

From: CNB Community Partnership (CNB)
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Subject: [For Attention] DrugFreeSG Advocacy Newsletter - Aug 2023

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ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER
AUG 2023

Dear Partners and fellow Advocates

August is a month that gives many of us the warm and fuzzies because it is a time when families proudly display our Singapore flag and National Day songs are heard over the airwaves. We may be small but we are mightly united. In this event, we bring you highlights of events that took place this month. Our popular annual DrugFreeSG video competition has closed its call for submissions, and the judges have their work cut out reviewing the overwhelming entries received. New to the video competition is a mini-essay contest that the public can take part in. Read more below!

In our July newsletter, we shared some information on Portugal known for its liberal drug policy, but who is now rethinking its approach after a rise in crime and public disamenities. This month, we turn our focus on Geneva, Switzerland where drug liberalisation have led to unintended consequences on society.

Email us at cnb_community_partnership@cnb.gov.sg if you have any feedback or questions on our programmes and activities!

ADVOCACY/ DADAH ITU HARAM OUTREACH EVENT



The Dadah Itu Haram (DIH) Campaign held its outreach event on 13 Aug 2023 at Singapore Expo during Gelar Temasek, an event organised by Eventify Pte Ltd. The event was graced by Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of National Development. The DIH volunteers joined MOS Faishal to engage members of the public to raise awareness of the campaign and remind them the importance of staying drug free. One of our volunteers, Mr Ramli Abdullah also spoke about his experience as a former drug abuser and shared on the harms of drugs.

ADVOCACY/ A3 NETWORK TRAINING SESSION



On 21 Aug 2023, 14 new Anti-Drug Abuse Advocacy (A3) Network volunteers attended the A3 Network training session at Central Narcotics Bureau Headquarters. Through the training, they got to learn more about the drug situation in Singapore and how to help their peers stay away from drugs. An ex-abuser was also invited to share his experience with the volunteers on how he first started abusing drugs and his journey rebuilding his life after rehabilitation. The volunteers then discussed some possible initiatives that they could start to better spread the anti-drug message in the community. We look forward to the contributions of our new fellow advocates.

PDE/ DRUGFREESG VIDEO COMPETITION 2023



Thank you all for your support towards the DrugFreeSG Video Competition 2023! The competition has now concluded and results will be released on 15 Sep 2023 on the microsite (@ drugfree.sg), as well as on CNB’s Instagram and Facebook page @CNB.DrugFreeSG. Stay tuned to find out if you are one of the winners!

But that’s not all! Encourage your friends and family to vote for their favourite video entries in our Popularity Contest from 18 to 22 Sep 2023, and stand a chance to win attractive shopping vouchers.

Find out more at drugfree.sg or email contact@drugfree.sg if you have any enquiries.

Coming
Soon



It’s time to gear up for another phase of creativity for aspiring writers! Organised as a fringe activity of the DrugFreeSG Video Competition, the Mini Essay Contest is open to all secondary school students who want to share their thoughts on ‘A Drug-Free Future’.

To participate, here’s what you need to do:

1. Keep an eye for the DrugFreeSG Video Competition results announcement on 15 Sep 2023, where we will reveal the winning videos.
2. Write an essay of 300 – 500 words in response to any one of the two first-placed videos under the “Youths” and “Young Adults” categories.

Don’t miss this opportunity to showcase your flair for writing, convey the #DrugFreeSG message using the power of words and stand a chance to win attractive cash prizes!

Contest closes on 6 Oct 2023. Find out more at drugfree.sg/mini-essay-contest or email contact@drugfree.sg if you have any enquiries.

FOR READ / CASE STUDY: HAS SWITZERLAND DONE WELL WITH THEIR DRUG POLICIES?

In our July edition, we shared the impact seen in Portugal after it decided to decriminalise consumption of all drugs for personal use. In this edition we look at another case study in Switzerland where drug liberalisation policies have caused a negative impact on society.

Swissinfo reported in Jul 2023 that in the western Swiss city of Geneva, the number of crack-cocaine addicts has risen rapidly causing a concern among drug prevention officials. A non-profit organisation, Addiction Switzerland has raised concerns saying that dealers from other countries such as France, Nigeria and Guinea have infiltrated the city.

The news outlet mentioned that cocaine used to be consumed in other Swiss cities such as Solothurn, Zurich and Basel whereas Geneva had been a hotspot for heroin. Now, Geneva faced a huge rise in the number of cocaine addicts with one addiction shelter, Quai 9, seeing a sharp increase in the number of cocaine addicts observed, from 3,400 in 2019 to 17,000 in 2020. Unable to cope with the sudden rise of cocaine addicts, many seeking treatment were being turned away. Key takeaways from the Swiss experience are:



- Decriminalisation of drugs lead to rise in addicts
- Infiltration of dealers make the drug situation worse
- Foreign dealers profit the most by selling inferior drugs
- Treatment centres are overloaded causing those who seek help to be turned away

Scan the QR code to read the full article



HELP US SPREAD THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE



The **Anti-Drug Abuse Advocacy Network (A3 Network)** is a volunteer scheme jointly administered by the NCADA and CNB. The A3 Network, which is under the umbrella of the Home Team Volunteer Network comprises various groups of people who identify with, support and promote the anti-drug cause.

Help us grow the A3 Network by telling your friends about us and the volunteering opportunities with CNB. Scan the QR codes for more information about the different schemes, or drop us an email at cnb_community_partnership@cnb.gov.sg



Scan here to find out about the A3 Network and different advocates schemes



Anti-Drug Advocate Programme for youths aged 17 - 25 years old

Scan below to find out about the **Augmented Reality exhibition** and the **Virtual Heritage Gallery** that you can access at your convenience. Access PDE resources from our **PDE Handbook online**:



Scan here for the AR exhibition



Scan here for the virtual heritage gallery



Scan here for the PDE Handbook

Drop us an email at CNB_Community_Partnership@cnb.gov.sg if you would like to unsubscribe or add your colleagues into our mailing list!

If you come across drugs, or what you suspect to be drugs, you should call CNB hotline at **1800-325-6666**

For more information, please visit the CNB website at www.cnb.gov.sg

Connect with us:



@cnb.drugfreesg

AUG 2023

QR Code Links

Has Switzerland done well with their drug policies?	http://Go.gov.sg/swissinfogeneva
Help us spread the anti-drug message	A3 Network: http://go.gov.sg/89ttw2 Youth Anti-Drug Advocate: http://go.gov.sg/cnbadainfo AR exhibition: http://go.gov.sg/arcnb Virtual Heritage Gallery: http://go.gov.sg/virtual-heritage-gallery PDE Handbook: http://go.gov.sg/pdehandbook



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