Here’s What the Future of Harm Reduction Looks Like

A revamped National Harm Reduction Coalition tackles the “racist war on drugs” and advocates for people who use drugs.

September 3, 2020 By Trent Straube

After 25 years of fighting for the dignity and health of people who use drugs, the Harm Reduction Coalition has relaunched its brand, website and name. Now operating as National Harm Reduction Coalition, the group “creates spaces for dialogue and action that help heal the harms caused by racialized drug policies,” in the words of HarmReduction.org.

Harm reduction refers to methods that lower the negative effects of drug use such as overdoses, incarceration, addiction and the transmission of HIV and hepatitis C. Harm reduction policies include, for example, operating syringe exchanges and providing naloxone, a medication that rapidly reverses opioid overdoses.

Have you had a chance to check out our newly redesigned website yet? □ Head over to harmreduction.org to find up-to-date resources for people who do sex work and people who use drugs.

Posted by National Harm Reduction Coalition on Wednesday, September 2, 2020

The opioid epidemic of recent years has shined a light on the life-saving possibilities of harm reduction. It has also brought the work of the National Harm Reduction Coalition to the forefront. As more people across the country have sought to join the coalition’s efforts and to learn about harm reduction, the group wanted to retool its website and image to meet these needs.

Posted by National Harm Reduction Coalition on Tuesday, September 1, 2020

As such, the new website, HarmReduction.org, offers an easier-to-navigate interface that connects people with resources, policies, evidence-based harm reduction strategies and even other advocates (see the Facebook post above). It helps individuals and communities mobilize around harm reduction.

The new design, according to a blog post about the relaunch, embodies the bold, bright and unapologetic vision of the coalition while highlighting real-life advocates and the trust and confidence they inspire.

> What started as a grassroots movement is now bigger than we could have imagined 25 yrs ago.
>
> Meet the new National Harm Reduction Coalition: https://t.co/gyySP0cNtD#HarmReduction pic.twitter.com/rdqEJlgv9O
>
> — National Harm Reduction Coalition (@HarmReduction) September 1, 2020

The group's new look and name are only part of the changes to come. On the horizon are a Spanish language page, a national naloxone finder, an interactive pregnancy toolkit, an online store and more.

Founded 25 years ago as a grassroots movement in Oakland, California, the coalition includes over 40 team members in 15 cities spread across the nation.

You can learn more online by following #HarmRedNow.

In related news from earlier this year, see "How California Will Invest $15.2M in Harm Reduction

and Syringe Services," which details a state initiative led by the National Harm Reduction Coalition.

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