

# Relative mindsets

## Status quo

### Reality check

No one should use illegal drugs

Prohibition sends an important message

Any use of illegal drugs is problematic

Drugs make people lose control

Legalisation is a step into the unknown

Legalisation will not get rid of organised crime

Problematic drug use is caused by using drugs

### Health

Harm reduction encourages drug use

Reduced prevalence is the most important indicator of success

Increased availability leads to increased drug use and hence to increased misuse

Prohibition protects the health of individuals

### Morals

Prohibition creates a barrier against moral and actual chaos

Calling for legalisation brings the law into disrepute

## Reform

People have always used drugs and they always will

Too many are ignoring the message for it to be effective

Most illegal drug use is non-problematic

People take drugs partly in order to lose control, (but it can get out of control)

Regulation has a very well documented history

Regulation reduces opportunities for organised crime

Problematic use is often symptomatic of underlying problems

Harm reduction saves lives

Reduced harm is the most important indicator of success

Increased availability may increase use, but well regulated, it will certainly reduce harm

Prohibition harms public health and individuals' health

Prohibition leads many into temptation and causes actual chaos

Calling for regulation facilitates a discussion of what works

## **Conspiracy**

Legalisation is being forced through by the 'liberal elite'

Regulation is supported by individuals with a very wide range of political views

## **Policy effectiveness**

Ending prohibition automatically hands the trade over to multi-nationals to aggressively market drugs

Ending prohibition allows for various different options for regulation and control

Drugs are dangerous and should be prohibited

Drugs are dangerous and should be regulated and controlled

Prohibition controls drugs

Prohibition pushes illegal drugs, producers and suppliers outside our control

Health, social and financial costs of prohibition are worth paying

Prohibition is prohibitively costly with little benefit on most indicators

Prohibition is based on a strong 'moral' position

Regulation is based on a strong 'moral' position

Ideology is more important than pragmatism

Measurable effectiveness is more important than ideology

Underlying causes of *misuse* can be addressed under prohibition

Prohibition causes and exacerbates problems associated with illegal drug use

We must not 'give up' the fight against drugs

Drug policy should be changed in accordance with results

Prohibition is 'tough on drugs'

Prohibition creates a Gangster's Charter

## **Producer Countries**

Producer countries are wilfully ignoring global prohibition

Producer countries are unintentionally pushed into illegal drug production by global prohibition

## **Human Rights**

Human rights issues can be ignored

Human rights are paramount

## **Transform Drug Policy Foundation**

[www.tdpf.org.uk](http://www.tdpf.org.uk)  
[info@tdpf.org.uk](mailto:info@tdpf.org.uk)

0117 941 5810