

TRANSFORM
Getting drugs under control

After the war on drugs: Regulation and the future of Harm reduction

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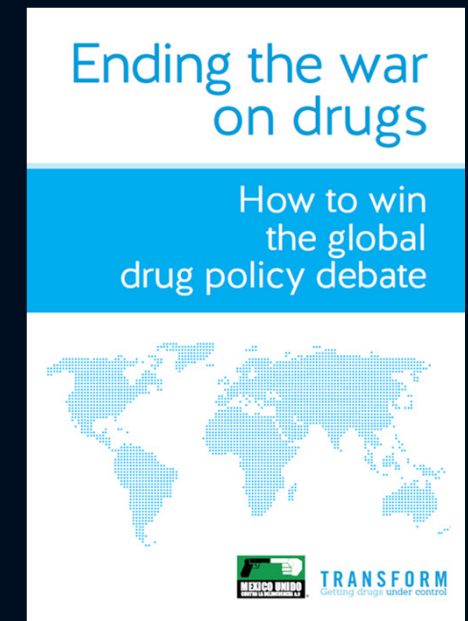
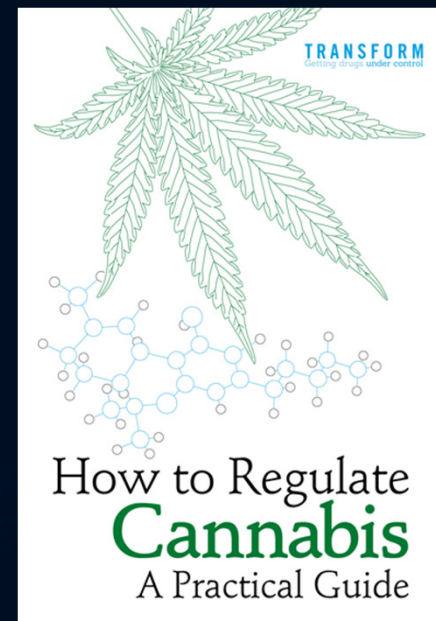
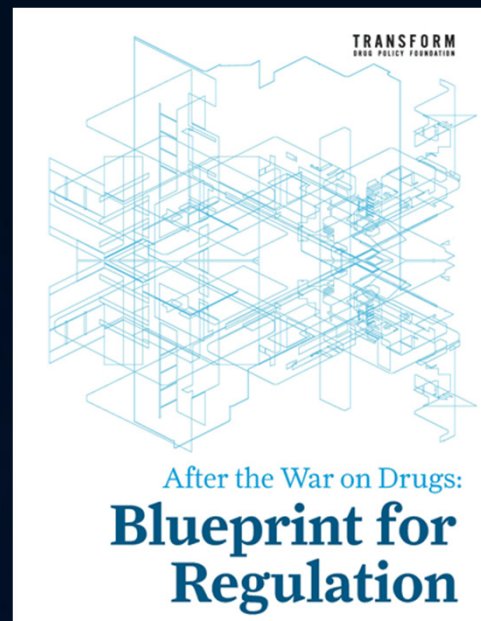
About Transform Drug Policy Foundation

- Founded in 1997
- An independent think tank and charity
- Operates internationally and works with partners from all sectors to further our aims
- 8 staff – offices in Bristol, London & Mexico City

Our Vision

- A global system of drug regulation and control that protects people, and promotes peace and security, sustainable development, health and human rights

Critique, Vision, Advocacy



Drug Testing



Context of regulation debate

- Has moved decisively from margins to mainstream
- No longer just a theoretical debate – or limited just to decriminalisation; reform being debated, developed and implemented in multiple jurisdictions
- Regulation now a core part of harm reduction discourse – vital that we are able to support and inform debate in a coherent and positive way
- But....regulation only one part of the jigsaw. Part of a much broader reform platform

Priorities & Common Ground

- Protect and improve public health
- Reduce drug-related crime, corruption and violence
- Improve security and development
- Protect the young and vulnerable
- Protect human rights
- Base policy on evidence of what works and what will provide good value for money

Regulation **IS** harm reduction

- Decriminalisation is important and reduces harms - but does not impact on harms of illegal market
- Only regulation addresses harms of illegal market :
 - Unknown strength and content
 - Lack of information on packaging or from the vendor
 - Interactions with criminal market
 - Supervised regulated consumption venues
- Many of the harms we seek to reduce are policy harms not intrinsic drug harms. We don't need drug testing for vodka!

What is regulation?

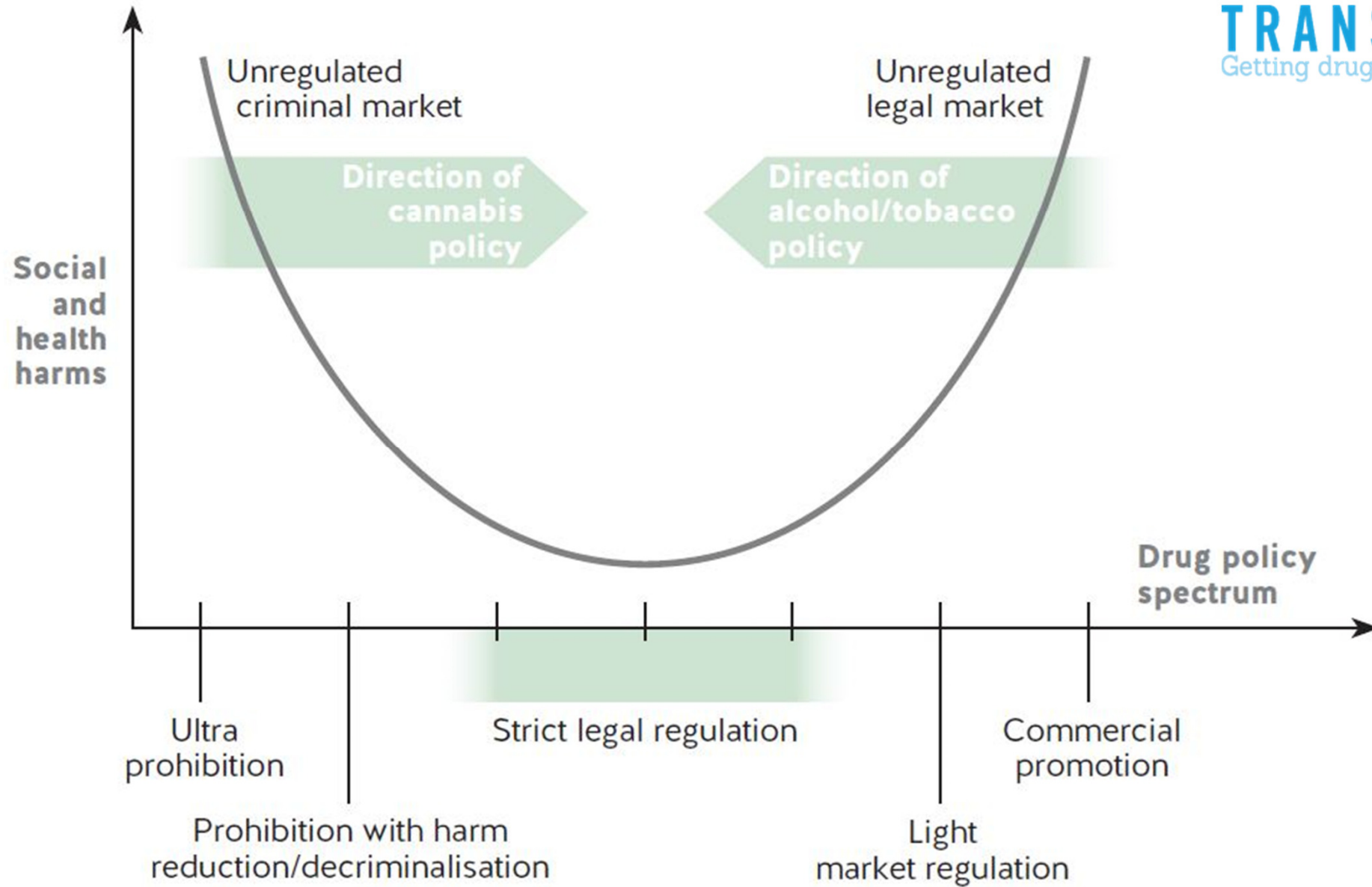
- Regulation of risky products and behaviours is a primary function of government. Key motive is public good
- Distinct from 'free markets', or illegal markets regulated by entrepreneurs. Key motive is private profit
- Regulation is the norm (Prohibition is the radical experiment)
- Regulation model shaped by risk and environment. No one-size-fits-all model
- Activities outside of regulatory framework remain prohibited

What can we regulate?

- **Production and transit**
- **Products:** *dosage, preparation, price and packaging*
- **Vendors:** *licensing, training requirements*
- **Outlets:** *location, appearance, hours of opening*
- **Marketing:** *advertising, branding, promotions*
- **Buyers/Users:** *who has access? - age controls*
- *A flexible menu of options – applied to different products in different environments (see Blueprint)*

5 models of regulated availability

1. **Medical prescription** and supervised venues *e.g. methadone*
2. **A specialist pharmacist** sales model *e.g. OTC Rx*
3. **licensed retail** *e.g. off-licenses*
4. **Licensed premises** for sale and consumption *e.g. bars, coffee-shops*
5. **Unlicensed sales** *e.g. coffee, coca tea*



Obstacles to change

1. Threat based narrative of the war on drugs
2. Conflation of drug use harms with drug prohibition harms
3. Populist political narratives and media sensationalism

Key messaging

1. Emphasize the idea of 'retaking control'
1. Regulate drugs because they are risky – not because they are safe
2. Regulation is not a pancea / silver bullet
3. Change will be phased / incremental

Your voice is critically important

1. You are the experts
1. You are on the front line - you have the stories and lived experience
2. You know how to fight and win
3. We are stronger together (Transform are here to help)