



**GLOBAL
COMMISSION ON
DRUG POLICY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

THE GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY HONORS
THE MEMORY OF ASMA JAHANGIR



(Geneva, 12 February 2018)

The members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy are deeply saddened to learn about the death of their esteemed colleague Asma Jahangir, on 11 February 2018.

Asma Jahangir – a figure in the defense of human rights in her country and abroad – was mandated with several human rights mandates by the UN since the 1990's, and acted as a vocal advocate for rights-based and humane drug policies.

The Global Commission's members join the millions in Pakistan and abroad to honor her memory, recall her courage and perseverance, and express their deep condolences to her family.

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About the Global Commission on Drug Policy

The Global Commission on Drug Policy was established in 2011 by political leaders, cultural figures, and globally influential personalities from the financial and business sectors. The Commission currently comprises 25 members, including 12 former Heads of States or Government, a former Secretary General of the United Nations and three Nobel Prize laureates. Its mission is to promote evidence-based drug policy reforms at international, national and regional levels. These reforms must promote public health, social integration and safety goals, with a strict regard for human rights.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy has issued six reports, beginning in 2011 with [*War on Drugs*](#), which details the extent of the failure and damage of five decades of prohibition and punitive measures. In 2014, [*Taking Control: Pathways to Drug Policies that Work*](#) emphasized public health approaches, alternatives to incarceration, and decriminalization, as well as calling for the legal regulation of psychoactive substances. In 2016, [*Advancing Drug Policy Reform: a new approach to decriminalization*](#), examined in more depth the benefits of decriminalization and called for an end to all civil and criminal penalties for drug consumption and possession for personal use. Three other reports by the Global Commission on Drug Policy are more focused on how prohibitive drug control negatively impacts public health issues: HIV/AIDS ([*How the Criminalization of Drug Use Fuels the Global Pandemic*](#), 2012), Hepatitis C ([*The Hidden Hepatitis C Epidemic*](#), 2013) and creates barriers for access to essential medicines for pain and palliative care in countries around the world where they are desperately needed ([*The Global Crisis of Avoidable Pain*](#), 2015).

In October 2017, the Global Commission released a [*Position Paper on the Opioid Crisis in North America*](#), offering recommendations on how to mitigate the unprecedented overdose epidemic in the US and Canada.

The Global Commission's 2017 report, [*The World Drug PERCEPTION Problem – Countering prejudices about people who use drugs*](#), analyzes the most common perceptions and fears surrounding drugs, contrast them with available evidence on drugs and the people who use them, and provides recommendations on changes that must be enacted to support reforms toward more effective drug policies.

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