



# THE NOSSAL INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

## The Law Enforcement And Harm Reduction Network (LEAHRN)

Nicole Turner

- Established 2010
- Global, online network of police, public health practitioners, academics
- Over 500 subscribers world-wide
- Russian (Kyrgyzstan) & English sites
- Moderated by former police officers
- Recently established Advisory Board

LEAHRN

Law Enforcement And Harm Reduction Network



## An online tool designed to:

- promote harm reduction approaches to policing illicit drug use\*
- support police & public health practitioners working together to reduce the risks of IDU & HIV
- provide access to resources, advice
- facilitate engagement between police, public health workers & others via a 'blog'

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Law Enforcement And Harm Reduction Network



It's about....

- building sustainable global & local partnerships
- sharing best practice, success stories & case studies aimed at raising awareness of harm reduction
- advocacy & peer education\*
- involving police at every opportunity

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## Why LEAHRN?

- Evidence shows that police actions can be one of the strongest determinants of whether a person uses harm reduction services or not
- So, we need to:
  - highlight benefits for police – ‘what’s in it for them’
  - address barriers to support
  - promote ingredients for successful police/health partnerships & community engagement

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Police often fear that HR programs will:

- result in an increase drug use
- attract the drug trade and increase crime
- compromise treatment programs
- send the ‘wrong message’ – eg condone drug use
- receive criticism from the community, traders & politicians

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## Barriers often include...

- Misunderstanding, lack of knowledge/education\*
- Police superiors unsupportive – in some countries, corruption is endemic
- HR seen as not ‘real’ policing – health philosophy, not crime-focused
- Use of punitive measures to address illicit drug use
- Direct conflict with legislation
- • Traditional policing is non-collaborative

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What's in it for police? The evidence shows that HR can:

- Provide a 'bridge to treatment' reduce recidivism
- Improve the amenity & safety of an area
- Reduce crime
- Reduce risk of occupational exposure to BBV
- More efficient use of police resources
- Partnerships with other agencies = sharing of resources

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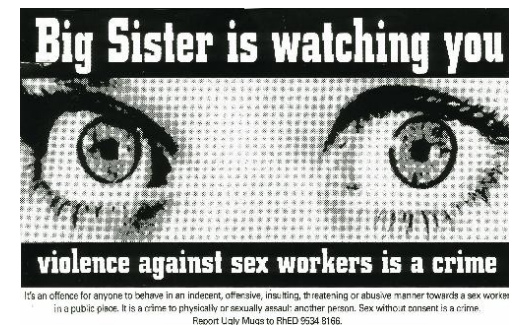


- International focus: target regional areas & tailor messages
- Tap into existing policing forums, eg workshops/seminars (ICAAP Korea)
- Identify & promote case studies/police-health partnerships
- Contribute to the development of world-wide best practice eg
- Identify & contribute to HR curriculum via police academies



Change the focus of what is NOT working to what IS...

- RhED's Ugly Mugs project
  - Police liaison officer (St Kilda)
  - Report & prosecute perpetrators of violence against sex workers
- Operation Elizabeth
  - Richmond Police, Neighbourhood Justice Centre
  - Drug diversion
- Sydney Medically Supervised Safe Injecting Centre
  - Familiarisation/site visits for local police



- Thailand's SWING provides services for male sex workers in Bangkok
- Intern program for police recruits
- Aim to build relationships of mutual respect to enable sex workers to access STI & HIV prevention and treatment without fear of arrest.



- Save the Children's Poro Sapot program PNG
- Aim is to create a safe & HIV-protective environments for social & commercial interactions
- Police Liaison Officer in each city
- Peer education for police
- Focus is on respect for & protection of sex workers

- Tired of police harassment, Vikas Jyot Trust approached local police stations to talk about HIV awareness
- Informal meetings held with sex workers & police
- Police constables were sensitized to the problems facing sex workers & *devised steps* to lessen the harassment
- Police constables are now informing VJT as soon as any sex workers have been arrested



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Welcome to LEAHRN – the Law Enforcement and Harm Reduction Network

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## Bringing law enforcement & harm reduction closer together

### About LEAHRN

LEAHRN aims to connect people who want to know more about how police and harm reduction services can work together more effectively. [Tweet](#) 1

LEAHRN seeks to promote harmony and a better understanding between police and health service providers so that more programs involving clean needles and syringes, methadone, condoms and supervised injecting facilities can be successfully delivered.

[Read more about LEAHRN...](#)



Leahrn

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### News and Events

June 3rd, 2011

**Special Seminar: 'The Relationship of Illicit Drugs and Socio-economic Development' - Melbourne, 7 June**

The Nossal Institute for Global Health is holding this seminar, co-hosted by the Australian National Council on Drugs, to highlight the findings of the first stage of a project looking at illicit dru...

[Read more...](#)

May 31st, 2011

**GB Africa Summit discusses protecting mothers and children from HIV**

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy brought together the spouses of Heads of State and Government attending the GB-Africa Summit in Deauville

### COPS HR Blog

June 3rd, 2011

**Watch this - Professor Nick Crofts talks about drug policy in the developing world**

Professor Nick Crofts is a prominent public health figures and a leading expert on harm reduction. He talks here about the heroin trade and drug use in developing countries

<http://www.youtube.com/watch...>

[Read more...](#)

May 24th, 2011

**The War on Drugs - watch this A satirical but tragically very true take on the 'war on drugs'....**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7oF3N30rUc&feature=watch\\_respon](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7oF3N30rUc&feature=watch_respon)

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## Resources

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This page contains links to training materials, fact sheets and websites to help you understand more about harm reduction from both a policing and public health perspective.

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The resources include the *Law Enforcement and Harm Reduction Manual* which was developed through the AusAID funded HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Project ([HAARP](#)). The manual contains a comprehensive police training curriculum on harm reduction as well as fact sheets and hand outs.

### HIV/AIDS

[Injecting drug use and HIV](#)

[Sexual transmission of HIV](#)

[Fact sheets – countries](#)

[HIV testing and human rights](#)

### Harm reduction

[Fact sheet on harm reduction](#)

[Harm reduction explained](#)

[Sydney's Medically Supervised Injecting Room](#) \*New!

Police can be the best friend or the worst enemy of harm reduction

*haarp*

### RESOURCE

**HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program:  
Effective strategies for reducing the spread of  
HIV among and from Injecting Drug Users**





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A very insightful visit today to the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. Check out the great work at <http://www.sydneymxic.com>  
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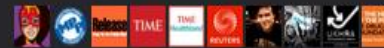
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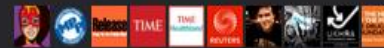
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