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Live reporting from the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**Side Event: Humanitarian Drug Policy: The Rome Consensus 2.0 as a Pragmatic Tool of Advocacy to Implement Universal Health Coverage**

**MARCH 20, 2023**

**Dr. Massimo Barra: Founder Rome Consensus**

The Rome Consensus was established in 1995. This is when drug use was first being accepted and considered as a health issue. A number of organizations came together to form Rome Consensus. People with drug use disorders needed an alliance of humanity to address their health needs. This was a bottom up initiative, when people came together inspired by the light of science and humanity. We also bring in law enforcement who can deflect people away from the criminal justice system. The human brain is not interested in if a substance is legal or not. As the Rome Consensus we don't take part in political discussions on prohibition vs. regulation, but promote health and social well-being for all people who use drugs. We are focused on evidence-based treatment, harm reduction with an emphasis on the most vulnerable. We advocate for people with drug disorders at all levels.

The more people you treat and take people out of harms way we can stop violence and build more just communities.