

## Policy- Drug Harm Reduction

TU Dublin Students' Union is the largest students' union in Ireland with approximately 29,000 members.

As outlined in Article 2 of our Constitution (2019) we act in the best interests of our members and per Article 3 (v) we work to 'promote the welfare and well-being of members'.

One area of concern for us relates to addressing the issue of drug use which is becoming more widespread in the general population according to data from the European Monitoring: Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, as follows:

*"Available data suggest that drug use has become more common among the adult general population aged 15-64 years in Ireland over recent years. Fewer than 2 in 10 adults reported use of any illicit drug during their lifetime in 2002-03, but this figure increased to approximately 3 in 10 in 2014-15"*

Trends would assume that since this, numbers may have further increased. There is currently a lack of understanding in Irish culture regarding harm reduction and due to this there is no effective response to drugs in Irish society. Drug harm reduction aims to reduce harm associated with the use of drugs, and do not fail based on abstinence.

The Union recognises that drugs are illegal but believe that harm reduction should be viewed as a middle ground where people with widely differing views on drug policy can agree with one another regarding practical immediate ways to reduce drug-related harm among users.

The Students' Union wishes to promote the safety of students by providing accurate and relevant drug harm reduction information.

To act upon this the Union will:

- Lobby TU Dublin to work towards having a policy on drug harm reduction
- Collaborate with organisations which already run drug harm reduction initiatives
- Provide drug harm reduction information in all campaigns related to drugs

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