



Reimagining Addressing Drug Use: Centering People In The Context Of Structures

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Rebalancing Individual Responsibility Versus Society's Responsibility to its People

- Lived Experience
- 30 years as a Clinician
- Research
- Teaching
- International Experiences



“Why I Write”...



“Desire to share an **experience** which one feels is **valuable and ought not to be missed.**”

“**Desire to push the world in a certain direction,** to alter other people’s ideas of the kind of society that they should strive after.”

“I write it because **there is some lie that I want to expose,** some fact to which I want to draw attention, and **my initial concern is to get a hearing.**”

Exposing a Moralistic Approach to Addressing Drug Use



- The Value of Critical Consciousness
- Challenging the Dominant Narrative
- The Insidiousness of Stigma

A Pragmatic Approach to Addressing Drug Use

- Is the program/policy having the intended effect?
- Is it cost effective?
- Are there unintended consequences of the program/policy?



Guide Posts for Reimagining a Macro Approach to Drug Use



- Focusing on Population Wellness:
A Public Health Approach
- Centering Human Rights: A Life
Worth Living
- Connection is Healing: Structures
that Fostering Human Connection

Exploring Complicated and Often Over Simplified Topics

- Doing Youth Prevention Differently
- Shifting Law Enforcement Outcomes
- Complications of Involuntary Civil Commitment
- Addressing Fatal Drug Overdoses



A Path and a Process toward a Reimagined Approach to Drug Use

- Bring A Critical Eye
- Adopt A Pragmatic Approach
- Use Guide Posts to A New Approach
 - Public Health
 - Human Rights
 - Connection

