

Biennial Report 2018-2020 of the IFSW Representation in Vienna, Austria

Herbert Paulischin

The European IFSW board has nominated Herbert as Main Representative to the UN, Vienna.

The IFSW mission to the United Nations in Vienna was constituted at the end of February 2020 and had a working meeting at the beginning of March shortly before the restrictions caused by the Corona Virus began. As representatives of the European Region of the IFSW, we supported the CoNGO joint statement "COVID-19 Recovery: Building Back Better".

Silvia Franke

Report of the representative of the IFSW in the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs (2018-2020)

The main focus of activities consisted in participating in the regular meetings of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and in events during the annual sessions of the High Level Segment and Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). As the VNGOC board is in ongoing communication with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to influence the UN system towards a more professional and evidence based approach to the drug problem, INCB is regularly asking the VNGOC for thematic support.

Asked by INCB for suggestions of civil society organisations to visit during their upcoming country mission in autumn 2018, IFSW suggested two Viennese centers for drug users as models of good practice, it also participated as observer in three thematic intersessional discussions in preparation for the ministerial segment of the CND in 2019. IFSW took part in the preparation of board elections in 2019 and made thematic suggestions for the informal dialogue with UNODC, INCB and the CND Chair, focusing the medical use of cannabis. During the CND in 2019, IFSW was present in various side events concerning human rights, drug policy, decriminalization and regulation. As IFSW's representative, I also took part in a survey on the stigmatization of drug users and expressed my favour of the VNGOCs signing the "Rome consensus 2.0" paper calling on governments and international institutions to pursue drug policies that prioritised public health and human rights. As the 63rd CND in 2020 matched the beginning of the corona crisis in Austria, I could not attend but expressed my wishes to the board that there should be more possibilities for participating online in the future.

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