



Mr. Omar Zniber  
President of the United Nations Human Rights Council  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

January 1, 2026

## **Written Statement: Urgent Call for UNHRC Resolution on Renunciation of Cannabis Prohibition to Address Systemic Human Rights Violations**

Dear President Zniber and Members of the Human Rights Council,

On behalf of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD), a Norwegian NGO dedicated to rights-based drug reform, we submit this written statement for consideration during the Council's upcoming session. This submission builds on AROD's longstanding engagement with UN mechanisms, including our 2019 input to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD), our 2018 report to the Human Rights Committee documenting large-scale ICCPR violations, and recent letters to the High Commissioner for Human Rights (January 1, 2026) and Special Rapporteurs on Arbitrary Detention, Health, Torture, Judicial Independence, and Truth/Justice (July 2025–January 2026). Regrettably, these appeals have gone unanswered, perpetuating the harms of cannabis prohibition—a policy that violates rights to liberty (ICCPR Article 9), health (ICESCR Article 12), and fair trials (ICCPR Article 14).

In alignment with the High Commissioner's 2023 report (A/HRC/54/53), which recommends responsible regulation to protect health and undermine illegal markets, AROD submitted a communication to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on December 29, 2025, alleging prohibition as crimes against humanity under Article 7 of the Rome Statute. We urge the Council to adopt a resolution calling for UN-wide renunciation, coordinating action to end this era of systemic injustice.

### **Factual Background: A Regime of Moral Panic and Systemic Harm**

Cannabis prohibition, imposed globally through UN conventions and enacted domestically in Norway since the 1960s, has inflicted profound harm without demonstrable public health benefits. Far from fostering a safer world, this regime equips tyrants with tools for social control and empire-building, while eroding open societies and the rule of law. As documented in our publications *Human Rising: The Prohibitionist Psychosis and Its Constitutional Implications* (2020) and *To Right a Wrong: A Transpersonal Framework for Constitutional Construction* (2016), alongside our 2025 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, the "war on drugs" has devastated justice systems worldwide. Mirroring witch hunts of the 15th



to early 18th centuries, Nazi campaigns of the 1940s, and South Africa's apartheid regime, it emerges as an ideological construct fueled by fear and delusion that overwhelms reason and corrupts justice. By warping the natural law of supply and demand into a divisive narrative of victims and aggressors, jurists have become instruments of oppression, and prohibition incarnates Voltaire's prescient warning: those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.

These atrocities stem from the utopian ideal of a "drug-free society," anchoring policies in extremist wishful thinking rather than empirical reality. In Norway, around 1 million punitive sanctions have been imposed over 60 years, fueling a 1.75 billion NOK black market and approximately 300 annual overdose deaths, disproportionately affecting marginalized groups. Judicial failures—such as the Norwegian justice system's 17-year denial of effective remedies since 2008 and the ECtHR's dismissals in *Mikalsen v. Norway* (2012, 2023, 2024) as "manifestly ill-founded" without reasoned analysis—have entrenched impunity, violating ECHR Articles on liberty, fair trials, and non-discrimination. Similarly, in the United States, over 100 constitutional challenges have been mishandled, rejecting liberty claims under flawed reasoning and perpetuating systemic bias (see AROD's ICC submission, Appendix B, *To Right a Wrong*, part three). Globally, our Report estimates 400,000 annual deaths and 5 million wrongful imprisonments, sustaining a \$300–500 billion illicit market that exacerbates violence and corruption. Expert analyses like NOU 2002:4, NOU 2019:26, and PACE Resolution 2277 (2019) confirm inefficacy, yet CoE bodies ignore appeals since 2012. Moral panic persists despite professional opposition, perpetuating mass-scale death, disease, stigmatization, and societal unrest.

### **The UN's Role in Perpetuating Violations**

The UN's single convention framework has resisted evidence-based reforms—evident in countries like Germany (2024 legalization), Canada, and Uruguay—while upholding a regime that contravenes human rights under the ICCPR and ICESCR. Despite A/HRC/47/40's<sup>1</sup> recommendations for decriminalization and A/HRC/54/53's<sup>2</sup> urging for regulation to protect health, the UN's inertia sustains these violations. Norway and CoE justice systems have sabotaged AROD's truth and reconciliation mission through biased rulings, denying reparation

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/47/40, "Arbitrary detention relating to drug policies" (July 2021), to which AROD contributed via our submission on civil society perspectives, available at [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Detention/Call/CSOs/Alliance\\_for\\_rights-oriented\\_drug\\_policies.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Detention/Call/CSOs/Alliance_for_rights-oriented_drug_policies.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/54/53 (2023), in which you recommend responsible regulation of drug markets to protect health and undermine illegal economies.



and non-recurrence. This demands Council coordination to advocate for explicit renunciation, enabling sustainable development and human dignity.

### **Recommendations**

We urge the Council to:

1. Adopt a resolution calling for UN-wide renunciation of cannabis prohibition as incompatible with human rights, emphasizing its contribution to systemic violations and rule-of-law erosion, in line with A/HRC/47/40 and A/HRC/54/53.
2. Recommend a comprehensive review of drug conventions, incorporating:
  - a. Truth and reconciliation mechanisms to document harms, ensure reparation, and address judicial sabotage;
  - b. Guarantees of non-recurrence through decriminalization, alternatives to incarceration, and responsible regulation of drug markets to dismantle black markets, reduce youth criminality, and protect public health.
3. Mandate a thematic report or special procedure addressing prohibition's violations, drawing on our evidence, the ICC submission, and WGAD findings for global mobilization, including post-2021 events like Germany's legalization and Colombia's 2025 advocacy.

AROD stands ready to provide further documentation, including our full ICC complaint and annexed materials, available at <https://www.arodpolicies.org/international-criminal-court-submission>. We enclose copies of our July 2, 2025 letter, 2019 WGAD submission, 2018 HR Committee report, and the ICC communication for your reference. As moral panic continues to undermine justice systems worldwide, confronting this crisis through Council action can propel the UN toward evidence-based policies that uphold human dignity and the rule of law.

We await your prompt response and collaboration to terminate this era of systemic injustice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Roar Mikalsen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Roar' and last name 'Mikalsen' clearly distinguishable.

Roar Mikalsen

President of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD)