

Human Rights Challenges in a Polarised Drug Policy Field

Mega Impact Foundation (MIF) is a registered Non Profit and Non-Governmental organization in Nigeria (CAC20517); our major objective is to bring social development to young people in Nigeria through leveraging technology to simplify access to education, capacity development and empowerment, we aim to strengthen prevention among children and young people and welcome this Opportunity to contribute to the OHCHR with regard to the Human Right Challenges faced globally.

Studies show that people of African descent are disproportionately affected by what are often poorly crafted and excessively punitive drug policies. In addition, racial profiling in many countries has made people of African descent a targeted group in the so-called war on drugs. Current drug policies in Africa are repressive, with widespread marginalisation and treatment of people who use drugs as criminals, morally weak ‘addicts’ and/or social outcasts. Which has often led to aggravating human rights violations directly related to the criminalization and stigmatization of people who use drugs.

Lack Of research

Another challenge faced in Africa and sub Saharan Africa is lack of research to understand the dynamics of substance use and substance use disorders evidenced based prevention is needed in this region that is why research is important as Africa is a unique region from the Western world.

Children and young people participation

Children and young people from this region should also be carried along in these conversations and included in policy reforms through youth movements and youth centred organizations as they make up a great percentage of drug users.

In this region there are hardly platforms for children and young people to lend their voices or participate in decision making especially in issues that concern them.



Lack of treatment facilities

This region faces a high demand for treatment facilities , most recovering substance users end up seeking private recovery routes as the facilities are few or none at all exist.

Stigmatization

There is still a long way to go in reducing stigmatization of substance users and recovering patients

Recommendations/conclusion

- More investment in this region into research by organizations and researchers
- More advocacy on reducing stigmatization
- Evidenced based prevention programs that will be provided through research peculiar to this region
- Inclusion of children and young people in policy recommendation and evidenced based prevention programs
- Investing to set up recovery facilities as well as support groups.
- Capacity building for organizations who walk in the field of prevention and youth centred organizations to catch them young in prevention methods.

Africa needs an approach cantered on public health and harm reduction

International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

MIF research on Comprehensive Gender Based Concentration and its Impact on the development of the Boy-Child in Nigeria.

