

Moms United to End the War on Drugs

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For Immediate Release:
5/6/19

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In Honor of Mother's Day, Moms Are Joining Together to Promote the #listentomom Campaign for Humane Global Drug Policies

What Moms Around the World Want for Mother's Day: Mothers from the United States, Canada, UK and Mexico are United in Demanding Strategies That Reduce the Harms Associated with Drug Use and Substance Use Disorders

On May 10, 2019 Moms United to End the War on Drugs (U.S.) with partners Moms Stop the Harm (Canada), Recovering Justice (UK) and Red de Enlaces Nacionales (Mexico) are launching our #listentomom campaign (What Moms Around the World Want for Mother's Day). Mothers are losing children to mass incarceration, drug war violence and accidental overdose across borders, due to the failed global war on drugs. We are urging people to listen to our stories and to understand the need for a compassionate and tolerant approach to drug use and substance use disorders. In honor of Mother's Day, we propose 8 actions that will produce positive outcomes in saving the lives and liberties of our children. We are again reclaiming our basic mother's right to nurture and protect our children.

#listentomom / #escuchaamamá

1. Stop criminalizing our children who use substances
 2. Training for health care providers in evidence-based addiction treatment
 3. Better coordinated response to the overdose crisis by all levels of government
 4. Implementation of drug policy reform including the decriminalization of drugs for personal use
 5. Education around a compassionate, public health, family centered approach to substance use, rather than a criminal justice approach
 6. Increased support for 'mothers across borders' who have been and continue to be affected by the war on drugs, particularly those moms of the disappeared in Mexico and Indigenous women who are disproportionately affected in Canada.
 7. Promote maternal values. Reject tough love and the drug war, which is a war on our loved ones
 8. Grief and trauma support for those left behind.

The campaign will include memes of the 8 proposals to be released on social media May 10 through Mother's Day, May 12, 2019. Here is a link to the memes: <https://www.momsunited.net/listentomom>
A video of mother's faces will be launched with the 8 proposals, which is also translated into Spanish: Lo que las madres queremos para el día de las madres: [#LISTENTOMOM2019](https://www.momsunited.net/listentomom)
There is also a call to action: Put a candle in the window for the March of Mothers with Missing Children due to the drug war in Mexico.

When we look at history, this celebration is also one of maternal strength and action. Mother's Day was started in North America as a response to the carnage and deaths from the Civil War. Mothers came together to protest the futility of their Sons killing the Sons of other Mothers. Today mothers are again protesting the destruction of the global war on drugs.

“Mothers’ inherent and intrinsic right to nurture and protect their offspring has been compromised by criminal justice policies of ignorance and punitive aggression. I invite other mothers to speak out for the sake of their children on this special occasion that marks the tears, joys, triumphs and sorrows of motherhood.” - Gretchen Burns Bergman, Moms United to End the War on Drugs, U.S.

“Because drug use is criminalized, our loved ones, shamed and judged, use alone and risk dying alone. The general public and government can help keep our loved ones safe and alive by promoting the #listentomom proposals and taking action to ‘Support Don’t Punish.’ Moms Stop The Harm.” Lorna Thomas, Sheila Jennings. Canada

"Hay muchas madres que no podemos celebrar el día de las madres, sino que para nosotras es una día lleno de dolor y tristeza porque no tenemos a nuestros hijos. Es un día de lucha, en el que a la par del dolor, sentimos toda la solidaridad y el respaldo que nos brindan madres de otras partes del mundo y queremos responderles que seguiremos unidas para que esto no siga pasando." - María Herrera Magdaleno, madre de 4 jóvenes desaparecidos en México.

"Many of us mothers cannot celebrate Mothers Day, for us it is a day filled with pain and sorrow because we do not have our children. It is a day in which we continue our struggle, in which besides the pain, we also feel the solidarity and support that mothers from other parts of the world share with us and we want them to know we will stay united in order to stop what is happening." - María Herrera Magdaleno, mother of four young men disappeared in Mexico.

“Women who have problematic relationships with substances are often the most marginalized and silenced in an already heavily stigmatized group. Women won’t seek support or medical help for fear of stigma and negative intervention from either the criminal justice system or social services. The voices of these women; daughters and mothers need to be heard and evidence based solutions grounded in health and human rights sought. The war on drugs has criminalized women, denied their rights as mothers and condemned generations to fear and silence.” - Fiona Gilbertson, Recovering Justice, U.K

Moms United to End the War on Drugs is an international campaign that works to end the violence, mass incarceration and overdose deaths that are a result of current punitive and discriminatory drug policies. They are building a movement to stop the stigmatization and criminalization of people who use drugs or who are addicted to drugs. Moms United is a project of A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), a 20 year old nonprofit organization that works to reduce the stigma associated with addictive illness through education and compassionate support, and to advocate for therapeutic rather than punitive drug policies.

For more information on Moms Stop the Harm (Canada): www.momsstoptheharm.com

For more information on Red de Enlaces Nacionales (Mexico):

<https://reverdeser.wordpress.com/tag/red-de-enlaces-nacionales/>

For more information on Recovery Justice (UK): <https://www.recoveringjustice.org.uk/>

Follow the campaign on Facebook – Moms United to End the War on Drugs Twitter: @anewpath99.
Instagram: @anewpath99

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