

**COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**  
**63<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

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**"THE ROME CONSENSUS 2.0**  
**TOWARDS A HUMANITARIAN DRUG POLICY"**

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People of good will from different Countries and Continents, concerned for the increasing impact of substance abuse on the happiness of a suffering humanity, decided to combine their knowledge and experience, producing a manifesto, called Rome Consensus 2.0 – For a humanitarian drug policy. We are all here today to present You this declaration, asking for your support and subscription. We would like to inspire everyone, everywhere in the world, that works in the field of drugs, to follow the principles stated in this document.

The Rome Consensus is a call to everyone who cherish the future and the well-being of humanity, to join forces with a common purpose: improving

the life conditions of those who make a problematic use of drugs and suffer because of the harmful consequences of their choices. The Rome Consensus suggests a minimum required standard that governments and civil society will have to follow if they do not want to worsen the living conditions of whoever is “sick for drugs”.

We are fully aware that not every drug user can be considered “sick for drugs”, but it is not acceptable anymore for those who are actually living this condition to be considered criminals, sinners or even just bad people. The strategy of worsening, instead of improving, the living conditions of who is “sick for drugs”, expecting that the punishment will keep the person away

from the substance, is just an harmful illusion, that has already cost billions dollars and needless suffering.

Punishment and therapy cannot coexist, for they hinder each other. Those countries that keep ignoring the contradiction between punishment and treatment go against their own interest.

Evidence shows that all the people “sick for drugs” have problematic behaviors, posing risks both for themselves and for the others. On the other hand, those ones who undergo a proper, non-violent treatment, are less dangerous and have greater chances of experiencing improvements in their life.

Evidence shows that therapy is a long path, whose main objective is preventing irreparable harm, improving the living conditions of those who became pathological to the extent of loving the substance more than themselves. The chances of success of the therapy are always proportional to the time spent under treatment.

A quick, miraculous cure does not exist.

Treating people “sick for drugs” should be a common interest of all governments and citizens.

The time is ripe and level of knowledge adequate to orient our strategies toward a humanitarian, non violent perspective.

Violence always brings violence. Thus, violence neither improve the living conditions of drug users, nor the lives of the majority of people that do not assume drugs.

We do not want to judge and we do not want to condemn: we want a more human world, we want compassion for who made unfortunate life choices that led to unhappiness. History will judge our behaviors.

Thank you

*Massimo Barra*