



Asia Almas Ashraf

Drug Free America Foundation, <https://www.dfaf.org/>

Supported by:

World Federation Against Drugs

Candidate for:

Secretary

Introduction:

I am Asia Ashraf, a mental health and addiction specialist from Pakistan with over 18 years of experience in drug addiction treatment, rehabilitation and recovery. My professional work includes clinical services, programme development, training, and engagement with policy and systems-level initiatives at both national and international levels. I am a Humphrey Fellow alumna and ICAP-4 certified professional, guided by evidence-based and ethical practice. Over the years, I have actively contributed to civil society, public health, and human rights spaces, supporting inclusive and rights-based approaches to complex social and health challenges.

What makes you a strong candidate for this position?

I served as Secretary to the Board of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs for two consecutive terms, actively participating in board meetings, speaker selection process, and organizing global and regional events, including webinars and panel discussions. I also represented the Committee at international forums, including at WHO conference. During my tenure, I supported outreach in Asia, helping new members join and ensuring stronger regional representation. These experiences allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the board's work and strengthen its global engagement.

Why do you want to join the VNGOC Board, and how do you envision fulfilling this role?

I want to join the VNGOC Board to contribute my experience in addiction treatment, recovery, and civil society work, and to support transparent and inclusive engagement across the Committee. Having served as Secretary for two consecutive terms, I am familiar with the board's processes and the value of fairness, collaboration, and trust. In this role, I aim to support inclusive decision-making, strengthen regional representation, and help ensure that board activities reflect diverse perspectives, while advancing evidence-based work, knowledge sharing, and meaningful international collaboration.

How do you plan to represent the diverse voices, regions, and stakeholders of the VNGOC community?

I plan to represent the diverse voices within the VNGOC community by staying closely connected with members across regions and listening to their experiences and priorities. I will



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actively bring forward perspectives from gender-sensitive and recovery-oriented programs, as well as those working with children, families, and indigenous and marginalized communities. By encouraging balanced participation in board discussions, events, and initiatives, I aim to help ensure that the Committee's work reflects the realities of its members and supports inclusive, rights-based approaches at the global level.

Main areas of work:

Prevention; Treatment; Recovery & Social re-integration; Training and Advocacy;