



**GLOBAL
COMMISSION ON
DRUG POLICY**

PO BOX 1672 | 1211 Geneva 1 | Switzerland
+41 22 908 43 75
secretariat@globalcommissionondrugs.org
www.globalcommissionondrugs.org

PRESS RELEASE

THE GLOBAL COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY MOURNS
THE PASSING OF THORVALD STOLTENBERG



(Geneva, 13 July 2018)

It is with deep sadness that the members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy learned of the death of their esteemed colleague Thorvald Stoltenberg, on 13 July 2018.

A human rights and social justice champion, Mr. Stoltenberg spent a lifetime serving the Norwegian people and the international community with passion and commitment. As one of the founding members of the Global Commission in 2011, his voice and efforts have had a deep and lasting impact on drug policies in Scandinavia, fostering rights-based debates in Northern Europe, and triggering ongoing reforms.

The Global Commission's members express their condolences to Mr. Stoltenberg's family and to the Norwegian people, and join them in honoring his memory.

For further information, please contact:

Eric Grant

Communications Officer

+41 79 124 1523

eric.grant@globalcommissionondrugs.org

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 most recent 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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