

# Position Paper



## Drug Decriminalization and Human Trafficking in Arabian and African Regions



**Conference :** TEDUMUN'23

**Committee :** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Country :** The Swiss Confederation

**Topic :** 1) Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Drug Abuse

2) Assessing the Current Situation of Modern Human Trafficking in Arabian and African Regions

**Delegate :** Pinar Sinem Gülten

The Swiss Confederation, Switzerland, is a federal republic with 26 cantons with Bern serving as its administrative center. According to the CIA World Factbook, our country has one of the greatest gross domestic products per person worldwide, low unemployment, and a skilled workforce. Low corporate tax rates, a highly developed service sector dominated by financial services, and a high-tech manufacturing industry all contribute to our nation's booming economy.

Looking at our history, Switzerland did welcome many kinds of psychological experiments and scientists. As a result Switzerland has always chosen not to punish their citizens, instead Switzerland always chooses to treat beneath them and understand our citizens. Our policies on many subjects focus on providing the Swiss people a safe and fair life. This applies the same when the subject is our drug policy. We focus on treating our drug addict people instead of punishing him. We try to help and care for our people.

According to the MonAM (Monitoring System Addiction and NCD) , from the 1990's until 2012; the number of direct drug-related deaths in Switzerland fell from over 350 drug-related deaths per year to 121 deaths per year. Since 2012, a slightly rising trend has been observed. In 2021, 147 people died from drugs. The vast majority of drug-related deaths are due to the

consumption of heroin. In addition, the majority of people who lost their lives due to drugs were between the ages of 50 and 64. Beside drug-related deaths the other important problem is drug abuse. In recent years, research has shown that 93% of the people married to a drug addict witnessed domestic violence.

The Swiss Confederation has implemented a multifaceted approach to address drug use and its associated issues, with a focus on harm reduction and public health. Some of the measurements we have taken include: Needle and Syringe Programs, Supervised Injection Facilities, Heroin-Assisted Treatment and more. Furthermore, Switzerland has decriminalized the possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use. Instead of facing criminal charges, individuals caught with small amounts of drugs are typically referred to addiction support services and treatment programs.

The Swiss government has been supportive of international efforts to address drug issues, particularly through collaboration with international organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). We have supported the "UNODC Country Partnership Program (CPP)." in the past. The UNODC CPP is designed to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and individual countries to address specific drug-related challenges.

The Swiss Confederation believes that the best and most effective solution to the drug abuse problem is investing in public health, harm reduction programs and education. Our approach aims to reduce the risks associated with drug use, protect vulnerable populations, and provide access to support and treatment for those in need. The Swiss Confederation, invites every other country to do the same and invest in solving the drug abuse problem. The world is facing a high risk of a drug epidemic. Drug usage amongst the young underage people is rising everyday. We believe that the time has come for us to build a meaningful alliance against drug addiction.

In conclusion, The Swiss Confederation recognizes the importance of drug abuse. We have a very long past with fighting against drugs and we believe that the most effective solution to the drug abuse problem is investing in public health, harm reduction programs and education. The Swiss Government invites every other country to gather together so we can fight against drug addiction together and put an end to this problem.

Thank you.