

## The "War on Drugs" is a war on human beings.

Every year, 1.5 million Americans are arrested for drug-law violations—75% for possession (not sale or manufacture).

The United States is the world's leading incarcerator, with more than two million people locked up. More than 20% of state prisoners and 60% of federal prisoners are serving time for drug-law violations.

## All major religions believe that human life is sacred.

The "War on Drugs" devastates the lives of drug users and their families.



Hamedah Hasan, a mother of four, is serving a 27-year prison sentence for a peripheral role in a drug offense.

In addition to the harm caused by incarceration, the government often imposes excessive fines, takes cars and homes, denies financial aid for college, and strips away the right to vote. And a criminal record costs people their jobs and other economic opportunities.

## It's time for people of faith and goodwill to stand up for more just and compassionate alternatives.

## People with drug problems need help, not punishment.

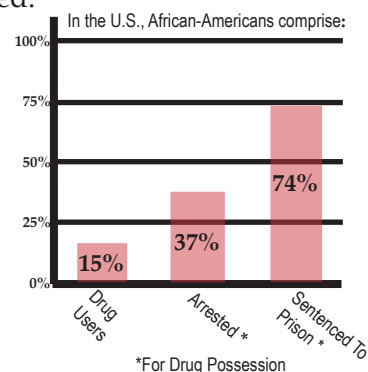
While the government spends billions of dollars hunting people down and locking them up, millions of drug abusers are unable to get treatment. A 1994 RAND study found that treatment is seven times as cost-effective as incarceration at reducing drug use.

## The "War on Drugs" hurts everyone.

In addition to wasting tax dollars, the "War on Drugs" breeds crime, disease and violence. People steal to get money to buy drugs at prohibition-inflated prices; drug dealers have shoot-outs on the streets in turf battles, sometimes hitting innocent bystanders; people who inject drugs get AIDS from dirty needles and spread the disease to their sex partners and children.

## Communities of color are especially harmed.

Due largely to the "War on Drugs," one in three black men between the ages of 20 and 29 is in prison or on probation or parole. Even though black people (12% of the U.S. population) use drugs at roughly the same rate as white people, they are much more likely to be arrested and incarcerated.



## The "War on Drugs" has failed.

In addition to the aforementioned harms, the "War on Drugs" has failed at its stated objectives. Drugs are cheaper, purer, and more easily obtainable than ever. Nearly 90% of high school seniors consider illegal drugs "easy" to obtain! It's time for change.

## Religious denominations support IDPI's priority goals.

The Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative is focusing on several bills and ballot initiatives currently being considered throughout the nation. IDPI's priority goals include:

- ✓ Repealing mandatory minimum prison sentencing laws
- ✓ Allowing the medical use of marijuana
- ✓ Restoring financial aid to students with a drug conviction
- ✓ Allowing injection drug users to access clean needles and other harm-reduction services
- ✓ Replacing marijuana prohibition with reasonable regulations for adults

## The following denominations and other religious groups support one or more of these goals:

- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- National Council of Churches
- United Methodist Church
- all four black Baptist denominations
- Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries
- Union for Reform Judaism
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Episcopal Church
- Church of the Brethren Witness
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- United Church of Christ
- Church Women United
- ... and many more!

## IDPI Leads the Way

**The Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative mobilizes religious denominations, congregations, and individual people of faith to take action for compassionate alternatives to the "War on Drugs."**

For too long, drug war hawks have succeeded in creating harsh, punitive laws by arguing that drug use is immoral. Even if the use of some drugs is immoral, it is wrong to punish people solely for using drugs. Two wrongs don't make a right. The "War on Drugs" is immoral.

IDPI has been changing the nature of the debate. **But we need your help to succeed!**

I want to help IDPI advocate realistic, compassionate alternatives to the drug war.

I'm making my check (or CC) out to the "Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative" to support direct lobbying efforts (not tax-deductible).

I'm making my check (or CC) out to the "IDPI Foundation" so that it is tax-deductible and supports work to educate the public.

Contribution (check one):

\$250  \$100  \$50  \$35  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please send checks or money orders to:

Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative  
P.O. Box 6299  
Washington, D.C. 20015

Or, donate with your credit card:

Check one:  Visa  Mastercard

Card Number:

Expiration Date: (MM/YY): \_\_ / \_\_