

Jamie Bridge
International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)



**Candidate for:
Chair**

I have been a VNGOC Board member since March 2017, and the Chair since March 2018 - a role which I have thoroughly enjoyed, while also helping to ensure a very successful year for the Committee. It has been a very busy period - working closely with NYNGOC and through the Civil Society Task Force (which I have co-chaired throughout the year) to maintain strong engagement throughout the preparations for 2019. But I honestly believe that the civil society engagement here in Vienna has taken huge leaps forward over the past decade.

My motivation for re-nominating as the Chair is to continue this momentum and further strengthen the Committee, the Board and the membership. Furthermore, the coming year is a perfect opportunity to discuss and consult about the future of the NGO committees on drugs - learning from experiences in other sectors and developing something that protects and ensures the representation of NGOs from around the world, from a broad range of perspectives, and from different areas of work. I really look forward to facilitating these important discussions.

I have been working in the drugs sector since 2002, when I joined a local drug treatment service in Bedford, England (my home town). I have a BSc in Psychology and an MSc in Drug Policy. I previously also worked with Harm Reduction International (2006-2010), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (2010-2012), before joining the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

Through my current role as Chief Operating Officer at IDPC, I have gained invaluable experiences in networking, diplomacy and leadership - as well as a thorough understanding of the CND and the wider UN system. I also have previous experience of Board membership, from Harm Reduction International (2011-2015), and the UK National Needle Exchange Forum.

Thank you to all VNGOC members for your support over the past year, and I can be contacted at any time at jbridge@idpc.net.

Phaedon Kaloterakis

World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC)



Candidate for: **Chair**

I have been working in the Addictions Field since 1980. Most of these years I am part of KETHEA (Therapy Center for Dependent Individuals) in Greece, the last 19 in the capacity of the National Assistant Director.

KETHEA is in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

I have the privilege to serve as:

- 2nd Vice President of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC).
- President-elect of the European Federation of

Therapeutic Communities (EFTC).

- Chair of the International Relations Committee and Chair of the Policies and Organizational Perspectives Committee of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC).
- Member of the Board of Directors of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC) for Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Bulgaria.
- Member of the Therapeutic Communities Journal's International Editorial Advisory Group.
- Guest lecturer at the University of California San Diego (Department of Psychiatry), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (School of Law), Democritus University of Thrace (Department of Social Administration) and at the National School of Judges and the National Police Academy in Greece.
- Scientific consultant of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Since 2001, I participated at most CND sessions in Vienna and at the UNGASS 2016 in New York.

I am also actively involved with VNGOC and its functions for the past decade.

On a more personal note, I have studied Philosophy and Psychology in the US and Canada, I am a composer, married and a father of four.

If I have the honor and privilege to be elected, I will do my best to represent our Committee with a strong and united voice, taking into consideration and bringing together ALL different points of view and perspectives.

Rogers Kasirye

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDeL)



Candidate for: Deputy Secretary

As an experienced NGO leader and expert consultant on youth in sub-Saharan Africa, Mr. Kasirye has worked extensively to research, implement programs, and inform policy on pervasive health risks that face the youth population targeted in this proposal. Mr. Kasirye has acted as lead NGO expert for UNODC on drug abuse and trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa; as a national trainer for a UNFPA project on reproductive health, drug abuse, and at-risk youth; and as a contributor to WHO's publication on alcohol use among genders in Uganda. In his role as consultant, he was involved in the planning, implementation, advocacy, and evaluation of programs related to HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse, and child trafficking among street and slum

children in Uganda and East Africa. Furthermore, Mr. Kasirye is a Scientific Advisor to the Mentor Foundation, an organization that facilitates the use of evidence-based programming among NGOs working on substance abuse prevention.

As the Executive Director of UYDEL, Mr. Kasirye has local expertise about, and will facilitate access to, the population with whom the research project will apply. Mr. Kasirye also will use his experience as the chairperson of the East Africa Policy Alliance, an NGO network supported by the Mentor Foundation, to positively engage. Utilizing his past input in research projects, position as an NGO leader, and technical expertise in at-risk youth in sub-Saharan Africa, Mr. Kasirye has the tools and skills to be an effective co-investigator on this project. Is master Global trainer Universal prevention science with Colombo Plan and INL. He also serves as African representative on WFAD and Ph.D candidate on recovery and resilience.

Mr. Kasirye believes in early prevention as a person who has worked in law resource country. He believes in sharing experience and building capacity of others. VNGOC is a good platform for generating knowledge and sharing evidence that can help to improve humanity.

Penelope Hill
Harm Reduction Australia



Candidate for:
Deputy Secretary

I am seeking election to the position of Deputy Secretary with the VNGOC as a representative of the Oceania region. My motivations to join the VNGOC board include: my previous and current successful board experience, the fact that the VNGOC Board has not had a recent representative from the Oceania region, and that I believe that I am capable to competently fulfil the duties of Secretary role.

Through my various experience in the drug policy, community development, public health and research sectors, I am capable of representing the mission and objectives of the VNGOC, and have much experience in advocating for NGO involvement in policy making decisions at the local and national level in Australia. I possess the necessary capacity building skills for the role, through founding and building a national member-based network of university clubs campaigning for sensible drug policy. Through my recent study, I have strong knowledge in the area of the Sustainable Development Goals, which I utilise by creating opportunities for civil society to work with Australian Governments in developing policies towards the achievement of the goals. I am also a current PhD candidate in Australia researching the impact of health service utilisation on opioid overdose.

I am a current active member of three VNGOC organisations and have extensive local, national and international Board experience for a younger person; predominantly with Harm Reduction Australia (Board Member), Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia (as the Founder, Chairperson and International Representative), and the International Drug Policy Consortium (Members Advisory Council). Through my experience in these roles, I am confident that I could successfully support the Secretary, oversee the membership procedures, communicate with membership organisations, and take on the minute taking responsibilities of the Deputy Secretary role of the VNGOC.

Zoran Jelić
Stijena Resoc



Candidate for:
Deputy Treasurer

My name is Zoran Jelić, I am coming from Croatia, from a grassroot organization that works in the area of social reintegration. I am 46 years old, married and have 3 children. I have been working in this field for almost 20 years. Being a board member of VNGOC since elections last year, we have been working on some important issues like: improving communication in our network, looking how to provide more benefits for our members, making sure that voices from organisations with small budget and from south and east can be heard more, and spreading atmosphere of mutual respect

and recognition among our member NGOs. I have this feeling that we are in the middle of this process and that we need to finish the work that we started and that is my primary motive for nomination to be re-elected as a Deputy Treasurer. And speaking of finances, we are standing, very very good. So I would like to dedicate two more years to work on this issues and to see VNGOC meaning more for its members and gaining more in the drug policy arena. Thank you

Asia Almas Ashraf
Sunny Trust



Candidate for:
Deputy Secretary

I, Asia Ashraf from Pakistan hold Masters in Applied Psychology and one-year fellowship in Substance Abuse, Education, Treatment, Policy and Prevention from USA (2015-2016). I am national trainer for the UNODC and ICAP-1 certified. Starting as an intern psychologist (2003), I am now Director Rehabilitation, Sunny Trust, responsible for overall management, program implementation and supervision of rehabilitation services.

I am deeply interested in exclusive needs and access to these services for the female, who remain neglected. We are setting up a

separate female unit, Sakoongah (A house of peace and tranquility), for women with substance use and mental health disorders.

I delivered keynote address at the UN Informal Interactive Stakeholder Consultation preparatory to the UNGASS, held in New York on February 10, 2016. I attended UNGASS session, held from 14-18, April 2016, which gave me an in-depth understanding of overall drug situation in the world, approaches adapted and international drug policy.

As drug abuse fast spreads in this region, treatment services remain highly deficient, and relapse rates very high. To address this gap, I launched a first Recovery Club, providing an open, free, safe and friendly space for persons in recovery to discuss their issues with peers and program staff. They practice life skills and grow in their capacity to solve real-life problems.

I am an energetic, passionate, grass root level worker with 16 years of experience with diverse groups. I represent Asia region, where addiction is a serious problem, getting worse. My practical experience, active participation in UNGASS, close and responsible role in drug policy futures has given me a good insight into drug situation. Through VNGOC board, I can represent my region, which is neglected in drug policy debate. I can better express and share the drug situation and can propose realistic and culturally appropriate solutions for the region and work for balanced drug policy.

Ergin Beceren

Turkish Green Crescent Society



Candidate for:

Deputy Secretary

I am the Foreign Relations Manager of the Green Crescent Society, which is established in 1920, and struggles against tobacco, alcohol, drug, technology, and gambling addictions with its 120 branches and hundreds of thousands of volunteers. Moreover, it pioneered the establishment of 52 independent Country Green Crescents and assembled the International Federation of Green Crescents (IFGC) in 2016 as one of the largest umbrella organization at Global. Also, the Green Crescent is the East Europe and Central Asia Representative of Civil Society Task Force.

Before Green Crescent, I have served for a number of organizations on economic and social cooperation & development. I have been experienced in strategy and operations in global projects by serving multinational organizations in more than 60 countries for the past 15 years.

In recent years, I had a chance to work very close with the international organizations like UNODC, WHO, EMCDDA, OSCE, EMCDDA, the Pompidou Group and the many others that added new capacity to my abilities.

I was fortunated enough to work closely with Vienna NGO Committee, the international NGO's like IOGT, EURAD, Drug Policy Futures, WFAD, IDPC and many others. By all, I learned the importance of prevention, rehabilitation, recovery, and the harm reduction especially what they mean for the community and for the families.

I understand that the fight against addictions cannot be won exclusively with governments, international organizations, and the civil society. The success can be achieved only with the integral collaboration of all parties for the sustainable development.

I want to serve for the Deputy Secretary Role in VNGOC to do my best for the all NGOs, which are dedicated themselves to work for public health and the human honor. I strongly believe that I will add value with my network and experiences in East Europe and Central Asia, South East Asia, Africa in General, Middle East, and the Balkans for the expansion of VNGOC in Global.