



ROME CONSENSUS FOR A HUMANITARIAN DRUG POLICY

The participants of the Rome High-Level Seminar 'Bridging the Gap Between Public Health and Drug Policy', 16-17 December 2005 and the participants of the High Level International Think Tank on Drugs, 23-24 March 2007 jointly hosted by the Italian Red Cross and The Senlis Council, in light of the commitment of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to Harm Reduction activities, hereby recommend:

- To raise the profile of drug policy to the forefront of social concerns, recognising that negative effects of drugs are felt at all levels of society.
- To advocate a comprehensive public health, harm reduction and humanitarian approach as key elements of drug policy in the full knowledge that this approach provides the optimal way of achieving the goals of alleviating suffering, reaching vulnerable people and addressing the global HIV/AIDS crisis.
- To acknowledge that the absence of a public health, harm reduction and humanitarian approach breeds stigmatisation and marginalisation of drug users, thus making reintegration harder.
- To stress on the Red Cross/Red Crescent unique auxiliary role to governments and to make a commitment ranging from the volunteer to the leadership level.
- To develop cooperation with the goal of encouraging public health, harm reduction and humanitarian oriented drug responses and activities, involving peers including drug users and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- To implement carefully designed and transparent information, communication and life skill development programmes concerning drug use and HIV/AIDS, with particular focus on vulnerable groups including prisoners and mobile populations.
- To recognize the important contribution that can be made by peer groups, drug users and people living with HIV/AIDS.

A strategic plan coordinated by the Italian Red Cross will be developed based on the Consensus in close cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including the European Red Cross / Red Crescent Network on HIV/Aids and TB (ERNA). Cooperation and partnerships will also be encouraged with Civil Society. All efforts shall be made in order to make available and to mobilise the resources to follow up on the Consensus.



CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA

THE SENLIS COUNCIL

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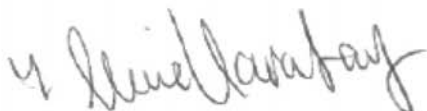


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