

DECOLONIZING HARM REDUCTION: INTERSECTIONALITY & COMMUNITY CARE

Speakers/ facilitators

- **Joana Canedo**¹. Activist for people who use drugs rights. EuroNPUD (European Network of People Who Use Drugs) local campaigns coordinator. Working with women and non-binary people who use drugs at MANAS. Expert in drug policy reform, harm reduction and public policies. Dedicated to foster peer-led initiatives in collaborative settings. PhD candidate in Development Studies
- **Aura Roig**². Social and cultural anthropologist with a Master's Degree on Criminology and Sociology of the Penal System. For the past 20 years she has been dedicated to drug policy. Expert in full spectrum of harm reduction programs and services based on intersectional feminism and human rights in Spain, Canada, Colombia and Costa Rica. She is also the founding director of Metzineres.
- **Evelyn Paz**³. Social communicator, advocate for cannabis domestic growing regulation and social access with a feminist perspective from 2012, she has co-organized the World Marijuana March on several occasions. Expert in communications, educational projects and public relations. She is part of the Latin América and Caribbean Network of People who use drugs (LANPUD) and co-founder of the Anti-prohibitionist Action in Ecuador.
- **Jessica Morales**³. Drug user, anti-prohibitionist feminist, bisexual woman and mother, lives in Guatemala City and is part of the Latin American and Caribbean network of people who use drugs and the Central American collective of women and non-binary people who use drugs. She has worked in advocacy actions in the region on HIV and Hepatitis issues with a gender and decolonial perspective.
- **Rebeca Marques Rocha**⁴. Rebeca is a doctoral candidate at the Central European University in Vienna, and the Communications & Advocacy Programme Lead at Youth RISE, an international network of young people who use drugs or have been impacted by the war on drugs. In 2023, she received the CEU's Presidential Scholar Award, which recognizes the work of students whose research shows promise.
- **Mafalda Ferreira**⁵. 57 years old, used to be an injectable drugs user. Mafalda finished the Hepatitis C treatment in 2016. Since 2009, she is working at GAT Portugal, contributing to several activism projects related to Hep C. She is currently doing the linkage to care at the Hep C medical appointment in a community center.
- **Marialba Quesada**⁴. Central American social anthropologist, born in the Caribbean province of Costa Rica and based in Kansas City, Missouri. Currently works as the LatinX and The Caribbean Communications Officer for YouthRISE. Research topics: gender, harm reduction, POC, war on drugs and human rights.
- **Daphne Chronopoulou**¹. EuroNPUD Chair, is a writer, blogger and radio producer. She runs the 'EuroNPUD SisterWUD' the narcofeminist team that she founded in 2019. She is a feminist and an activist, writer, teacher and dedicated to environmental causes. She has been a drug user for many decades. She is a founding member of PeerNUPS (Greek Drug User Peers Network).

¹EuroNPUD, ²Metzineres, ³LANPUD, ⁴YouthRISE, ⁵GAT Portugal

Background and aims:

To reframe the medicalized approach of harm reduction, which can inadvertently become a tool to control and exclude the most vulnerable is our aim. Decolonizing harm reduction involves incorporating strategies that consider intensifying exclusion and violence, such as gender-based violence, racism, poverty, forced displacement, mental health issues, and lack of social bounding.

Key facilitators from various community-led initiatives and networks, will enable to anticipate challenges and explore potential strategies for a decolonized harm reduction approach.

Description of workshop:

The workshop will be held in Spanish and Portuguese having four round tables addressing central topics:

Decolonizing harm reduction:

Prohibitionist biomedical approaches resulting from colonial and racist international agreements foster a war on drugs, which leads to the dehumanization of certain groups in society as a means for countering the “world drug problem” (Buxton, 2008). What are our shared challenges? How are we decolonizing HR?

Healthcare & safer spaces

Drawn on the experiences of gendered HR initiatives, community-led experiences will be the focus. Metzineres is the first integrated harm reduction program from Catalonia exclusively for women and gender non-conforming people. MANAS collective of women using drugs and doing sex work. GAT Portugal does testing, treatment and follow-up of Hepatitis C in decentralized community appointments.

My body as a tool to fight back prohibition

The decolonization of women who use drugs and our bodies is crucial in combating systemic oppression and structural violence. Empowerment activities like self-defense and female empowerment dances reconnect us with our bodies, affirming our dignity and autonomy amidst ongoing struggle from our first territory.

Measuring the impact of criminalization in women taking drugs

Community-led HR settings and movements are providing major insights though wellbeing indicators, addressing here gaps of institutionalized HR programs.

Methods and format:

This workshop follows the methodology of “world cafe”. Each dynamic has 20 minutes allowing participants to engage in the four different topics.

No conflict of interest.