



Our Campaign

We are lobbying Police and Crime Commissioners to seek policing changes to the laws relating to Cannabis use in the UK.

Catalysts of Change

The Police and Crime Commissioner role is outlined as

“The role of the PCCs is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. They are responsible for the totality of policing.....the PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area.”

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/role-of-the-pcc/>

That is why we want to inform and help our PCCs to use their powers to protect minorities in their population and protect them from breaking the law, and use the Police to better effect against organised crime in their region.

Announcing a coalition for change

The Elections of Police and Crime Commissioners in the UK is a Call to Action for those who want a change in Cannabis regulation and Policing.

Currently people are self-medicating or using cannabis for recreational purposes. The route to medicinal cannabis is only open via private clinics and is expensive to acquire. Recreational use of cannabis is linked to age profile and ethnic grouping. It is a fact that more black males reside in prison due to cannabis use than any other ethnic group.

These disparities in access and use of cannabis is due to the premise that if it is on the ‘Dangerous Drugs List’ we must legislate and use the law to prevent its’ use.

The Medicinal Cannabis sector (High THC) is grown under licenced conditions granted by the Home Office, whilst street cannabis run by organised crime, forces ordinary people to break the law.

It’s time for a change!

Our Proposal

The Dutch who use the term [Gedogen \(Hoodoken\)](#) means toleration for individual Cannabis use. The Dutch have successfully operated this policy for decades.

We propose that UK Police and Crime Commissioners implement a policy of toleration for cannabis use, providing by doing so that no other law is being broken. (eg driving whilst intoxicated or under the influence of drugs).

In this way regional Police Forces can focus on illegal cannabis production where unscrupulous criminals use modern slavery and steal electricity to grow low grade contaminated street cannabis. This would also alleviate cuckooing and County-Lines problems across the UK.

Medicine or Crime?

Cannabis for medical purposes is now available to the wealthy with private prescriptions costing from £200 a month and up. The idea that the poor are excluded from what can be a lifesaving



medicine is a contravention of everything Global Britain stands for and certainly not the way a science superpower should create policies to prohibit.

The evidence is mounting at country level across the World that cannabis is beneficial to societies that understand the Cannabis plants potential. The world's most creative economies are benefiting from harm reduction and increased understanding led by science-based policies rather than a confirmation of bias as Cannabis as a 'dangerous drug'. [NPR report](#)

Black Lives Matter?

The very notion that those that can afford cannabis for medical purposes are in a privileged position is amplified by analysis of arrest and conviction records of those found with cannabis.

Race has a substantive impact on judgments and jail sentences handed down by the courts with regard to Cannabis use. It is a fact that more black and brown men receive custodial sentences related to cannabis than white men.

We need a new approach.

Managed Approach

During this transition period where legal prohibition of Cannabis is in force, we should cease to criminalise people who prefer the effects and qualities of cannabis for medical- or social recreational purposes to other licensed drugs and alcohol.

Precedent has been set in many areas where "toleration zones" exist. This managed approach between local communities, local Authorities and the Police offering new opportunities and thinking.

Cannabis Clubs and Cafes.

An acceptance of cannabis cafes which can be licenced and regulated, as well as producing tax income, is a surely preferable approach of an enlightened society?

A 'bottom-up' approach are Cannabis Clubs led by more enlightened PCCs who work with Cannabis Social clubs to develop harm reduction policies. These Cannabis Clubs educate members about the positive and negative aspects of Cannabis. They run courses to explain how Cannabinoids have very different effects on different people.

This is the beginning of individual wellness programs that mirror access to Cannabis for medical purposes. The Cannabis Clubs are a model which have successfully worked all over Europe and North America allowing many adults to gain access to safe cannabis. Cannabis Clubs become part of a larger support network that helps people become more familiar with all aspects of the cannabis plant. This is the very essence of 'build back better' after Covid has created so much anxiety, and physical and mental issues in our society.

Let's call for Gedogen to our politicians and Parliamentarians because we know that Cannabis has entered the political lexicon and rather than trying to prevent its use we should manage the process of its acceptance by society and for the benefit of your Policing policies.

Parties Political stance in the UK

The Lib Dems are supporting the creation of a full Canadian style Cannabis economy. The Green Party want a full Portugal solution with a regulated Cannabis industry. The Conservatives and Labour



are pursuing a Status quo position regarding Cannabis that is a proven failure and based on biased opinion which ignores scientific evidence.

Labour leader, Kier Starmer recently said on Sky news he would oppose Cannabis reform, and went on to talk about the misery of Drugs. He missed the point – what is the evidence that puts Cannabis into a category of ‘a controlled harmful drug’?

Our challenge to UK politicians is to explain why Cannabis grown in far off Countries under strict pharma-regulation is a medicine, yet Cannabis grown by an individual in the UK is a Crime?!

Show us the foundational science and independent evidence that shows that Cannabis, one of the safest medications known to humanity, is considered so dangerous in the UK, that it’s population needs to be protected from it under force of policing and the Law, when the rest of the world is liberalising access?

We will challenge every PCC candidate to declare a position on Cannabis and see if they support a policy of Gedogen.

The 2021 PCC election will be the change required for the informed generation to #VoteCannabis.

[The coalition for change](#)

#VoteCannabis is aimed to challenge the fundamental fake news that has underpinned the era of prohibition that has created so much misery.

Appendix

Links to vote

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

Background Information

In 2009, the UNODC confirmed that offences involving the possession, purchase, or cultivation of illicit drugs for personal use should not be criminalised as this would be a contradiction of their human rights:

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME: Vienna: From coercion to cohesion: Treating drug dependence through health care, not punishment.

Discussion paper based on a scientific workshop: UNODC, Vienna, October 28-30, 2009.

“The report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007 (EN/INCB/2007/1), when discussing the principle of proportionality, highlighted that “with offences involving the possession, purchase or cultivation of illicit drugs for the offender’s personal use, the measures can be applied as complete alternatives to conviction and punishment”

In conclusion, they stated:



“In responding to the problem of drug use, "many countries have introduced severe penalties for drug use and related crime, which have resulted in large numbers of people in prisons, compulsory treatment centres, or labour camps without significant long-term impact on drug use, drug dependence or drug-related crime in the community and are in contradiction with human rights.”

This was reaffirmed in 2010 with the addition that limiting access to what may be considered essential medicine is a breach of the human right to health, and that the UN recommend that the personal use of drugs should be decriminalised or de-penalised:

United Nations General Assembly 6th August, 2010: 65th session item 69 (b) of the provisional agenda: Promotion and protection of Human Rights:

“The right of everyone attainable standard of physical and mental health.”

“General Assembly and the above session concluded that "Certain countries incarcerate people who use drugs, impose compulsory treatment upon them, or both. The current international drug control regime also limits access to essential medicines, which violates the enjoyment to the right to health.”

“The Special Rapporteur also recommend that "human rights be integrated into the international response to drug control, through use of guidelines and indicators relating to drug use and possession, and that the creation of an alternative drug regulatory framework should be considered. Member states should ensure that harm reduction measures and drug dependence treatment services are available to those who use drugs, especially focused on incarcerated populations. They also should reform domestic laws to decriminalize or depenalize the use or possession of drugs, and increase access to controlled essential medicines.”

Thanks to



for there input.