



ENCOD VZW

European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies

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To Verkhovna Rada

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Honorable members of the Ukraine parliament,

worldwide, thousands of patients have been treated with cannabis medicines so far. According to what the doctors stated, overall, they suffered from more than fifty different diseases. There are mainly 5 indication areas.

These are:

- Chronic pain, such as pain due to nerve injury or migraine.
- Psychiatric disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and sleep disorders.
- Neurological disorders, such as epilepsy or spasticity due to paraplegia.
- Chronic inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis or ulcerative colitis.
- Nausea and loss of appetite due to various causes.

Knowing this and having in mind the vulnerable situation Ukraine is in, we kindly ask you to support your president Zelenskyy in legalizing medicinal cannabis.

As per the academic study Farmability and Pharmability, “Cannabinoids were considered easy to cultivate/manufacture.”¹ Knowing this, Ukraine can easily produce this kind of medicine without depending on foreign countries with little logistic effort and thus saving a lot of money. Medicinal cannabis provides an inexpensive, quickly accessible benefit for the brave people of Ukraine. Disciplined use is mandatory in any case.

We are no medical doctors, but we believe in the effects thanks to testimonies of patients from all over the world.

We focus on Human Rights.

Health is a fundamental human right, indispensable for the exercise of many other rights, in particular the right to development, and necessary for living a life in dignity. The realization of the right to health is also a fundamental goal of State’s policies and programmes, regardless of their economic, social, cultural, religious or political background.

From a human rights perspective, access to medicines is intrinsically linked with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, transparency, participation, and accountability. States are obliged to develop national health legislation and policies and to strengthen their national health systems. For this purpose, key issues related to access to medicines must be taken into account such as: sustainable financing, availability and affordability of essential medicines; price and quality control; dosage and efficacy of medicines; procurement practices and procedures, supply chains, etc.

Against this background and as requested in Human Rights Council **resolution 12/24**, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) convened an expert consultation on 11 October 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland, “for an exchange of views on human rights considerations relating to the realization of access to medicines as one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health” (para. 7, HRC res. 12/24).

The expert consultation focused on: (1) access to medicines as a fundamental element of the right to health; and (2) emerging issues, existing obstacles to providing access to medicines, and ways forward. The consultation contributed to gathering and focusing expert opinions on the legal interpretation of the above issues, the need for increased policy coherence between human rights obligations and other areas of government policy-making, as well as strengthening the global partnership for development, institutional coordination and collective action towards enhancing access to medicines.²

¹ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/20503245221097797>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/development/access-medicines-fundamental-element-right-health>

As member of UN VNGOC with ECOSOC status, we condemn/oppose the war waged by Russia. We appeal to all UN member states to uphold international law with utmost respect. The world needs peaceful solutions, instead of wasting lives and resources for war, which adds to the spiral of catastrophic events the whole world is facing.

We wish you a productive voting on legalizing medicinal cannabis in Ukraine and may peace come to your country soon.

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