Special Session (UNGASS) took place in 1998, we have been organising marches and public side events at the UN Summits on Drug Policies.

From 19 to 21 April 2016, a new UNGASS will take place in New York. This is a great moment to show the strength of global civil society that is opposed to the war on drugs. Together with activist organisations in North and South America, ENCOD wants to bring a clear message to the delegates at the UN, the media and anyone who wants to hear it: the war on drugs has to stop, as it undermines the main mission of the UN and in fact of all governments: the protection of public health, safety, and human rights in general.

During the 3 days of UNGASS, we plan to build a pop-up conference room on the square facing the UN building in New York, where a daily programme will take place involving testimonies from victims of the global war on drugs and other experts who will make clear who benefits if the drug war will come to an end. The purpose of this action will be to present the 'voice of the voiceless' in the drug debate, as well as to propose a new, 'unconventional' convention for the peaceful regulation of drugs.

Every morning and afternoon, Encod will receive and greet the delegates to the UNGASS session performing in artistic and humorous ways that explain the true nature of the war on drugs. Besides, some Encod members will enter the UN building as journalists/individual delegates and report on their experiences. An audio live stream will report on the proceedings at this event, as well as on the UNGASS itself.

On the afternoon on Wednesday 20 April, 16.20, a 4.20 rally will be organised, a traditional event in North America reminding all cannabis consumers to light up for legalisation. Considering this unique occasion to show the world leaders that the war on drugs has been lost, we believe many activists from the US will make their way to New York to participate in this rally, which could attract significant media attention.

The general message of ENCODs presence in New York will be: Take drugs seriously. The failure of prohibition is an opportunity to start all over with a different approach. Either totally abolish the three conventions or amend them so that individual nations can create their own policies. The UN could still play an important role in monitoring the impact of drug policies on human rights and public health. But they should stop being an excuse for governments to continue legislation that has become obsolete and counterproductive long ago.

## SO WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ENCOD normally does not issue any urgent funding requests. We are happy to say we can survive with the ordinary membership fees, a total of about 50.000 euro each year. However, the costs of sending a delegation of well prepared activists to New York, as well as the logistical expenses of the action together reach the same amount (50.000 euros) and cannot be paid out of the normal budget. Therefore we appeal to each of our members and in fact every citizen in Europe who believes that UNGASS 2016 should declare global drug peace, to support us. Below you can find our budget. Companies that donate above 1000 euros will be mentioned on the website. If you have any questions, please contact us.

### BUDGET in euros

#### 1. Preparatory meeting (February 2016, Antwerp), 30 people, 2 days

Travel costs	5000	
Accommodation and subsistence	3500	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>8.500</b>

#### 2. UNGASS (April 2016, New York), 30 people, 5 days

Travel costs	15000	
Accommodation and subsistence	15000	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>30.000</b>

#### 3. Other costs

Logistical costs New York	2500	
Costumes etc.	2500	
Media centre	5000	
Printing material	500	
Permits	500	
Unforeseen costs	500	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>11.500</b>

**TOTAL** **50.000**

ENCOD VZW  
European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies  
Haantjeslei 213 – 2018 Antwerpen - Belgium  
Mob. + 32 (0)495 122644  
E-mail: [info@encod.org](mailto:info@encod.org) / [www.encod.org](http://www.encod.org)