



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**POST  
UNGASS  
2016**

**CND**

**COMMISSION ON**

**NARCOTIC DRUGS**

**VIENNA**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER  
PERSPECTIVES IN DRUG-RELATED POLICIES  
AND PROGRAMMES  
A GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACH  
TO ADDRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**

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POLITICAL DECLARATION AND PLAN  
OF ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED  
AND BALANCED STRATEGY TO COUNTER  
THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM



## 2009 POLITICAL DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

OP 9 Acknowledge the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem....ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions take into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems



OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE 2016  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL  
SESSION ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM  
OUR JOINT COMMITMENT TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSING  
AND COUNTERING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

UNGASS  
2016 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

## 2016 UNGASS OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Standalone Chapter - Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

GOAL 5



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL  
WOMEN AND GIRLS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
More at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal)

## 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

GOAL 5 - Achieve gender equality  
and empower all women and girls

## TARGETED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS - FOCUSING ON:



- ❖ promoting international cooperation in addressing the **involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking, especially as couriers**;
- ❖ taking into account **specific needs of women** in the prevention, early detection and intervention, treatment and care of drug dependence and drug-related diseases;
- ❖ underlining that **gender equality and the empowerment** of women and girls made a **crucial contribution to progress across all the SDGs**;
- ❖ calling upon Member States to develop and implement **national drug policies and programmes** that take into account the **specific needs of women and girls**



## UNGASS 2016 - A GENDER RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM – WHY DOES IT MATTER?

### 2016 WORLD DRUG REPORT

- ✓ number of **women imprisoned** for drug-related offenses is **on the rise** and the **participation of women in drug trade worldwide is increasing**;
- ✓ **female offenders and prisoners**, especially with drug use disorders, face particular hardship → **many criminal justice systems are not yet equipped for the special needs of women**;



## UNGASS 2016 - A GENDER RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM – WHY DOES IT MATTER?



### 2017 WORLD DRUG REPORT

- ✓ at least **twice as many men suffer from drug use disorders**. However, **women tend to increase their rate of consumption more rapidly** and may **progress more quickly to the development of drug use disorders**;
- ✓ **men are three times more likely to use cannabis, cocaine or amphetamines** - **women** are more likely than men to **misuse prescription drugs**;



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## UNGASS 2016 – CHAPTER IV GENDER-RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOCUS ON:

- ❖ mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug policies and programmes;
- ❖ implementing of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);
- ❖ ensuring that women, including detained women, have access to adequate health services and counselling;
- ❖ addressing conditions that make women and girls vulnerable to exploitation and their participation in drug trafficking;



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## MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN DRUG POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

### IMPLEMENTING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RULES FOR THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN PRISONERS AND NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS (THE BANGKOK RULES)

*Ms. Valerie LEBAUX*  
*Chief, UNODC Justice Section*



## What is gender mainstreaming and why we need it

- UN definition => ECOSOC Resolution 1997/2
- Common misconceptions
  - Sex = gender
  - Gender issues = women's issues
  - Creating a gender unit and hiring female staff is enough
- Advantages over a gender-neutral approach
  - Example: overcoming gender-related obstacles in accessing justice





## Gender dimensions of drug-related offences

- Most drug traffickers are male
- Female drug traffickers are usually minor players and can be easily replaced
- Disproportionate growth of the female prison population
- A large proportion of women are in prison for drug-related offences
  - Drug trafficking offences
  - Personal consumption offences



## Factors affecting women disproportionately

- Drug or alcohol dependency
- Caring responsibilities for children or families
- Domestic and sexual violence
- Mental health-care needs
- Low levels of education and literacy
- Stigma



**Lack of laws, procedures, programmes and facilities that address these factors**



## Guidance from international standards and norms

- International human rights law
  - Provides general rules on due process and treatment of offenders
- International drug control conventions
  - Allow for alternatives to conviction and punishment
- Tokyo Rules
  - Elaborate on the types and implementation of non-custodial alternatives
- Bangkok Rules
  - Based on the principle of non-discrimination; adopt a gender-perspective: non-custodial measures for women offenders; treatment of women prisoners



## Applying international standards in practice

- Legislative reform
- Use of non-custodial alternatives to conviction/punishment
- Consideration of women's typical backgrounds and circumstances
- Access to legal aid
- Access to substance abuse treatment programmes
- Specific measures for pregnant women and mothers
- Specific measures for foreign national women
- Social reintegration programmes to avoid reoffending
- Gender-sensitive data collection and analysis



**How are they applied in your country?**





## Discussion with participants

- National experiences in mainstreaming gender in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes
- Good practices concerning national initiatives to apply international standards
- National experiences concerning women's involvement in drug offences and conditions that continue to make women vulnerable to exploitation and participation in drug trafficking

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## ENSURING THAT WOMEN HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND COUNSELLING

*Ms. Elizabeth MATTFELD*

*UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section*



## International Standards on Drug Use Prevention

## International Standards Treatment of Drug Use Dis



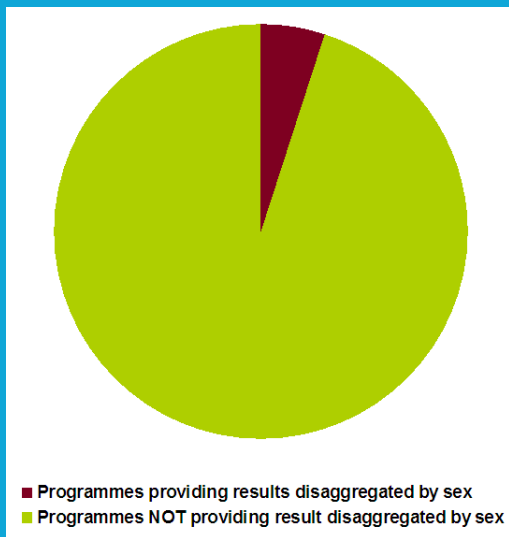
## Guidelines on drug prevention and treatment for girls and women

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-prevention-and-treatment/publications.html>

# Global Gender Disparity: Prevention

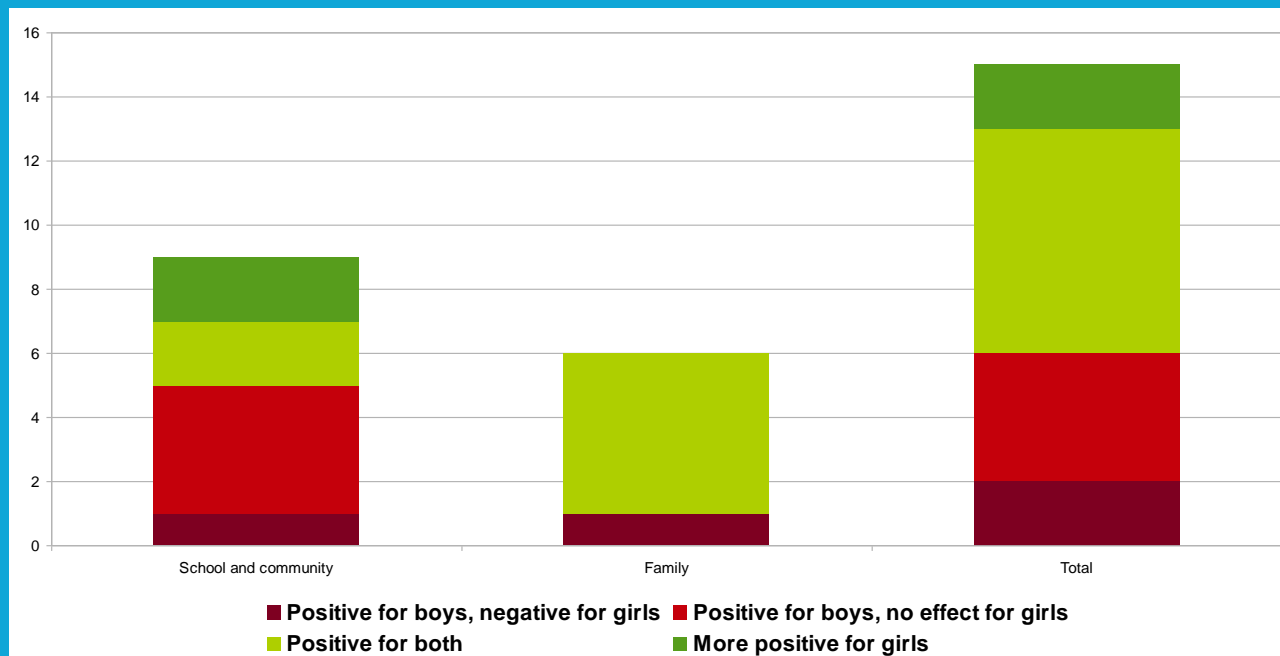
## What could be done?

- Do drug prevention interventions benefit girls and boys equally?



**On the basis of the little evidence that we have, not necessarily**

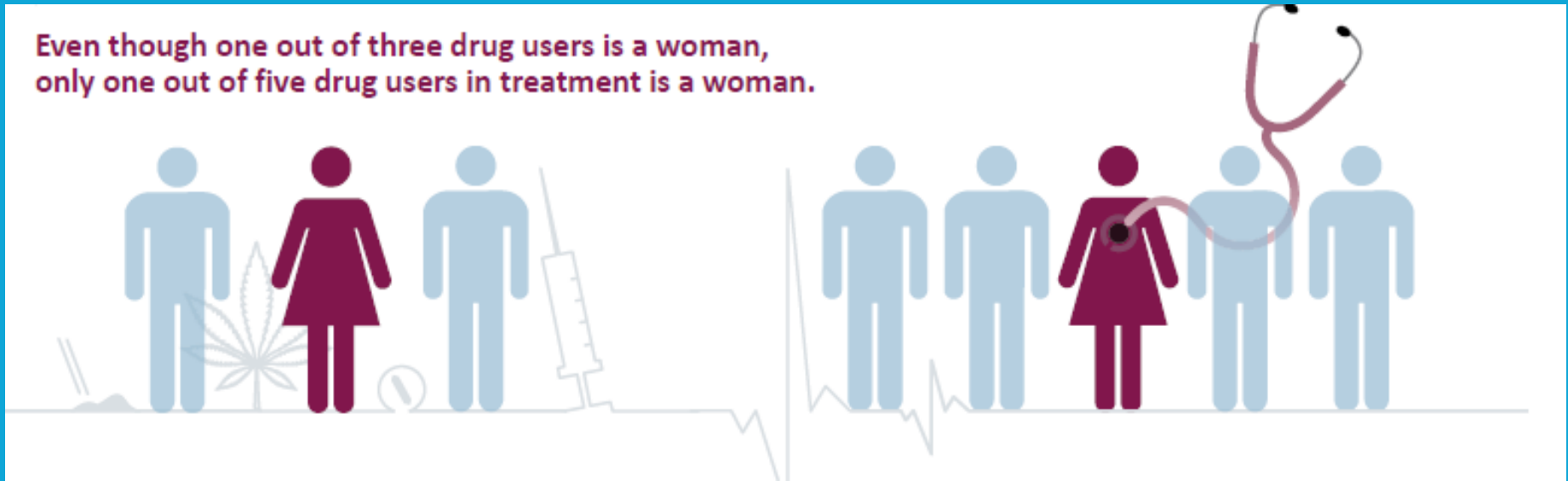
Adapted from UNODC, 2014 – Does NOT include gender specific programmes (1 school, 2 family)





# Global Gender Disparity: Treatment

Even though one out of three drug users is a woman, only one out of five drug users in treatment is a woman.





## Actions?

- **Include and highlight gender specific services for women and girls in National legislation**
- **Financially support healthcare services targeted for women and girls, specifically related to drug use prevention, drug use disorder treatment and HIV treatment**
- **Identify and address barriers for women and girls:**
  - **Childcare responsibilities**
  - **Fear of losing child**
  - **Stigma of criminal justice system**
  - **Co-occurring disorders**
  - **Sexual and reproductive health**
- **Recognize unconscious bias**
- **Address the family unit – extended family, father, mother, children**
- **Be aware of cultural components**

# Gender responsiveness is a core component of the HIV/AIDS programme

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

**Programming:** Projects for women who inject drugs in community and women in prison in Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan and Ukraine

## TOOLS AND GUIDELINES



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# ADDRESSING CONDITIONS THAT MAKE WOMEN AND GIRLS VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

## ORGANIZED CRIME AND GENDER

*Ms. Riikka PUTTONEN*  
*UNODC Organized Crime Branch*





## Raffaella d'Alterio





## The different roles

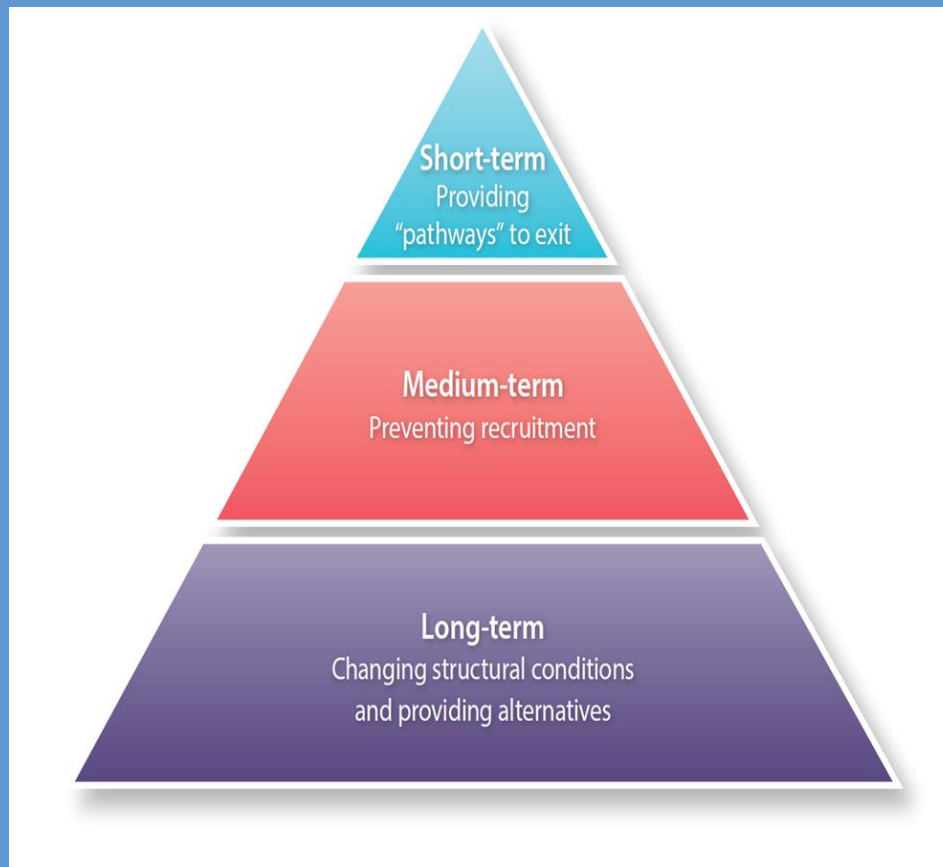
- Leaders (organizers, partners in crime)
- Assistant/supporting roles (subordinate to male criminals as stable and often central support system)
- Girlfriends, wives and mothers
- Intermediary between perpetrators and victims (coping)
- Victims
- Players in the criminal justice system



- Stereotypical construction of femininity and masculinity
- Influenced by time, culture, socio-political environment and economic conditions



# Policy findings from the GI study and conclusions





## Findings in a new study by GI

- **VIOLENCE:** Girls/women gang members actively participate in violence. “Lures”, “hitgirls”, violence against “boyfriends” and abusers.
- **CONFIDANTS BUT NOT LEADERS:** Play important roles but no clear case of leadership. Finances and trust.
- **“BREAKING OUT”:** Hard to do. Children and reaching mid-30s seems to be tipping point. But before that few options: employment “boring” and “underpaid”.