

FOREWORD

The issue of drugs is one of the more difficult matters that national youth policy makers are faced with. Despite various attempts at controlling the supply of drugs and despite measures to reduce the demand for drugs by young people, the abuse of drugs has continued to grow.

At the CYP Drugs Conference held under the title “Dealing in Solutions: a Commonwealth Conference for young people working in the drugs field”, two participants and a member of the planning group presented a paper on Harm Minimisation as an approach to the drugs problem. There was much controversy about this approach but everyone agreed that its different facets needed further study by policy makers so that appropriate possibilities from the spectrum of techniques (eg. access to limited quantities of drugs or total stoppage) may be chosen according to national needs and relevance.

This edited version of the paper is one of the many publications on the problem of drugs, including other conference materials, being issued by CYP. It is particularly appropriate in the light of the comments made at the Conference that it appears as a document in CYP's Cross Reference series. We hope it contributes to and stimulates the debate and discussion which conference participants wished to see.

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