

## Declaration of support

We support the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) in its endeavour to achieve the 2030 WHO viral hepatitis elimination goals and EASL Policy Statement [on Drug Use and the Global Hepatitis C Elimination Goal](#) recommending that all barriers to the uptake of the healthcare services by people who inject drugs need to be removed by changing policies and discrimination that hinder access, including the criminalisation of minor, nonviolent drug offences and to adopt an approach based on public health promotion, respect for human rights and evidence.

Repressive drug policy is a direct barrier to achieving the goal of HCV elimination because:

- prohibiting the possession of drug paraphernalia hinders harm reduction service delivery and uptake
- many national laws impose severe custodial sentences for minor, non-violent drug offenses, such as drug use and possession
- people who inject drugs are frequently imprisoned or detained, without access to prevention and other harm reduction services, and often forced to interrupt ongoing HCV treatment
- policies that criminalise drug use reinforce stigmatisation and discrimination of by people who inject drugs.

