



COPOLAD II Annual Conference  
Women and Drugs policies. Progress and challenges in mainstreaming  
the gender focus and women's empowerment across the board  
Sofia – Bulgaria  
20 June 2018

# **A cross-cutting approach to women's empowerment within the national drug policy**

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# Eastern Republic of Uruguay



## General Information

- **Official name:** Eastern Republic of Uruguay.
- **Geographical location:** South America, bordering Argentina and Brazil
- **Capital:** Montevideo
- **Surface:** 176,215 square km, 95% of the territory is productive soil suitable for agricultural exploitation
- **Population (2018):** 3.4 million
- **Literacy index:** 98.4%
- **Life expectancy at birth:** 77 years
- **form of government:** Democratic Republic with presidential system
- **Political division:** 19 Departments
- **Official language:** Spanish
- **Currency:** Uruguayan Peso (\$)

# Legal framework

## Law 19580

### "Comprehensive law to guarantee women a life free from gender-based violence " 22 Dec 2017

"Uruguay is an example for its radical advancement in laws to ensure Gender equality "

- ❖ Article 1. (object and scope).-This law has the **objective to guarantee the effective enjoyment of women's right to a life free from gender-based violence.**

It comprises women of all ages, transgender women, of the various sexual orientations, socioeconomic status, territorial belonging, belief, cultural and ethnic-racial origin or situation of disability, without distinction or discrimination whatsoever.

Comprehensive mechanisms, measures and policies for prevention, care protection, punishment and reparation are established.

- ❖ The milestones that place Uruguay as a model in Latin America by incorporating femicide are: the Comprehensive law against gender-based violence against women, the Sexual and Reproductive Health Act and the change of the Penal code.

- ❖ <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/19580-2017>

- ❖ **The mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the national strategy of the National Drug Secretariat 2016-2020**, has lines of action aimed at prevention, treatment and insertion, as well as in the policies of institutional communication, **Proposing positive actions** targeted at specific groups to overcome forms of vulnerability and gender inequality in the drugs issue.
- ❖ An "internal mandate" exists in the Confiscated Assets Fund (FBD), which specifies that the budget should be devoted equally to reduce demand and control.
- ❖ Annual calls are made to **JND (FBD) Competitive Funds** Gender and Drugs Funds/ Demand Reduction Funds.

# Affirmative actions in the National Drug Strategy

1. Production of knowledge
2. Communication and dissemination
  - Publications
  - Awareness campaign - Women and Problematic Drug Use
3. Training
4. Articulation and Capacity-building
5. International relations



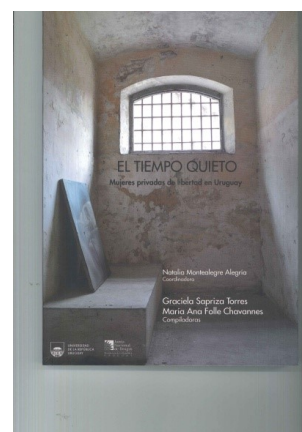
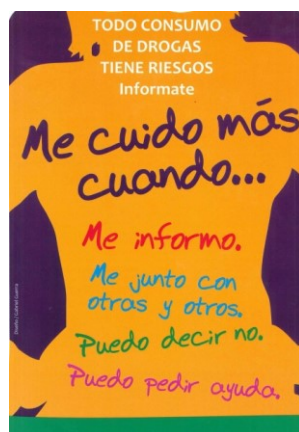
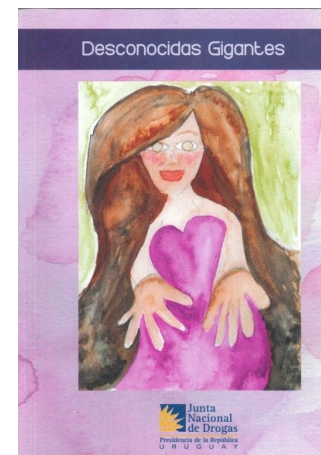
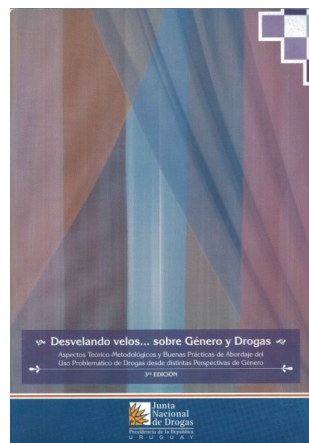
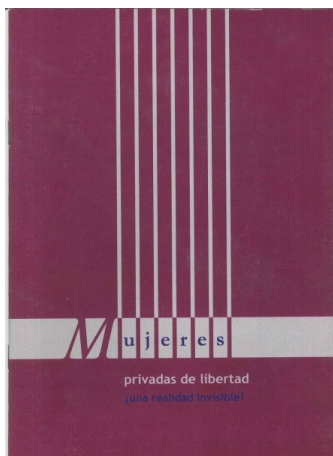
# Production of Knowledge

- Qualitative study: "Analysis of the situation and the peculiarities of 22 women deprived of liberty for crimes related to the sale and/or trafficking of drugs (Micro-traffic)" (Mesa, S 2011 – 2012) .
- Exploratory study "Laying bridges..." Artigas Cestau, Fourcade, 2015), explores between Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and problematic drug users (PDU) care on perceptions, access, barriers, obstacles and training in gender or human trafficking.
- Gender analysis from the study on the problematic consumption of women workers belonging to the EAP (economically active population) (Cestau, I 2018) UDELAR PIT CNT.



# Communication and dissemination

## ❖ Publications and awareness campaign





# Training

- ❖ Training to tackle the drug problem with a gender approach.
- ✓ Two Graduates specialized in Equality and Gender Policies: One dictated by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, FLACSO, Uruguay headquarters.
- ✓ And another, dictated by the Department of Sociology Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of the Republic, in the theses on Gender and Drugs of that education.





## Articulation and capacity-building

- ❖ From the year 2013, trainings and sensibilizations have been carried out for the principal actors at national level on the need for the application of alternative measures to prison for women involved in drug offences, as well as for LGBTBI people.
- ❖ The First Meeting on Micro-traffic, Imprisonment of Women and Gender Perspective.
- ❖ Awareness and training for professionals and technicians of the Judiciary, Attorney General of the Nation and Ombudsmen.



## Capacity-building

- ❖ **The SND** supported the design and implementation of comprehensive treatment units for problem drug users in prison.
- ❖ It advised on the production of materials and trainings in particular to CEFOPEN and female UNIT N°5.
- ❖ It contributed to the elaboration of the base document with a gender perspective, for the implementation of a unit for women drug users and women with children.



## Interinstitutional articulation

- ❖ SND participation in the Inter-agency Commission for the Prevention and Combating of Human Trafficking Division of Gender-based Violence - National Institute of Women
- ❖ Communicational participation with the Inter-institutional Bureau of Women Deprived of Liberty (MMPL), in conjunction with: NGO, M. Interior, MIDES, MEC, IMM; Women's Bicameral Caucus, Parliamentary Commissioner, among other institutions.



## International relations

- ❖ Adaptation of the Guide “Women, drug policies and incarceration” developed by WOLA, IDPC and CIM/OAS for its application in Uruguay as a national protocol.
- ❖ COPOLAD  
Uruguay leads the report/study on gender perspective in drugs policies.  
The report responds to the needs identified in the final document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS, 2016, new York)



# International cooperation agreements

Within the framework of South-South cooperation we have signed 1 agreement with Costa Rica.

**"Strengthening the human rights approach in public drugs policies"**

And soon we will begin to exchange experiences with Argentina in the area of gender and substance use.



# Sustainable Development Goals

The **SDG** strive for the reduction of inequalities and the promotion of gender equality.

"For 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all people, regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic situation or other condition.

Ensure equal opportunities and reduce inequality in results, in particular through the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices and the promotion of appropriate laws, policies and measures. "



# Video

- ❖ What we are going to see next is the product of the work of inter-institutional articulations in the area of equity and social insertion with a focus on gender policies.
- ❖ Access to social policies with a double stigmatization: drug user and poor.
- ❖ Drugs policies should be framed in more general transformations to be effective, this aspect reinforces the dialogue and integration of drug policies into the social protection system, impulsing the deepening of Interinstitutional actions.







# Thanks a lot

Благодаря ви много

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# Thank You Very Much

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