

The Doon School Model United Nations  
Conference 2019

## Background Guide

United Nations Office on  
Drugs and Crime



## Secretary General's Address

Dear delegates,

As the Secretary General, It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 13th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. DSMUN has been growing exponentially and actively augmenting the level and intensity of crises, debate and co-operation with each passing year. It is a legacy that we hope to continue and reinforce with this year's conference.

In an ever volatile, dynamic and adaptive international status-quo, it becomes increasingly vital for us as students- and thereby potential actors in the same system of compromise- to deliberate, discuss and formulate the groundwork of bi-lateral and multi-lateral ties that are to be established in the future.

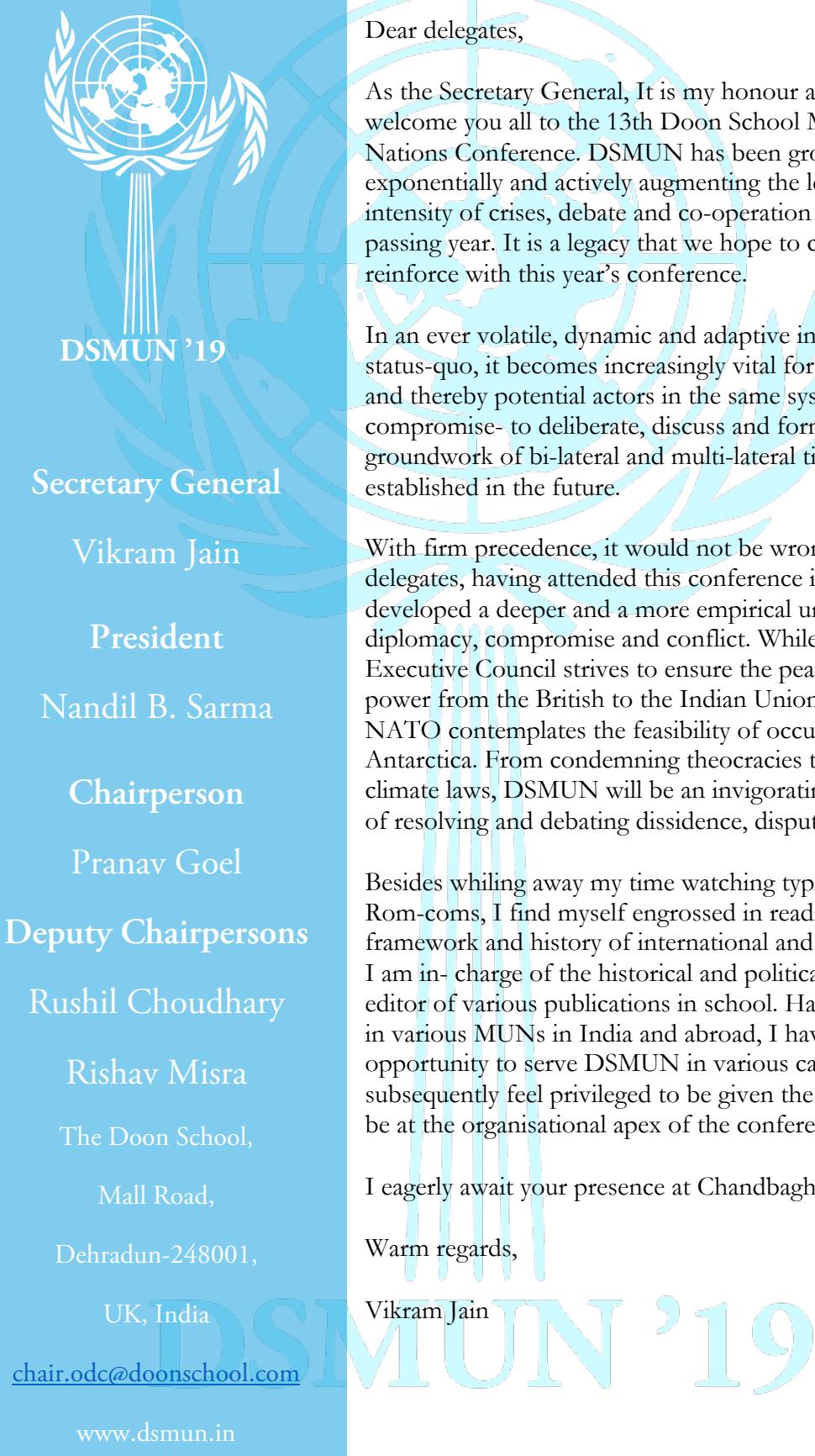
With firm precedence, it would not be wrong to say that delegates, having attended this conference in the past, have developed a deeper and a more empirical understanding of diplomacy, compromise and conflict. While the Viceroy's Executive Council strives to ensure the peaceful transfer of power from the British to the Indian Union in 1946, the NATO contemplates the feasibility of occupying Antarctica. From condemning theocracies to enforcing climate laws, DSMUN will be an invigorating amalgamation of resolving and debating dissidence, dispute and disparity.

Besides whiling away my time watching typical Netflix Rom-coms, I find myself engrossed in reading about the framework and history of international and national politics. I am in-charge of the historical and political society and the editor of various publications in school. Having participated in various MUNs in India and abroad, I have had the opportunity to serve DSMUN in various capacities, and subsequently feel privileged to be given the opportunity to be at the organisational apex of the conference this year.

I eagerly await your presence at Chandbagh.

Warm regards,

Vikram Jain





## President's Address

Greetings!

As the President of the Doon School Model United Nations Society, it gives me immense pleasure to invite you to the 13th Session of the Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Being at the pinnacle of a conference that finds itself amidst the top ranks in the country, both in terms of global outreach and quality, has been an absolute honour. However, we at Doon constantly strive to outdo ourselves and promise that this edition of DSMUN will outdo all of its predecessors be it in terms of organizational skill, quality of debate or participation not just from the South Asian region but from around the world. It is with this vision in mind that I extend my heartiest welcome to each one of you to this year's conference.

The scope of this year's DSMUN will not remain confined to conventional committees. Keeping this in mind, we have expanded DSMUN's committee choices incorporating some bold and new ideas. With the introduction of highly challenging committees such as Lincoln's War Cabinet (1864), Viceroy's Executive Council (1946), Union Council of Ministers (1984) and the Rajya Sabha, we aim to pull off a conference not limited to one's imagination. This year's committees are aimed at developing informative deliberations and solutions to issues: both of global and national significance. Discussions pertaining to context of historical events allows one to explore the multitude of possibilities and find answers to the fundamental question of 'what if'. Having said so, the essential Model UN committees still remain intact providing an interesting challenge in terms of debate, wit and diplomacy to one and all.

As for myself, I am currently surviving the ISC curriculum and hold a keen interest in Politics and History. I deeply enjoy playing sports be it athletics or football. If not on the sports field, you can probably catch me commenting on Tottenham Hotspurs bleak chances of ever clinching a trophy. I also serve as the School Captain of the Doon School and the Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, one of the school's flagship publications. Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Warm Regards,

Nandil B. Sarma

## ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was established in 1997 in hopes to prevent the growth and increase trading, use, and abuse of drugs and crime throughout the world. It does so through many important conventions such as the ‘United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)’ and the ‘United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).’ It is imperative to understand the binding legal frameworks the UNODC hopes to and already has implemented in order to combat structural drug trades and the rise of terrorism. Both of these issues are directly related to today’s topic of the evolving role of narcoterrorism throughout the globe.

There have been several significant legally binding frameworks that the UNODC was built on. Frameworks such as the 1988 Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs led to the rising need of a committee specifically designed to combat these issues which led to the formation of the UNODC.

## INTRODUCTION

The word narco-terrorism in today’s context refers to the conflicts which have their roots within the illegal trafficking of drugs. The concept of narco-terrorism came into existence in 1983 but it very swiftly evolved into a much more complicated issue.

In the current world, the amount of influence that narco-terrorism commands over the global geopolitical situation is astonishing. Narco-terrorism now affects entire national governments as terrorist organizations assume control over certain aspects of society. Various terrorist organizations around the world have reportedly gained an enormous amount of resources and this has effectively transformed them into bodies of great power and influence. The income from the cultivation and smuggling of several drugs essentially comprise the major share of the money laundered in those specific countries. These organizations try to manipulate the government using their leverage of influence to cease the ruling of anti-drug laws.

Apart from that, the issue of trafficking of drugs is also a major point of discussion. An organisation infamous for smuggling contrabands, will probably use its trade routes to smuggle other illegal goods as well. Essentially, narco-terrorism covers an incredible number of crimes in its purview, making it suitable for debate in committee

**DSMUN ’19**

## **Agenda**

The Impact of Narco-terrorism on Global Geo-politics

## UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM

Of all the problems that plague the modern world, narco-terrorism is one of the most spatially distributed, while also proving to be one of the primary contributors to the wave of growing crime experienced globally. Its presence is being felt all the way from the Americas to the South-Asian countries situated at the other end of the Pacific Ocean. Some of the most prominent situations that will be expected to be put to discussion in the committee are the following.

**The drug cartels of South America:** The concept of narcoterrorism originated here. At first, cocaine was promoted as a remedy for depression and sexual impotence, but by the early 1900s, the greater public had realized the negative effects of cocaine. Cocaine was finally banned for the first time in the US by 1922 after it recorded 5000 deaths in 1912. Fast forward to the 1970s, when Colombian drug traders were steadily supplying illegal cocaine into the US, the Colombian cocaine cartels, including the infamous Medellin cartel headed by Pablo Escobar, grew faster than ever. It is estimated that they made approximately 60 million dollars per day. This financial prowess in a relatively desolate landscape indeed placed great political influence in the hands of these cartels. The result: corruption of the police department and government as well a steering of the drug-related laws in their favour.



Eventually, the gigantic measure of resources was naturally turned towards creating a feeling of terror within the citizens through inhumane acts of violence and indecency. Following the fall of Pablo Escobar, other drug cartels like the Los Zetas and Cali Cartel also played a major role in preserving the influence of narcoterrorism within the entire continent.

Drug trafficking has been a major source of turmoil within Mexico since the early 1980s. Although the Mexican government has tried to promote a positive image about the country, the widespread corruption in the administrative structure and the percolation of the evils of various drug cartels in the country works to the contrary to paint an image of a country infested with narco-terrorism. The infamous drug cartels of Mexico date back to the 1980s with the Sinaloa drug cartel headed by El Chapo being the oldest. They had essentially flourished under the rule of the Institutional

**DSMUN'19**

Revolutionary Party which had given them full allowance, even government immunity.

Mexican cartels more often than not, function through tools of violence, bribery, coercion, and blackmail.

In the year 2000, however, due to a change of government control in Mexico, drug trade was banned, sparking a high degree of conflict. While drugs are still trafficked through illegal means, it remains a matter of concern for the United States as Mexico tops the charts as their contraband's provider. The US has provided aid in the form of \$3 billion to stabilize the situation in the country.

On the other hand, Colombia has often been considered to be one of the perfect examples of narco-terrorism. The FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) is a guerilla group that was primarily active between 1964 and 2007, and played a major role in the armed Colombian conflict. With its export of cocaine, which reached a maximum of 90% of the global amount in 2000, FARC was able to procure money to finance organized crime and its conflict with the government. The drug trade had grown to an extent that in 2012, Colombia's defense minister, Juan Carlos Pinzon, said that its annual income could be as high as \$3.5 billion. Even though FARC signed a historic treaty with the Colombian government in 2017, recent developments have hinted at a rebellion impending.



**Opium Trade in Afghanistan:** Mainly a 20<sup>th</sup> century issue, opium trade in Afghanistan began in the mid-1950s. Afghanistan soon became part of the "Golden Crescent", an Asian region including Pakistan as well, of high opium production. By the 1980s, due to the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan, opium production rose to an incredible amount of 600 metric tons. In a cold war era, the USA took steps in order to cripple the Soviet rule, receiving only violence from Afghan rulers. Regardless of any change in power, the cultivation and trafficking of opium rose, and the derived income was further misallocated to fund illegal activities such as trafficking of arms throughout the country, making drug traffickers largely influential in devising policies and laws for the government.

By the year 1994, the Taliban had come into power. The beginning of the reign of the Taliban saw a phenomenal rise in the production of opium of up to 5000 metric tons. The poppy-rich southwest of Afghanistan became a mediator of drug trafficking routes and home to several tribes who owned thousands of acres of land. They used their extensive resources to exploit every aspect of society. Eventually, they gained control over most of Afghanistan and they started taxing the movement of drugs, along with imposing road exports and inflating opium prices. The huge revenue from this financed their forces to ensure law and order in the country.

In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century a major crackdown by the Taliban itself on the “un-Islamic” opium brought production to a halt. However, a malicious hunger for drug money made this success a momentary one, for production reached even higher following the crackdown period. In the past few years, Afghanistan has grown as a hotspot for the opiate-based drug trade. The drugs are trafficked through the Balkan route to Western Europe and North America.

Since a large proportion of Afghanistan’s GDP accounts to cultivation and sale of drugs, banning or taxing the poppy crop would lead to significant damage to the economy, thus the US has been vain in its efforts in this regard.

A pattern emerges here. Narcoterrorism is accompanied by other sorts of criminal activities like money laundering, human trafficking and distribution of arms. The

need of the hour is to understand why this issue is so widespread. Drug production is highly dependent on the availability of raw material in the geographic region. Societies where governmental employees are paid on the lower end, are more prone to corruption and thus gullible to the influence of narco-terrorist organizations.

Countries with their political and functional machinery disrupted by acts of violence such as war are also susceptible to the usage of drugs.

The UNODC has already made several resolutions that attempted to recognize the fallacies in resolutions that abolish drug trade and production. Delegates are encouraged to take reference from the precedence set in these resolutions regarding certain policy issues.

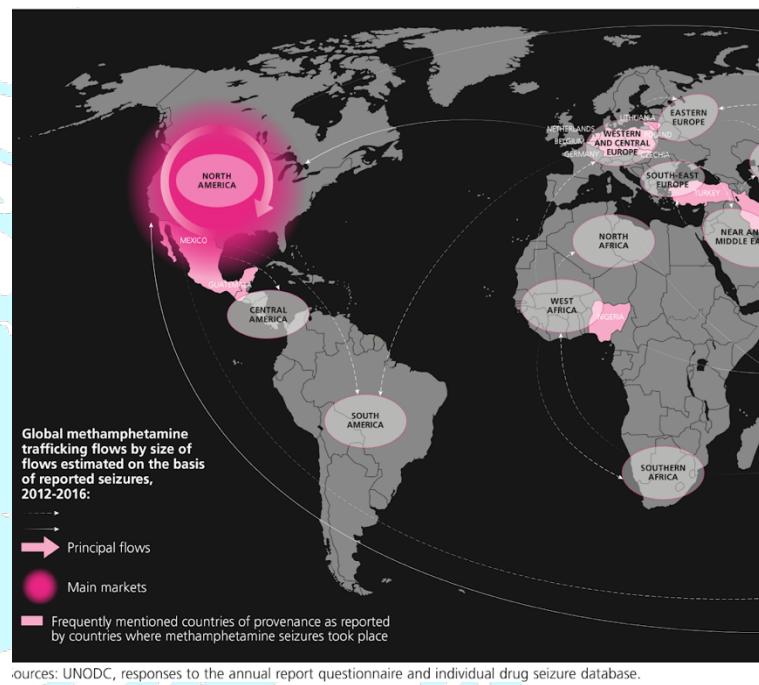
#### Afghanistan's Global Opium Trade Routes



Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**The Golden Triangle:** Opium was first introduced to Persia and India by Alexander the Great in 330 BC; since then it has held immense influence over shaping the development of countries in this region. During the opium wars between the British and the Chinese, when the Chinese emperor prohibited the British from trading any more opium into China in 1839, the British retaliated. This resulted in the transfer of control of the territory of Hong Kong from the Chinese to the British for a short period of time. The fact that drugs can lead to such major political developments acts as a cold reminder of the influence that this drug holds in this region.

We have to first look at the current status of drug trade to effectively determine the influence of narco-terrorism in this region. Drugs have always been a major issue here, especially because of the presence of the infamous 'Golden Triangle', essentially the place where the borders of Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand meet. Due to high production and complementary consumption, which is something which is encouraged by the availability of transportation options here, this place has always been a haven for opioids such as heroin. Although the output of such opioids has been constantly been decreasing for the last few years, the production of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine is rising dangerously.



The obvious question that one would ask would be regarding the efforts of the governments of the affected countries in curbing this drug trade. The reality is that governments themselves have been infected because of the immense influence that drug-trading organizations hold, primarily because of the financial ease with which they are able to operate. Government policies in this region have also been rendered ineffective against the resilient drug-trade. Countries have become conflicted between using scarce resources to combat narcoterrorism or to develop the country in other ways. Widespread, reckless tourist influxes, especially in peak season, has only worsened the drug-situation in this region, as tourists simply increase the consumer base for drug organizations, providing drug traders with luxurious options.

# DSMUN 19

The increasing level of drug production has also adversely affected neighboring countries such as Australia, Malaysia and Indonesia, which are all easily accessible via sea. Australia is facing a recent surge in the amount of ecstasy in the market, with 5 tons being seized in only a year (2016). High amounts of meth being caught recently hint at the development of a new drug trade route from the Golden Triangle. Countries like India, which lies between the Golden Crescent and Triangle, have also suffered because of the influence of these harmful drugs. India, which has a rich history of growing opioids, has now started to experience growth in the sector of synthetic drugs. Despite recording few quantities in previous years, India has witnessed a sudden surge in the number of synthetic drugs that have been seized in 2016, with 24 tons of amphetamine and 2 tons of methaqualone being recorded. Moreover, even the opium trade is still very much present in India, as it had the 4th highest amount of opium, mostly in the form of tramadol, seized in 2016 globally.

To summarize, this area has now also seen a distinct rise in the number of people using alternative synthetic drugs like methamphetamine. A huge increase in meth in Thailand, a ten-fold increase in cocaine and increase in production of opioids in Vietnam and Myanmar, along with the increasing influence that drugs now hold over governments do not paint an optimistic image for countries in and near this region.

**Africa:** The continent of Africa has been rampantly raged by the use of drugs throughout the past century. The public's interest in illegal drugs has risen drastically as the drug cartels from around the world have recognised Africa as the new frontier of their drug markets.

The British colony of Nigeria had first experimented with growing coca leaves in Lagos and Calabar. In the 1970's, west African countries had also started to import cocaine and heroin especially from the Latin American countries and Asia. The west African drug connection is mainly about the countries being a transit route between the Americas and the European countries. The main point of conflict in this issue is about how the west African countries are being affected by the increasing demand of illegal drugs in countries such as Spain, Portugal and the UK.

The Drug Enforcement Agencies in several countries have directed their attention to curb the issues regarding consumption of drugs. A few countries like Guinea Bissau and Ghana have experienced an unreal amount of drug related problems including the criminal networks.

The extensive amount of resources used to fund terrorist operations has undermined the requirement of development and stability. The criminals in these countries are directly related to drug trafficking. Al Qaeda and Hezbollah are two of the most dangerous groups which have caused an incredible level of narcoterrorism in the countries.

Moreover, the governments of the west African countries like Mali, Senegal, Ghana and Guinea Bissau constitute corrupt officials who weaken the law and order and make it more difficult for them to abolish the extremist organizations in the country.

The Hezbollah has effectively used sources like money laundering to exploit the weak governance and has continued to infest the society with drugs.

The Malian crisis in 2012 had caused a dreadful amount of damage to the society as the drug trafficking organisations forged closer ties to the terrorist organisations by funding their dangerous operations. Also, the involvement of the terrorist organisations causes frequent confrontations amongst them which do lead to horrible consequences.

An influx of tramadol from India, which seems to be mostly concentrated in countries in North Africa, has created huge social issues. Almost 90% of all pharmaceutical opium globally were seized in North and West Africa, most of which was reported to have come from India. Opioid addiction in Africa, which is also because of its relatively inexpensive nature, has crippled countries here along with the existing problems of poverty and terrorism.

**Drug consumption in Europe-** Europe has always been a major consumer of illegal drugs. Drug consumption, especially in countries in Western Europe, has skyrocketed ever since drugs from Latin America first reached the mainland of Europe through a small backward community in north-western

Spain called Galicia. Even now, Europe remains a major consumerist nation, having the finances to consume but lacking the abundance of natural resources to grow drugs. The influence of drugs of types ranging from opioids to cocaine has been immense. Influential countries such as the UK, which constitutes for a third of all overdose deaths in Europe, has seen 46% fatalities being a result of opioids such as morphine and heroin. Cocaine and ecstasy, too, are on the rise since the beginning of the decade. Ecstasy has been quite prevalent in countries such as the Netherlands, especially in regions such as the Tilburg region which is called the 'ecstasy capital' of the world. On the other hand, 2.6 million people aged between 15 and 34 have consumed cocaine in just the past year. Bristol, a city in England, came to be known as the 'cocaine capital of the world'. The ease with which cocaine can be consumed, makes it a drug whose consumption is ever on the rise, with no hopes, as of now, of any eradication.



The US- Looking back through the history books, one can easily see drugs' influence in the time of the British colonial rule. During a time when opium was legal, hundreds and thousands of crates were opium were transported to the US. This continued even after the country gained its independence. The place of the origin of the opioid heroin, the US saw a major rise in the use of opioids as anesthetics in the Civil War. Owing to the government's heightened concern about the excessive consumption of this drug, it implemented the 'The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906', which regulated the usage of opium in food products.

After a period of relative drug inactivity, caused primarily due to Nixon's 'War on Drugs', opioid usage started growing in the 2000s when the Joint Commission, which is a US government corporation that accredits companies in the healthcare sector, published a report stating that users of opioid medicines were facing dependency. From that time on, opioid usage has been constantly rising. Now, the opioid addiction issue has started to be labelled as the 'Opioid epidemic'. And rightly so. The number of Americans dependent on some sort of opioid prescriptions or opioid recreational use has risen to an astounding 2 million. In 2017, the US suffered more than 49000 deaths causes due to the overdose of opium, a number which is a significant percentage of the number of total deaths caused due to drug overdose- more than 72000. In a shocking find, 34000 poppy opiums were

uncovered over five weeks in California last year, which could be the biggest opium seizure in California history.

This opium is said to have originated from countries in West Africa and the infamous Golden Crescent in Asia. Along with this, cocaine-rich countries like Mexico and Colombia are allegedly smuggling cocaine opioids through the south-west border. The consequences have been dire. The level of public health has dropped to worrying levels, while the economy is facing problems of declining labour-force participation rate. In response, Obama enforced the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act in 2016, which pledged \$180 million against the opioid epidemic. Opioids have recently also been passed as a schedule 1 drug. Despite these policy changes, much improvement in the situation hasn't been seen. This has been blamed on the effectiveness of these policies, and also the more relaxed view on recreational drugs since the recent legalization of marijuana.

### THE EROSION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

The very essence of drug trade is that it requires a non-democratic political set up. A well-functioning democracy, with vigorous discourse between government and opposition will be expected to come up with effective anti-drug laws and resolutions. Therefore, single-party states are often associated with drug-related crimes, for such states tend to lack effective anti-drug laws

and maybe have a corrupt senior administration. Trade of drugs is a matter of grave concern as it has the power to erode democracies and promote extremist ideological parties in society.

### Case Studies

**Colombia:** Colombia's drug trade emerged in the early 1970s. It evolved into a form wherein it invited revenues of more than a billion dollars every year. Soon enough, Pablo Escobar and his Medellin cartel had become the undeniable source of the cocaine trafficking business. This growing business even caused a recession in the economy in 1982, due to numerous issuances of questionable loans. Illegal acts committed by such cartels often forced the state to put into effect restrictive laws against them. Their response: uncontrolled and indecent acts of violence. For instance, the Medellin cartel was infamous for killing a large number of police officers, judges and government officials. Such a crisis situation undermined the smooth functioning of the state, it seemed like there was an erosion of democracy. The authority of the government had certainly been challenged and this led to a collapse of the efficient working of the democratic setup within the country.

In the concept of democracy, there lies within, an idea of discouraging censorship and promoting transparency. However, in the 1980s, Colombia's media and other means of communication were censored to a great extent. Even the state's judicial setup was drastically affected, due to widespread corruption and bribery of sitting judges who,

in turn, gave verdicts in favour of these cartels. The Colombian elections were also highly influenced by drug money, with practices such as vote buying being rampant throughout the country. Cartels basically financed specific parties keeping in mind the possible political influence they could gain post-elections. Apart from that, they also used violence to intimidate opposition political parties. Thus, it will be comprehensible enough to say that narcoterrorism had secured its hold over Colombia's socio-political setting, closely affecting and impacting the lives of millions in the process.

**Afghanistan:** The Taliban emerged when the Islamic mujahideen fighters had taken form of an extremist group which intended to fight the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan.

Supported by the West as well as Pakistan's Intelligence Agency in their containment against Russian forces, they gained control of almost 15 provinces and eventually went on to capture the capital, Kabul.

Once in power, they imposed a strict Sharia Law which prevailed only to make society more conservative. Any mode of entertainment such as movies and music was banned and women of the society were curtailed the most basic human rights, with an imposition of the 'burqa' as dressing code and a blanket ban on women's education. Public shows of execution became an everyday affair. Any hint of opposition was dealt with in the most violent manner.

During a span of just five years, the Taliban had gained a stronghold in Afghan society. Their imposition of an extremist interpretation of the Islamic law had led to the creation of a totalitarian regime. These years had been followed by the formation of a democratic setup due to the support by the United States. Elections were held in Afghanistan for the first time in quite a few years but, unfortunately, they were still rigged to a certain extent as the Taliban continued to use violence and killed several people in the process.

impacted society and democracy in a significant way.

**Mexico:** Since the early 1990s, Mexico has been a zone of conflict wherein drug cartels have held their reigns over the socio-political affairs in the country, repeatedly threatening the prevalence of democracy in the state. Therefore, the government and these narco-terrorist organisations are always at odds. Gangs and cartels have earned a significant amount of wealth from the business of drugs. This drug money, similar to other places, has also been used to maneuver government



Even after their fall from power, they continued to infest the society of Afghanistan with an insurgent run through the country. Currently, a large portion of the Taliban's income stems from poppy cultivation in Afghanistan earning them a staggering amount of 1.5 billion dollars. This money allows them to pay off the police and several other government officials. Therefore, the Taliban's acts of narcoterrorism have

personnel and the police to indulge in acts of corruption, as well as to fund election campaigns. There has also been a significant increase in the abuse of power by the military and other authorities.

In order to provide an effective response to this problem, the Mexican government seemed to threaten liberal ideas in society. For example, the fundamental individual

rights are breached to a certain extent as rulings like stopping and searching vehicles without a court order became approved by the constitution. Moreover, the government demanded access to telephone conversations in order to intercept suspicious actions by the gangs and cartels. We see here how narcoterrorism indirectly contributed to the erosion of democratic institutions and ideologies in Mexico. The bigger problem lies in the fact that the Mexican government has continued to concede to narcoterrorism for a span of several decades, not having taken any major step to eradicate the problem.

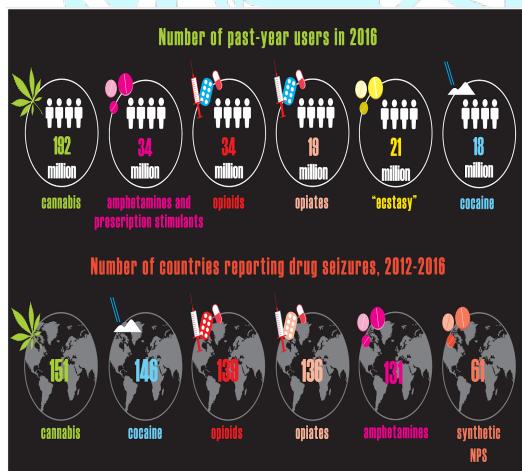
## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is proving to be one of the most critical obstacles to human development, as it is increasing in both spread and magnitude. A rise of 21% in the number of trafficked people from 2014-2016 complements this. Trafficking takes place for a variety of reasons ranging from forced labour to sexual exploitation, with different reasons being prominent in different places. The number of people convicted for human trafficking rose by about 67% globally according to the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018. The report also showed that the increasing number of conflict zones, especially in areas like the Middle East, and South-east Asia, are significantly contributing to aggravating the issue as human traffickers target financially and emotionally vulnerable people more. In light of issues as the Syrian and the Rohingya refugee crisis, human trafficking has increased to unprecedented levels.

Human trafficking has become a critical contributor to the ease with which drug trafficking takes place. People have increasingly been used to conceal the transportation of drugs across both regional and international borders. One of the most prominent examples is the trafficking of the drug yaba into neighbouring through the movement of the Rohingya Muslims. Even though sexual exploitation has established itself as the primary reason for human trafficking here, the involvement of drugs is hard to ignore. Having been persecuted in their homeland, Myanmar, for decades, the Rohingya Muslims started fleeing from 2016 onwards. The influx of yaba into neighbouring countries such as India has quite adversely affected the countries' social structures, as the youth gets increasingly addicted to a drug that is said to cause madness.

Elsewhere, the rise of cocaine in Columbia has also led to a direct increase in human trafficking in and out of the region. Reports have claimed that Venezuelans have been tricked into working on the extensive coca cultivations all around the country, with some also being forced to sell the drugs. Authorities in Columbia have revealed that over 75% of the registered trafficked victims are of Venezuelan nationality. With the ongoing migrant crisis caused due to thousands of Venezuelans fleeing to Columbia for jobs and better working conditions, this situation might just get much worse.

The reason why drug trafficking complements human trafficking so well is not only that people serve as perfect hiding vessels for drugs. Drugs are also often used for intoxicating victims, as drugs have always made people more vulnerable, making them easily manipulated. Thus, human and drug trafficking have played a huge role in sustaining each other, making it even more imperative to break this trend.



## BLOC-WISE ANALYSIS

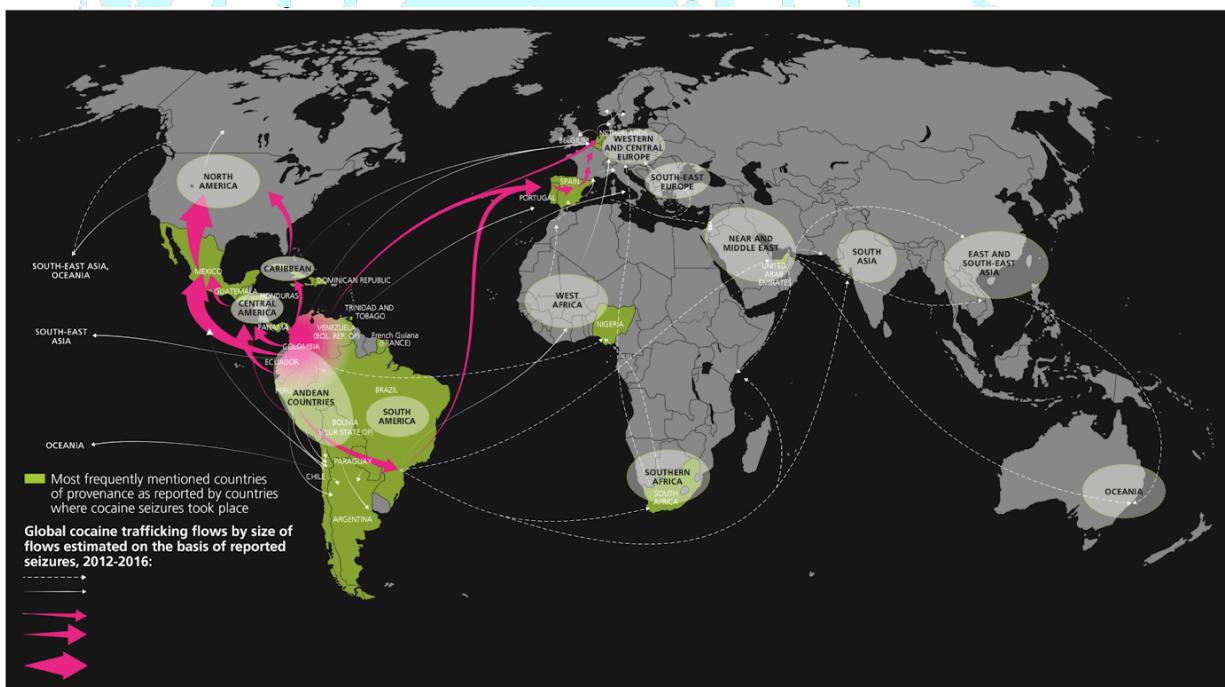
**South-East Asia-** The continuous growth of narcoterrorism in this region has been attributed primarily to the growing financial resources available to criminal organizations. Hence, a direct method to control the level of narco-terrorism is to control the flow of drugs to consumers, which will subsequently prevent criminal organizations from becoming financially secure. Even though it sounds simple, the job has not been so simple for governments, which have received flak for their implementation of the death penalty. Stories expressed by facts such as 7080 drug suspects being killed in the Philippines in just

a year from July 2016 have left human rights activists enraged. Instead of reducing the level of drug-trade in this region, such forms of severe punishment have actually benefited drug-trading companies, which sell their drugs at higher prices because of the high 'risk factor' involved. Countries such as Australia and the Philippines will also look to tackle the unexpected supply of drugs that arrive from Latin America through the Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, necessary technological advancement has also been manipulated by drug suppliers, who use the 'dark web' and cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin to enable risk-free trade. Vietnam had the third-highest bitcoin transactions in the world in 2017 at one point despite not having nearly enough productive business activities. These conflicts of interest have left countries in this region completely clueless as to the most appropriate way to approach the issue of narco-terrorism. What should governments in this region do to fulfill both the requirements of narco-terrorism and the introduction of new technology?

**Latin America-** Despite the existing extensive drug networks, government policies have only made the situation worse. For example, violence has escalated exponentially in Mexico due to fighting between the 'cartelitos', namely smaller cartels created from the dissolution of larger cartels, after the Mexican government recklessly arrested leaders of major drug cartels. Another notable example is that the imprisonment of operating drug and human traffickers has allowed new people to come to the forefront, creating even more problems for

governments. Violence from the side of the government has been countered with more violence of the perpetrators. The continent has also been rocked by the constant supply of drugs to the US and Europe, which has provided terrorists with enough capital to

**North America-** The US will look to close routes of opium influx originating from the Golden Crescent region in South-East Asia. Policies have to be reconsidered; the switch from threatening to impose tariffs on an innocent Mexico, from wasting scarce



Sources: UNODC, responses to the annual report questionnaire and individual drug seizure database.

carry out organized crime. Hence, a reformation in the policies adopted by governments is extremely important.

Moreover, the recent discovery of 40 kilos of cocaine in the military plane that Brazilian President Jai Bolsonaro was using to travel to the G20 summit have thrown more light on the influence of these drug organizations on the governments of affected countries. Even though an accompanying air office has been charged with keeping the cocaine in his possession, the character of the president who had promised zero tolerance on the country's growing drug trade remains shrouded in doubt.

resources by trying to build an unfeasible wall, to raising awareness about drugs in the general public seems more necessary than ever. Of this, the youth has to be most focused upon as that is the age regularly associated with the beginning of one's tryst with drugs in both Canada and the US, often through experimentation. Rather than also limiting prescription opioids, which has only resulted in a migration to recreational opioids such as heroin, the Trump Administration should look to decrease the demand for drugs in the country, as after all, that's what boosts drug production. The US also holds the responsibility of limiting funds available to narco-terrorism agencies in Latin America, as the US market has produced unforeseen

profits for drug producers. One kilogram of cocaine, originally purchased for \$2000 in Colombia, manages to make it way to the streets at a market price of \$100000 when purchased in small parts. That is a 4900% increase, a startling fact that explains the freedom with which drug agencies operate in Latin America. This development has been credited to the US' 'war on drugs', which has enabled drug dealers to limit supply, and subsequently hike drug prices by extraordinary amounts (profit paradox).

This, in turn, gives drug producers more resources to promote narco-terrorism.

**Europe** - There are various reasons for the level of drug consumption that has been witnessed in Europe in the past few years. One of them is the ease with which drug traders cross borders within the EU. The Balkan route, which passes through Turkey and Iran, still remains as one of the busiest routes for transporting opium from farms in Afghanistan. This enables drugs to spread from the coastal regions, where it enters the EU through means of shipping, to interior countries, further widening the consumer base. This is also a place where crime is not generally associated with drug organizations, but rather with consumers. Intoxicated with the excess consumption of drugs, consumers often commit crimes unusual of their nature. The most harmful psycho-pharmacological effects of drug use, particularly those associated with crack cocaine, involve people becoming irrational, excited, agitated or impulsive. In addition to this, the gradually declining economy is further troubled by the lack of productivity of an increasing number

of drug-addicted employees. Drug organizations have also adopted innovative ways to ferry the drugs all across Europe, with 'cocaine call centres' having been allegedly set up to cater to consumers faster and more effectively.

Hence, more potential consumers are getting tricked into getting addicted to drugs.

**Africa:** Although the continent of Africa has not been directly involved with exporting large amounts of illegal drugs in comparison to their European and Latin American counterparts, Africa has always been swarmed with the traffickers holding over Africa as their base enroute their destinations. The number of drugs has been rapidly rising through the years. It seems like there is a dire need to recognise and address the reasons for the issues concerning drugs. The consumption of the substance has a few primary reasons, including lack of education regarding its harmful consequences and corrupt government officials and policemen. The drug traffickers have followed a similar way of buying their way into the system, causing the eventual involvement of terrorist organisations within the process. There has actually been a massive spread of terror in the regions of west Africa as police officials who refuse to be corrupted by the system are often disbanded, or rather more frequently, killed. This is the very reason that political formations in countries like Mali, Senegal and Guinea Bissau are damaged to a great extent and they are owed a label of a failed state because acts of narcoterrorism have torn the continent apart and have hence had a

significant impact on the geopolitics of the region.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can global cooperation lead to the formation and implementation of better, more effective policies to combat drug trade? Is the death penalty the correct policy to adopt?
- How can nations ensure that their own governments do not submit to the power and influence of drug organizations?
- How can governments restrict the financial resources at the disposal of drug organizations to reduce their activity? Should they focus on controlling consumer demand or blocking trade routes?
- How can governments reduce drug trade by reducing human trafficking, and ensuring that migrants have good standards of living?
- How can governments improve or create specific organizations to monitor the flow of drugs in their countries, and deter drug traffickers?

## SOME LINKS FOR RESEARCH

- <https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/>
- <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-47861444>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-48041414>
- <https://www.voanews.com/a/drug-abuse-in-asia/4484308.html>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2017/09/18/health/opioid-crisis-fast-facts/index.html>

- <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2015/12/03/the-network-effect-trafficking-in-illicit-drugs-money-and-people-in-latin-america/>

- <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/4/5/18296656/trump-mexico-border-close-war-on-drugs>

- <https://qz.com/africa/1271685/afrikan-desperate-youth-are-getting-high-on-opioids-and-anything-they-can-get-their-hands-on/>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Felbab-Brown, V. & Felbab-Brown, V., 2016. High and low politics in Afghanistan: The terrorism-drugs nexus and what can be done about it. *Brookings*. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/high-and-low-politics-in-afghanistan-the-terrorism-drugs-nexus-and-what-can-be-done-about-it/> [Accessed May 13, 2019].

Unrisd, Socio-Economic and Political Consequences of the International Trade in Illicit Drugs. *UNRISD*. Available at: [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/\(httpProjects\)/7CBB6A808426C24280256B64003D5660](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/(httpProjects)/7CBB6A808426C24280256B64003D5660) [Accessed May 13, 2019].

Unrisd, Illicit Drugs: Social Impacts and Policy Responses | Events. *UNRISD*. Available at: [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/htpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=4C3D0BE90FAD550480256B6400419B57&parentntoctype=paper&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/4C3D0BE90FAD550480256B6400419B57/\\$file/bp2.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/htpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=4C3D0BE90FAD550480256B6400419B57&parentntoctype=paper&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/4C3D0BE90FAD550480256B6400419B57/$file/bp2.pdf) [Accessed May 13, 2019].

Anon, *Narcoterrorism: The merger of the war on drugs and the war on terror*. Available at:

- <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/drogue-terreur.pdf> [Accessed May 13, 2019].
- Felbab-Brown, V. & Felbab-Brown, V., 2017. Afghanistan's opium production is through the roof-why Washington shouldn't overreact. *Brookings*. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/11/21/afghanistans-opium-production-is-through-the-roof-why-washington-shouldnt-overreact/> [Accessed May 13, 2019].
- Anon, The Mexican Drug War: Is it "Narcoterrorism?". *openDemocracy*. Available at: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/mexican-drug-war-is-it-narcoterrorism/> [Accessed May 13, 2019].
- Anon, The Erosion of Democracy in Developing and Transition Countries. *Bertelsmann Foundation*. Available at: <https://www.bfna.org/research/the-erosion-of-democracy-in-developing-and-transition-countries/> [Accessed May 13, 2019].
- Anon, Record-high opium production in Afghanistan creates multiple challenges for region and beyond, UN warns | UN News. *United Nations*. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/05/1010332> [Accessed May 13, 2019].
- Agt, World Drug Report. *World Drug Report 2018*. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/> [Accessed May 13, 2019].
- Anon, PBS. Available at: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/heroin/etc/history.html> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Anon, 2017. A review of Southeast Asia's drug policies. The ASEAN Post. Available at: <https://theaseanpost.com/article/review-southeast-asias-drug-policies> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Alatise, S., 2019. Big increase in UK 'county lines' drug trafficking. Financial Times. Available at: <https://www.ft.com/content/5405348c-23b9-11e9-8ce6-5db4543da632> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Carretero, N., 2018. How Cocaine First Came to Europe. Vice. Available at: [https://www.vice.com/en\\_uk/article/bjemyz/how-cocaine-first-came-to-europe](https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/bjemyz/how-cocaine-first-came-to-europe) [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Daniels, J.P., 2018. Colombia continues to break records for cocaine production, report says. The Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/19/colombia-cocaine-production-breaks-record> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Diana.teixeira, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 'Alarming levels' of methamphetamine trafficking in Asia's Mekong, UN warns. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2018/May/drogue-en-asie--niveaux-alarmants-de-trafic-de-mthamphamine-dans-la-rgeion-du-mkong-onudc.html> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Diep, F., 2018. Some Officials Worry a Cocaine Epidemic Is About to Hit the U.S. Pacific Standard. Available at: <https://psmag.com/news/some-officials-worry-a-cocaine-epidemic-is-about-to-hit-the-u-s> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Grierson, J., 2019. 'County lines': huge scale of £500m drug industry revealed. The Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jan/29/county-lines-criminal-drug-networks-rapidly-expanding-national-crime-agency> [Accessed May 14, 2019].

- Haigney, S., 2018. 34,000 pounds of opium poppies seized from fields in Monterey County. SFChronicle.com. Available at: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/crime/article/34-000-pounds-of-opium-poppies-seized-in-Monterey-12964277.php?psid=3PPzh> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Anon, Human trafficking cases hit a 13-year record high, new UN report shows | UN News. United Nations. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1031552> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Anon, 2018. Human Trafficking in Colombia Increasingly Targets Venezuelan Migrants. InSight Crime. Available at: <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/human-trafficking-in-colombia-increasingly-targets-venezuelan-migrants/> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Janetsky, M., 2019. Here's Why Colombia Opened Its Arms to Venezuelan Migrants—Until Now. Foreign Policy. Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/14/heres-why-colombia-opened-its-arms-to-venezuelan-migrants-until-now/> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- May Bulman Social Affairs Correspondent @maybulman, 2019. County lines gangs believed responsible for surge in trafficked British children. The Independent. Available at: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/child-trafficking-county-lines-gang-exploitation-modern-slavery-minors-home-office-drugs-a8830396.html> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Miroff, N., 2017. American cocaine use is way up. Colombia's coca boom might be why. The Washington Post. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/03/04/colombias-coca-boom-is-up-Colombias-coca-boom-might-be-why/>
- showing-up-on-u-s-streets/?utm\_term=.e66b26c531ac [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Nguyen, H. & Nguyen, H., 2018. Southeast Asia Drug Use Persists Despite Death Penalty. VOA. Available at: <https://www.voanews.com/a/drug-abuse-in-asia/4484308.html> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Anon, 2019. Poverty and inequality in Colombia | Statistics. Colombia Reports Data. Available at: <https://data.colombiareports.com/colombia-poverty-inequality-statistics/> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Pressly, L., 2019. Yaba: The cheap synthetic drug convulsing a nation. BBC News. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-48041414> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Anon, The U.S. Opioid Epidemic. Council on Foreign Relations. Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-opioid-epidemic> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Anon, 2019. UN says methamphetamine output booming in Southeast Asia. AP NEWS. Available at: <https://www.apnews.com/bab1001a360549baa0a8fe0d76446e2f> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Anon, 2018. West Africa's opioid crisis. The Economist. Available at: <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2018/08/23/west-africas-opioid-crisis> [Accessed May 14, 2019].
- Agt, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Global report on trafficking in Persons. Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html> [Accessed May 14, 2019].

