

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

In our last annual report, we celebrated Transform's achievement over the previous five years, during which we moved from campaigners on the margins of the political process to an organisation that informs and challenges the centre ground of the drug policy debate. This is a transition that has since been mirrored in the mainstream, where our once-heretical views are now being echoed by ever more respected stakeholders and commentators.

This process had already begun in 2005 with the leak of the suppressed No. 10 Strategy Unit report, which showed clearly that supply-side enforcement can never succeed. Since then, a damning report from the Science and Technology Committee, to which Transform gave early and decisive evidence, has concluded that there is no significant base for the claims of deterrence and effectiveness that underlie UK drug policy; a wide-ranging examination by the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts has argued that our drug policy is fundamentally misconceived, and its failures entirely predictable; and a paper from the government's own drug policy advisers, published in the Lancet, has demonstrated that the drug classification system at the heart of the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) is without scientific credibility.

Transform welcomes these positive contributions to a debate fogged by decades of fear and ignorance. We also welcome the challenge of converting this impetus into the type of just, effective and evidence-based policy for which we have been arguing for so long. We recognise better than most that even conclusive evidence is often not enough to sway populist politicians and a sensationalist media – which is why our latest report, Tools for the Debate, offers a guide to winning the arguments in these crucial arenas. Beyond this, we continue to work towards more comprehensive outlines of the systems of control and regulation with which prohibition will need, sooner or later, to be replaced.

All this has, as ever, been made possible by our small group of donors, with whose help Transform has now been able to employ a Business Development Manager and a Research Associate, making us larger and better resourced than ever. Our increased capacity is already reflected in a new level of output, including the introduction of our successful and widely read website blog, the creation of a database to handle our expanding list of contacts and most recently the development of an innovative interactive volunteer management system which allows us to work with and draw upon the skills of our growing number of volunteers. We have recruited the strongest set of trustees in our history. We will need all their skills and governance to meet the challenges of the next, and most ambitious, stage of Transform's journey.




## LEADING THE DRUGS DEBATE

Transform's engagement with key audiences in Parliament and Whitehall has expanded in scope and allowed us access to higher tiers of policy makers. Key achievements include:

### Government's Drug Strategy Consultation

As the 1998 ten year drugs strategy comes to end, a window of opportunity for review opened, including an official Government consultation on the next strategy. Transform has actively engaged in this process at all levels:

- Published 'Drug policy 1997-2007: The Evidence Unspun' highlighting how the consultation document misrepresented the statistical evidence, dressing up failure as success.
- Highlighted the shortcomings of the consultation process with a formal complaint to the Better Regulation Executive (related press releases achieved national broadsheet coverage).
- Produced a detailed formal submission to the consultation describing the litany of failure over the ten year strategy and illustrating the Government's knowledge that its support for drug prohibition creates significant harms.
- Transform also took a lead role in the drafting of the submission to the consultation from the Drugs and Health Alliance.

### Science & Technology Select Committee Inquiry into the Drug Classification System

Transform gave detailed written and oral evidence to the Committee that informed its highly critical final report (in which Transform are extensively quoted). The impact of this report continues to be felt, as the dramatic failings of the classification system have subsequently been highlighted by academics, and experts, including the Government appointed Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, who oversee the system itself.

### Briefing policy makers

Transform has provided written briefings and met with various individuals, groups and agencies, including The Conservatives Social Justice Policy Group on Addictions, the Liberal Democrats Home Affairs team, various Home Office groups, the All Party Group on drug misuse, the National Audit Office, the Treasury, as well as MPs and peers from all major parties.

### New Publication: Tools for the Debate

Transform has published a ground breaking new guide 'After the War on Drugs - Tools for the Debate'. It provides policy makers with the language and analysis to engage in the drug law reform debate with confidence and clarity. The first stage of our dissemination strategy is complete, with copies sent to all parliamentarians in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as a significant number of journalists, NGOs, academics, opinion formers and civil servants.

### Drugs and Health Alliance (DHA)

Transform helped establish and now provides the secretariat for the Drugs and Health Alliance, a coalition of organisations and individuals who support an evidence-based, public health-led approach to drugs. Since its launch in May the DHA has been forging links and dialogue with the Home Office and Department of Health. The DHA prepared a widely cited response to the Drug Strategy Consultation (for membership and further details please see the DHA website: [www.drugshealthalliance.net.uk](http://www.drugshealthalliance.net.uk).)

### UN Accreditation

Transform gained UN special consultative status (ECOSOC status) in June 2007. This is official recognition of Transform's expertise and our ability to contribute in the

## TRANSFORM PEOPLE 2006—2007

Staff	Board
Danny Kushlick Director	Mike Jay (Chair)
John Moore Business Manager	Paul Crawford Walker (Treasurer)
Steve Rolles Information Officer	Tim Malyon
Jane Slater Administrator	Henry Shaftoe
Rob Wicke Information Assistant	John Cooper
	Axel Klein
	Gary Wallace
	Karen Haas
	Emily Spink
	Nathalie Griffin
	Matt Dymond

## FINANCES

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2007

INCOME		£
Donations		96,293
Consulting		660
Bank Interest		2,932
Total Incoming Resources		99,885
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries		77,163
Other Direct Charitable Expenditure		28,546
Accountancy		840
Administrative Expenses		2,873
Legal and Professional Fees		1,336
Total Resources Expended		110,758
Net (Deficit)		(10,873)
Total Funds at 01.04.06		75,854
Donations in advance		25,418
<b>Total Funds at the end of year</b>		<b>90,399</b>

## TRANSFORM FUNDERS

Transform would like to express our gratitude to all the individual donors and those Charitable Trusts that have supported our work over the last 12 months. We have received significant contributions from:

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
The Linnet Trust  
The Glass-House Trust  
Atlantic Philanthropies

Transform relies solely on donations from individuals and charitable trusts to maintain its work. Ideas, contacts and suggestions are always welcome, and please, if you haven't already - sign up online to make a donation to the organisation. It really can make a difference. You can do this easily and quickly through our secure online giving page run by the Charities Aid Foundation.

## TRANSFORM—WINNING THE PUBLIC DEBATE

### Media

Transform's media profile has gone from strength to strength. We are now firmly established as the first point of call for journalists covering the drug law reform debate. Highlights have included:

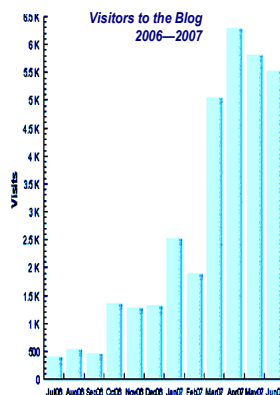
- Transform comment, analysis and press releases are regularly quoted in national broadsheets and tabloids news coverage of drug issues.
- Transform regularly write original articles for newspapers (most frequently the Guardian, but also in The Times, the Mirror and the Daily Mail), weekly magazines (including the New Statesman) and a range of specialist publications, including Druglink and Drugs and Alcohol Today.
- Transform is also frequently called upon to appear in a range of broadcast media, including appearances on Channel 4 News, BBC News 24, Newsnight, the Today programme, Sky News, BBC Radio Five Breakfast Show, the Jeremy Vine Show, World at One, The World Tonight, Talk Sport Radio and Law in Action, as well as numerous regional TV and radio programmes.



Overall, excluding printed quotes, Transform has made over one hundred contributions to print and broadcast media this year. Transform's detailed media log is available on request and a collection of print media can be seen online at [www.tdpf.org.uk/mediaNews\\_TransformInTheMedia.htm](http://www.tdpf.org.uk/mediaNews_TransformInTheMedia.htm).

### Transform On-Line [www.tdpf.org.uk](http://www.tdpf.org.uk)

Transform's website is now firmly established as the leading research resource for drug policy reform in the UK. We are constantly updating and improving the site to ensure it remains at the cutting edge and in touch with policy developments. The Transform media blog, established in early 2006, has been a highly successful addition to Transform's online presence as an effective platform for rapid comment and analysis on breaking news stories, as well as facilitating public discussion. It now consistently attracts over 8,000 page views a month.



### Public Engagement

Transform speakers were invited to address a number of events this year including:

- The International Harm Reduction Conference in Warsaw
- The Drug Policy Alliance Conference in New Orleans
- Debate at Trinity College Dublin organised by the Philosophical Society

Transform staff now regularly lecture on drug policy issues on undergraduate and masters courses at The University of Kent and Kings College London. We have provided speakers to a number of local political, police and drug treatment agency working groups.

Transform held its Annual Reception in The Houses of Parliament on 24th October 2007 hosted by Paul Flynn MP. This was an opportunity for MPs, Civil Servants, NGO representatives, journalists, supporters and other stakeholders to meet and exchange ideas.

## TRANSFORM DRUG POLICY FOUNDATION

### Mission

Transform exists to reduce harm and promote sustainable health and wellbeing by bringing about a just, effective and humane system to regulate and control drugs at local, national and international levels.

### Activities

- Publishing research, policy analysis and innovative policy development in the drugs field.
- Challenging government to demonstrate rational fact-based evidence to support its policies and expenditure.
- Promoting alternative, evidence-based policies to parliamentarians and government agencies.
- Advising and collaborating with many UK and international NGOs whose work is affected by drugs.
- Providing an informed, rational and clear voice in the public and media debate on UK and international drug policy.



### THE FUTURE

#### Transform's 'Control & Regulate – A Practical Approach' Project

This project will deliver a blueprint for change, showing clearly what a more effective drug policy would look like, how it can be structured to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, make significant reductions to the harms caused by drugs and prohibition policy and how it can be achieved.

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# TRANSFORM DRUG POLICY FOUNDATION



## ANNUAL REPORT 2007