



Beatrix Vas

Youth RISE, <https://youthrise.org/>

Supported by:

Transform Drug Policy Foundation

Candidate for:

Deput Chairperson and Treasurer

Introduction:

I currently serve as Treasurer of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (since 2022) and as Secretary of the New York NGO Committee on Drugs (since 2021). I have been active in youth-led drug policy reform advocacy since 2019, regularly participating in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in various roles. From my work with Youth RISE and on various youth initiatives, including the Paradigma Coalition, I bring community and youth perspectives into international policy spaces. I am committed to expanding access, transparency and coordination to ensure that those most affected by drug policies can meaningfully engage. My goal is for every member organization to feel represented by the VNGOC, and to feel that participation in the Committee facilitates and strengthens their work at the UN.

What makes you a strong candidate for this position?

On the VNGOC and NYNGOC, I have worked closely on governance, coordination, and member engagement. I have participated in the CND since 2020. I have worked and volunteered in drug policy and harm reduction since 2018, starting as a student. I hold a Master of Public Administration from Central European University, specializing in Security, Development and Communications. My professional experience includes advising legislators in more than 20 countries on topics of decriminalization, harm reduction and legal regulation. I also bring my personal experience with drugs and drug policies and community-based perspectives through my work with youth-led initiatives.

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

I seek another term to strengthen civil society access to drug policy processes at a critical time of change across the UN system. I will continue improving our member engagement in the CND and other high-level fora, with a focus on underrepresented groups, including youth and people with lived or living experience. I will support the Ad-Hoc Youth Working Group and aim to expand its capacity and sustainability as a platform for input, coordination, mentorship and collaboration. I aim to support partnerships with other relevant civil society platforms, to strengthen strategic coordination and provide members with information and opportunities to exchange with UN agencies and member states.

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

I am committed to inclusive representation by proactively engaging community-led organizations - particularly youth, Indigenous people and people with lived and living experience of drug use; as well as organizations from the Global South and from thematic areas that are underrepresented among our membership. I will continue to support fostering dialogue and collaboration among our member organizations, including through the VNGOC Ad-hoc working group, and aim to create space and opportunities for VNGOC members to reflect on and evaluate the performance of the Board. I aim to make sure that each of our members feel represented and feels that belonging to the VNGOC supports their work at the UN.

Main areas of work:

Policy Reform;

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