



# Media Release

## OVOM takes its message to the United Nations

18 March 2024 - A relatively new international drug prevention organization – One Voice, One Message (OVOM) - will have a presence at the United Nations' Commission on Narcotic Drugs mid-term review next week in Vienna, highlighting that many countries are subverting the international Drug Conventions with new drug laws that are either openly in breach of the Conventions, or are softened to create a quasi-legalisation of illicit drugs.

Gary Christian, the Science Director on OVOM's Board, asserts that the United Nations is there to safeguard its overtly codified rights of the child, which seek to guarantee that children be able to live lives unaffected by illicit drug use, but will also be under attack from activists seeking a new right which has never before existed, a 'right' to use illegal drugs.

"The CND next week is going to see the pro-drug lobby further attempting an attrition of the Rights of the Child in favour of drug use, making the United Nations a battleground for conflicting ideologies," said Mr Christian.

OVOM has previously highlighted that countries or states, such as a growing number in the US that have legalised cannabis for recreational purposes, are not only in blatant breach of the international Conventions, but are also sharply increasing use of a drug which in massive population studies between 2021 and 2023 has been confirmed as being causal in 33 cancers (as opposed to just 14 for tobacco), in 70% of paediatric cancer types and in 89 of 95 major birth defects tracked by the European Medicines Agency. Studies further show that it ages users by 30% at 30 years and that the many mutations and DNA damage it causes is carried down epigenetically to three or four following generations.

Gary Christian states that, "Cannabis has now been shown via over 50 peer-reviewed population studies to be a most dangerous medicinal substance, and regulators should therefore be demanding its removal from medicinal schedules throughout the world, just as they would for any other dangerous pharmaceutical drug. It is clearly a drug that should not be used medicinally or recreationally."

OVOM will also highlight that drug decriminalisation, being adopted by more countries and states around the world, always increases drug use as it did in first-adopter Portugal, chiefly because it typically degrades in practice to being little different to the full legalisation of drugs. OVOM promotes prevention and rehabilitation, where all countries around the world that have seriously prioritised them have had significant reductions in drug use.

**Contact: Gary Christian**

**Phone: +61 422 163 141**