



DRUGS PEACE INSTITUTE

Utrecht, December 10, 2017.

Dear Mr. António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres,

Subject: Invitation to join the Committee of Recommendation for the Nomination of Drugs Pacifists for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize as honorary member.

As we have been told, the UN drug control community will most likely hold its next overall international drug policy discussion in 2019, when the current 10-year Political Declaration and Plan of Action are up for renewal. Some view the [Outcome Document](#) of the recent 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs as a positive break with the past, because it addresses in general terms issues like human rights, proportional sentencing and overdose prevention. However, the Drugs Peace Institute (DPI) and many others view these UN concerns as mere lip service to the ideals of the more progressive minded member states and civil society. Indeed, the Outcome Document does not consider human rights recommendations formulated by other UN agencies, avoids mentioning core issues of policy reform like the abolishment of the death penalty, harm reduction and the identification of money laundering beneficiaries, and claims, in the face of evidence to the contrary, the need to stick to the present treaties-regime because of its successes

There has nevertheless been a positive result of the 2016 UNGASS: the realization that a UN monolithic drug control block dictating world policy has come to an end. The appearance of consensus belongs to the past. The future is for those who stand up for an agreement in line with their beliefs and political ideals. The preparations of the follow-up to the Political Declaration now present a new opportunity for all those opposed to the war on drugs to come out full force in favor of the much-awaited paradigm shift. As the international alt right and the prohibition and pharmaceutical industry will be prominently represented, the DPI hopes that the consumers of consciousness altering substances finally will claim the high ground and hold the UN community responsible for the theft of human spiritual sovereignty and the cause of immense suffering which the evil of prohibition entails.

To this end, the DPI proposes the nomination for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize of representatives of the indigenous nature peoples and the modern cannabis community, persecuted for their use of mind-altering substances in flagrant and deliberate violation of universal human rights standards from the very beginning of the post-WWII era when the universal declaration came into existence.

For the cannabis community, the DPI presents the candidacy of the [Cannabis Social Clubs](#), groups of adult citizens who organize the cultivation of a limited amount of cannabis to satisfy their personal needs. The concept was introduced in the early nineties by the Barcelona cannabis

association ARSEC and got its definitive form some years later with the formation of the Bilbao club Pannagh, also from Spain. Adopted by the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies (ENCOD) and steadfastly promoted by its founder, the late Joep Oomen, they've spread all over Europe and the Americas and now, in 2017, number well over a thousand. The DPI has the honor to present ARSEC as representative for all the Cannabis Social Clubs worldwide.

Special mention is made of the inclusion of the CSC Leila de Lima, Filipino Cannabis Social Club in exile, representing anonymous cannabis users in the Philippines and their companions of misfortune of the Filipino genocide of drug users and drug dealers, abroad.

For the indigenous peoples, the DPI presents the candidacy of the Huichol People of Mexico ('Wixárika' in Huichol language). Although the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances does not prohibit the traditional use of peyote by the Huichol, the factual situation meanwhile changed so dramatically that in 2017 this people must fear for the survival of its culture due to the planned destruction of its peyote fields at Wirikuta, in the Chihuahua desert. As the drug cartels operating in the States where the Huichol live exert a continuing terror to force the people to cultivate cannabis and opium, the [Regional Wixarika Council](#), presided by Miguel Vázquez Torres, which had accepted the nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize, in the end preferred to keep its answer on hold. In May 2017, Miguel and his brother Agustin were murdered in broad daylight. In order not to endanger other legitimate activist representatives of the Huichol people, the DPI is honored to present the candidacy of the [Huichol Center for Cultural Survival](#) which has relentlessly committed itself for the last 35 years to the safeguarding of the Wixárika culture.

The DPI organized 25 years ago the nomination of Marie-Andrée Bertrand, Arnold S. Trebach and Mauricio Mamani Pocoaca for the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize. Only Mr. Mamani got nominated, with the support of his Bolivian colleagues and some courageous intellectuals from the 'North'. The Northern Hemisphere wasn't ready at that time to embrace the notion of drugs peace. Mme. Bertrand wrote a great presentation of the Mamani candidacy to the Oslo Nobel Committee and that was it. As subsequent nomination campaigns for Evo Morales, Ben Dronkers, John Marks and José Mujica confirmed, the Oslo Nobel Committee is steeped in the prohibitionist doctrine and not inclined to award its prize to the anti-prohibition community. Nevertheless, Mamani paved the way for Evo Morales who got concrete help from the European cannabis movement on his way to the Bolivian presidency, and José Mujica got much publicized support from abroad, in particular the much respected German Schildower Kreis, for his cannabis legalization policy.

The usefulness of a Nobel Prize nomination for drug pacifists therefore doesn't lie in the quasi non-existent chance of winning the prize but in the publicity the nomination campaign leading up to the nomination provides. For this reason, our Drugs Peace Institute, going against the Nobel praxis of discreet nominations, favors an all-out public campaign in order to obtain a sort of 'nobility' for the nominees: indeed, the candidates are nominated by at least 100 personalities deemed worthy by Alfred Nobel to judge their contribution towards peace. As we have chosen to propose for nomination for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize drugs user groups regularly prosecuted in courts, we can help present them to their judges not as criminals, but as Nobel nominees, endorsed by legal scholars, philosophers, historians and lawmakers, the judges' peers.

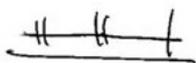
The position of the Huichol, who in violation of Mexico's international treaty obligations, are still not recognized as subjects of law, is even more precarious. They still are considered as third category citizens, dependent on the will of tolerant government institutions. So even when they get their due in court, it is uncertain whether it can be enforced because the responsible authorities may decide not to cooperate, as recent examples of land restitution decisions have shown. In order to strengthen the Huichol position in their fight for survival, it is hoped that their pilgrimage to the holy mountain Cerro Quemado at Wirikuta will be recognized as a unique cultural heritage and be inscribed in UNESCO's Register of Best Safeguarding Practices, so that the world community may assist in its safeguarding under the UNESCO aegis. By its mission, the Huichol Center for Cultural Survival is committed to this endeavor as it translates the potential of the Huichol history for contribution to peace and security. The centuries long courageous undertaking of the dangerous yearly peyote hunt to Wirikuta is the unique best safeguarding practice of the use of a plant of the gods which the Wixaritari can offer to the world.

Many members of the Committee of Recommendation will not know each candidate. Nevertheless, each will have received such massive support that it can be argued that the Committee of Recommendation as such supports the collective candidacy and recommends it. In addition, the various Cannabis Social Clubs included in the candidature represented by ARSEC, adhere all to [the 5 principles](#) of *supply follows demand, non-profitability, transparency, healthy use and openness to dialogue with the authorities*, set forth by ENCOD and to its [Code of Conduct](#). These are the same principals held by the Huichols since time immemorial.

Present UN policies focus on the attainment of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) by 2030. The DPI is therefore pleased to present its input to the drug policy debate as part of this UN endeavor. In this sense, the nomination campaign will highlight the contributions made by the proposed candidates towards achieving the four SDGs of *Good health and well-being, Quality education, Responsible consumption and production* and *Peace, justice and strong institutions*, as well as the additional advantages to be gained from *responsible legalization of consumption, production and distribution*.

At the occasion of its 25th anniversary the DPI has the pleasure to introduce the 2019 nomination campaign and invite the five people, who in their capacity of Head of State or Government have significantly contributed to the introduction of new approaches to drug control, as honorary members of the Committee. Next to Andries van Agt, Evo Morales Ayma, José Mujica Cordano and Justin Trudeau, the DPI therefore has herewith the honor to invite you.

Sincerely yours,



Adriaan Bronkhorst



Invitation to join the
COMMITTEE OF RECOMMENDATION
of drugs pacifists for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

Herewith the Drugs Peace Institute (DPI) has the honor to invite

Mr. António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres

to join as honorary member the Committee of Recommendation, made up of personalities in favor of alternative policies to the prohibition of drugs, and whose recommendation might favorably influence potential nominators, and

to recommend the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize candidates with potential nominators, which are those people qualified by Alfred Nobel to nominate a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize by virtue of their function as:

- members of a national or the European parliament or government;
- members of international courts of justice;
- university rectors; professors of social sciences, history, philosophy, law and theology;
- directors of peace research institutes and foreign policy institutes, and

to underwrite to this end the following text, which the Drugs Peace Institute will forward to potential nominators with the names of the Committee members listed underneath:

“We, members of the Committee of Recommendation of the nomination for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize of the Huichol People, represented by the Huichol Center for Cultural Survival (Centro Indígena Wixárika, Huejuquilla el Alto (JAL), Mexico), and of the Cannabis Social Clubs (CSCs) represented by ARSEC, the *Ramon Santos Association for the Study of Cannabis* (Barcelona, Spain), endorse all their activities which have contributed to the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the basis of the consumption of, respectively, peyote and marijuana, including their responsible production and distribution, and thus to the pacification of the fronts of the war on drugs.

We are convinced that these drugs pacifists deserve to be considered for the Nobel Peace Prize because of their activities in favor of drugs peace, and we therefore strongly recommend their candidacy for your nomination.”