

People in Law Enforcement Agree:

Sheriff Bill Masters:

"What kind of peace officer, what kind of society would allow a peace officer to use one minute of time, spend one dollar, or use any jail cell for a marijuana smoker, when vicious child murderers are on the loose?"

Judge Robert Sweet:

"...the use of the criminal law to deal with the drug problem was expensive, ineffective and harmful, both in human terms and societal values. Like the prohibition on alcohol before it, the penalties on drug use and sale produced turf wars and random violence without significantly altering the practices involved."

Superior Court Judge James P. Gray:

"The drug war is destroying the fabric of society."

Former Attorney General of Colombia Gustavo de Greiff:

"It is incredible that in view of the failures in the war on drugs, its advocates continue to think that it is the best solution to the problems that drug consumption creates."

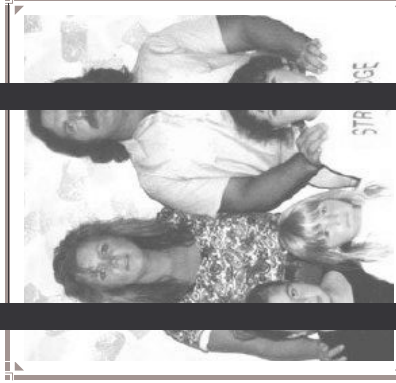
Campus Libertarians

Fighting to end the drug war.



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The WAR ON DRUGS is a WAR ON PEOPLE



*David Ciglar and family —
victims of the War on Drugs*

Drugs Don't Go to Jail — People Do



Tonya Drake was offered \$50 to deliver a FedEx package. She didn't know the package contained cocaine. She was sentenced to ten years, no parole. Tonya has four children, who are now in the care of her niece.

The “War” which was declared in order to rid America of drug abuse doesn’t really affect the drugs much at all. Drugs don’t get prison sentences.

The War on Drugs is really a war on people who don’t act within society’s norms. It’s also a war on innocent people who get caught in the crossfire, and it’s a war on privacy and constitutional protections.

But over 30 years after Nixon declared a “War on Drugs”, and almost 70 years after federal marijuana prohibition began, the drugs themselves are doing just fine. Even opium — federally banned in 1914— and its sister drug heroin are both still available, even in prisons and schools.

A War on People

While the “War on Drugs” hasn’t done much damage to drugs, it has done immeasurable damage to millions of people’s lives. It has broken up families and it has corrupted law enforcement officers and the justice system. It has stolen decades from the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who’ve committed a “crime” for which there is no identifiable victim.

This War is Your War, This War is My War

The War on Drugs is not an independent actor—it was created by our society and our government, and it is continued today under the premise that this is what America wants for itself. Mainstream politicians still say it’s “political suicide” to come out against the Drug War, and mainstream society still clings queasily to the idea that “we’ve got to do something.”



Cynthia Dickerson
1st time non-violent drug law violator. Sentenced to 9 years, 1 month and 1 day.

“Got To Do Something”

Certainly drug abuse is a problem, and no one suggests that it just be ignored. Likewise, no one advocates that sur-

geons, school bus drivers, and pilots should be allowed to operate while high on mind-altering substances. The real question is whether what we’re doing now—the “War on Drugs” as we know it — is the right thing to do. And the real answer is “No.”

Harm Reduction

There are many ways to reduce the harm caused by drugs and drug abuse, without resorting to the tactics of arrest and imprisonment. In most cases, the penalties for possession of a drug do much more harm than the drug itself. Meanwhile, the threat of incarceration keeps many addicts from seeking counseling or medical help.

There are other options, and the time to examine and implement them is long overdue. Let’s end the war, and start the healing.



Esequiel “Zeke” Hernandez:
Innocent casualty of the War on Drugs

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