

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ITEM 6
OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Harm Reduction Coalition]

ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST BY *HARM REDUCTION COALITION* TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs/Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization Harm Reduction Coalition.

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by Harm Reduction Coalition in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

A not-for-profit, support and training organization, *Harm Reduction Coalition* promotes the health and dignity of individuals and communities affected by drug abuse, by formulating public policies on damage reduction, and through practices and programs to deal with the adverse effects of drug use.

Through its contributions to the public policy formulation dialogue, Harm Reduction Coalition campaigns against social inequality and injustice, seeking to defend the right of every individual to health and well-being. The organization's work involves community organizations, service providers, researchers, policymakers, and academics, who provide technical assistance at the local and international levels to build capacity in order to create, improve on, or implement policies and programs.

Harm Reduction Coalition comprises a Board of Directors of up to 20 directors, which performs administrative and technical functions, besides its responsibility for planning the corporation's programs and activities. Once a year, the Board of Directors convenes its regular meeting, where officers are elected for the following year. They meet quarterly. Harm Reduction Coalition is headquartered in New York and has offices in Oakland and Washington, D.C.

Harm Reduction Coalition's programs focus on four areas: policy and advocacy; training and capacity-building; overdose prevention; and national conferences. It also collaborates on efforts to prevent drug overdose through international activism supporting the drafting of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolution 55/7 on Drug Overdose. In addition, at the 2012 World Health Assembly it co-sponsored, together with the United States State Department, a parallel event on the issue.

Harm Reduction Coalition supported needle exchange and access programs in the United States through efforts geared towards lifting the ban on federal funding for needle exchange, as well as through dialogue to place the issue on the agenda of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Harm Reduction Coalition participated in the International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012), where it fought to get the issue of drugs and its relation to HIV and AIDS included. Notable among Harm Reduction Coalition's activities at AIDS 2012 was support for drug users at different sessions

of the conference, where they presented their views on nine occasions. The corporation also organized several joint activities within the framework of the event.

Harm Reduction Coalition promotes local and national campaigns on prevention of and protection from hepatitis C for those affected, by providing recommendations, demanding proper care for carriers of the disease, as well as defending their rights.

Harm Reduction Coalition produces weekly podcasts on the corporation's work and the progress of projects and experiences of victims.

Harm Reduction Coalition is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. It is funded with donations from the private sector and nongovernmental organizations such as the Open Society Foundations, MAC AIDS, and H. van Ameringen Foundation, which are engaged in support programs for vulnerable groups and social development. It also receives grants from various state institutions, including the U.S. Public Service, New York State Department of Youth & Community Development, and San Francisco Department of Public Health, as well as from its own Board of Directors.

Harm Reduction Coalition submitted its application for registration with the OAS on February 25, 2013.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of Organization:	<i>Harm Reduction Coalition</i>
Address:	22 West 27th Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10001 United States of America
Telephone:	(212) 213-6376
Fax:	(212) 213-6582
E-mail address:	clear@harmreduction.org
Website:	www.harmreduction.org
Executive Director:	Allan Clear
Date established:	June 8, 1994

3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

Harm Reduction Coalition is engaged in support and training to promote the health and dignity of individuals and communities affected by drug abuse. The main areas of activity and contributions of the CSO that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Promoting the creation of public policies to eliminate inequalities in health service delivery for drug users and their communities;
- Providing training at the national level to support the health and dignity of individuals and communities affected by the drug problem;
- Carrying out projects related to preventing and providing education on drug overdose in shelters, prisons, and treatment centers. Training for prevention and recognition of and response to drug overdose; and
- Organizing national conferences to address various drug-related issues as well as recovery for victims of drug abuse.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

Harm Reduction Coalition proposes to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Furnishing the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and its rapporteurships with reports to serve as input for human rights protection in the Hemisphere ;
- Providing reports, sharing experiences, and participating in hemispheric dialogue with the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), particularly the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and its drug supply and demand reduction programs, educational development, public policy design, the Health and Life in the Americas (SAP) program, and follow-up on the report on the problem of drugs in the Americas;
- Joining the hemispheric debate by providing OAS member states with civil society recommendations regarding the Organization's activities, such as the General Assembly, Permanent Council meetings, CICAD ministerial meetings and specialized conferences, and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE); and
- Support for the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE) to facilitate the process of social reintegration of victims of drug abuse and provide fair and dignified working conditions through its inequality and social exclusion reduction programs.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General
- Mission statement
- Statutes
- Internal Revenue Service letter confirming Harm Reduction Coalition's status as a private non-profit organization.
- Sources of funding for Harm Reduction Coalition from 2010 to 2013
- Audited financial statement and report 2011
- Audited financial statement and report 2012
- Activity report for 2011
- Activity report for 2012