

Scandinavian Civil Society Conference on International Drug Policy, Human Rights and Development

Invitation to the Civil Society Conference

February 6th • 9am – 4.30pm

Drugs are a complex and controversial issue. For more than fifty years, however, the international response to “the world drug problem” has focused on a repressive and punitive approach to eliminate the supply and demand for illicit substances. The negative effects of this on security, development and human rights are well documented, but there remains a reticence on the part of many governments to change direction.

In 2016 there will be a UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs, a once in a generation opportunity to influence the course of international drug policies for the benefit of development and human rights. The upcoming High Level Review in Vienna in March 2014 of the 2009 UN Political Declaration and Plan of Action will influence both the process and discussions leading up to 2016 UNGASS.

With these important events in mind this conference will for the first time bring together Scandinavian civil society to discuss international drug policy, human rights and development from a Scandinavian perspective.

The conference will involve politicians, government officials, national and international experts and will focus on the foreign policy priorities of Scandinavian countries leading into the 2016 UN special session.

Developments at national level within the Scandinavian region will also be discussed, and questions asked as to if and how national policy translates into international diplomacy.

This conference is intended to share information and insights in order to promote strong leadership from Scandinavian countries on development and human rights in the lead up to and during the UN special session process.

These are traditionally strong areas for Scandinavia, but are often highly controversial in international drug policy.

The Danish Minister for Health and Prevention, Ms. Astrid Krag, will open the event.

Conference Venue

**Human Rights in Action • Conference Boat Liva II • Nyhavn 26 •
1051 Copenhagen K**



Register for the conference by sending name and contact details to kontakt@gadejuristen.dk before January 24th. Should you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact emk@gadejuristen.dk.