

Jamie Bridge
International Drug Policy Consortium



Candidate for:
Chairperson
Vice-chairperson

I have been the VNGOC's Interim Treasurer since March 2017, and have really enjoyed my short time on the Board – working with colleagues and members to update the organisation's Statutes and Rules of Procedure last year. I believe that I can continue to make a positive contribution to the important work of VNGOC, and am therefore applying for the position of Chair this time around. In this role, I would make sure that the VNGOC continues to welcome and fairly represent a broad range of civil society perspectives on all drug-related issues: highlighting the areas in which we agree; nurturing healthy debates and balanced positions where there is less agreement; and ensuring that the views of all VNGOC members are reflected in our common positions.

I have been working in the drugs sector since 2002, delivering harm reduction and treatment at a local drug service in Bedford, England (my home town). From there, I obtained an MSc in Drug Policy from Imperial College, and moved into the policy field with Harm Reduction International in 2006. I then moved to Geneva to work with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for several years, before returning to the UK to join the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) in 2012.

Through my current role as Chief Operating Officer at IDPC, I have gained a lot of valuable experience in networking, organisational management, the UN system (and CND in particular), and diplomacy – all essential skills for the role of VNGOC Chair. I also have previous experience of Board membership – being Secretary of the Harm Reduction International Board for five years, and also a former Chair of the National Needle Exchange Forum in England.

2018 is an important year for the VNGOC as we work alongside NYNGOC and the Civil Society Task Force to ensure the strongest and most diverse civil society engagement that is possible at the 2019 High Level Meeting. Longer-term, I will also strive to further

facilitate the conversations about how best to ensure global representation and the voices of affected populations, continuing VNGOC's track record of bringing civil society voices from all corners of the world to be heard at the UN.

Outside of work, I am 37 years old, a married father of two – with a third due to be born in April – and a Star Wars and Lego fanatic!

I can be contacted at jbridge@idpc.net