



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

ACFID Resolution No.5/2016

Resolution on opposing the extrajudicial killings of drug users in the Philippines

Approved at the ACFID AGM 26 October 2016

Noting the current situation in the Philippines of mass extrajudicial killings targeting people who use drugs that has claimed over 3700 lives, and noting the statement from the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs, where member states agreed to:

Promote and implement effective criminal justice responses to drug-related crimes to bring perpetrators to justice that ensure legal guarantees and due process safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings, including practical measures to uphold the prohibition of arbitrary arrest and detention and of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to eliminate impunity, in accordance with relevant and applicable international law and taking into account United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, and ensure timely access to legal aid and the right to a fair trial.

And noting the joint statement from INPUD (International Network of People who Use Drug) and ANPUD (Asia Network of People Who Use Drugs):

People who use drugs are human beings. Our actions will emphasise that we are mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, and grandparents. We care for our families and communities, and our contribution to society is just as valuable and important as that of all other citizens. Our deaths cause untold suffering and pain among us and our communities, to our families, and to Filipino society as a whole. It is vital that we mobilise together and in solidarity to call a halt to the killings.

We also note that the IDPC (International Drug Policy Consortium) and a coalition of 375 non-governmental organisations have sent an open letter to the UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, and the INCB President, Mr. Werner Sipp, asking them to take immediate action aimed at putting a stop to the extrajudicial killings.

ACFID Conference calls on all member organisations to stand in solidarity with the civil society opposition to these killings and to work towards greater engagement with drug user organisations and communities to support a human rights and evidence based approach to drug use, to develop strategies to combat discrimination based

on drug use, and requests the Australian government to sustain diplomatic engagement with the Philippines to end the extrajudicial killings immediately, and seek a harm reduction approach to dealing with the 700,000 drug users who have identified themselves to the Philippines authorities.

Resolutions:

1. ACFID Council calls on Members to:

- Stand in solidarity with civil society in the Philippines, and Asia and the Pacific more broadly, in expressing their opposition to the extrajudicial killings encouraged by the Duterte government,
- Support greater engagement with drug user organisations and communities to achieve human rights and evidence based approaches to drug use,

2. ACFID Council calls on the Australian Government to:

- Sustain diplomatic engagement to develop strategies to combat human rights abuses against people who use drugs, and requests the Australian government to sustain bilateral political engagement with the Philippines that works towards ending the extrajudicial killings, and seeks a harm reduction approach to supporting the 700,000 drug users who have identified themselves to the Philippines authorities within current legal frameworks.

Mover: Ken Davis, International Programs Manager, Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA

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