



World Drug Day: Share Facts on Drugs – Save lives

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

On June 26th, international World Drug Day is being celebrated while emphasising the necessity to review facts on drugs [and their harms] and to increase awareness. It further highlights the need for evidence-based prevention, treatment, and care to save lives. Therefore, this year's theme is ***“Share Facts on Drugs. Save Lives.”***

The WFAD commemorates this year's theme and reaffirms the need to share facts on drugs to save lives. Through raising awareness and reiterating the importance of evidence-based interventions [not at least among children and adolescence], onset addiction can be avoided whilst many others persons can be supported in their recovery journey through receiving scientifically proved and evaluated life-changing treatment and rehabilitation.

As previously stated, together with offering well-researched treatment and rehabilitation services, prevention strategies must be monitored and evaluated, and politically supported. Prevention, overall, is not only cost-effective, saving future health, social, and crime-related cost, it is more importantly imperative for the health of future generations. On this World Drug Day, we wish to highlight key aspects that are necessary when considering prevention, including advocacy, strategies, and policies.

- **There is an urgent need for prevention methods to apply to all regions.**
Current evaluated prevention strategies derive mainly from countries in North America, Europe, and Oceania, with little evidence evaluated in middle- or low-income countries. Even less interventions have been evaluated in specific cultural contexts. Ongoing activities should, therefore, be monitored and evaluated, while also collecting gender-specific data.
- **There is an urgent need for prevention strategies to include age-appropriate awareness.**
Most children and adolescence will never use drugs, and those who do are often affected by situations beyond their control. A variety of different factors influence children and adolescence to initiate drug use whilst drugs use at an early age can cause damage to the developing brain. To prevent children from using and getting into the cycle of substance misuse and addiction, it is essential to be aware of all the influential factors children face and include these in prevention programmes – while focusing on strengthening the protective factors surrounding the child.
- **There is an urgent need for prevention strategies to integrate a gender-sensitive perspective**
Globally, the majority of prevention strategies are tailored towards men, with the results having little or no impact on women. To bridge this gap, additional research and evidence-based best-practice examples are needed to understand the different and specific risks and protective factors in place and develop gender-sensitive and informed approaches. Furthermore, research should consider other vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, minority groups, and the LGBTQ+ community to increase the effectiveness of the prevention measures for everyone in the society.

Developing prevention measures is an ongoing process and will need full support from grassroots organisations, policymakers, governments, and institutions.

Launch: WFAD Webinar Series on Prevention

In light of the World Drug Day, WFAD, together with Carlton Hall Consulting LLC, are launching the upcoming Webinar Series on Prevention: Global Prevention, Global Challenges, Global Achievements, and Global Champions.

In total, 5 webinars elaborate on various topics within the realm of prevention, to highlight prevention on multiple levels. Each webinar focuses on one theme by welcoming a keynote speaker working with/in the specific discussion topic and will include a panel for a roundtable discussion. Each session will allow the audience to interact, comment, and ask questions. Our speakers will vary from researchers, advocates, practitioners, and policy-makers. The webinar series on prevention promises to be educative and interesting!

The following five topics are showcased during 2021

Webinar Focus Area	Keynote Speaker	Date and Time	Registration Link
Foundation of Prevention through Prevention Science	Dr. Zili Sloboda (Applied Prevention Science International)	September 7 th 14:00-15:30 CEST	Register here
Research and Policy of Prevention	Giovanna Campello (UNODC)	September 21 st 14:00-15:30 CEST	Register Here
Practitioners of Prevention (best-practices)	Diana Joseph (Fourth Wave Foundation)	October 5 th 14:00-15:30 CEST	Register Here
Gender-Based Violence Prevention Approaches	Nkechika Perpetua Ibe (AYCRIP)	October 19 th 14:00-15:30 CEST	Register Here
Marijuana Prevention	Kevin Sabet (SAM)	November 2 nd 17:30-19:00 CEST	Register Here

~~[Access the Flyer and Register here](#)~~