

Press Release

Resolution for a new Drug Policy

GMF Basel, Switzerland. At the occasion of the World Psychedelic Forum 2008 in Basel, Switzerland, the Gaia Media Foundation launched a Resolution, signed by speakers and participants, calling upon the political and legal authorities of the UN to undertake everything in their power to adapt the handling of consciousness expanding substances to the current and newer scientific findings and insights and to social change.

Two years after the international Symposium “LSD – Problem Child and Wonder Drug,” at the occasion of the 100th birthday of Dr. Albert Hofmann, discoverer of LSD, the World Psychedelic Forum took place from 21st to 24th March 2008 in Basel, Switzerland, with some 2’000 participants from 37 countries. Over 80 renowned scientists, drug experts, artists and contemporary witnesses from all over the world lectured and discussed from various perspectives all aspects of psychedelic substances in medicine, psychology, science, religion, culture and the arts, trying to put facts against prejudice about the history, the potential and the effects of these controversial compounds.

Among the undersigned of the Resolution, launched at the occasion of the World Psychedelic Forum 2008 in Basel, are the recently departed chemist Dr. Albert Hofmann and psychiatrist Dr. Stanislav Grof, laureate of the Vaclav Havel Foundation, as well as dozens of noted physicians, scientists, drug experts and hundreds of participants from all over the world. They agreed that

- the current international prohibitionist attitude to psychedelic substances (in particular LSD, Mescaline, Psilocybin) is inappropriate and unnecessary; it ignores new scientific research and the fact that by far the vast majority of users of these substances is able to control possible risk;
- these substances are treated in a simplistic and harmful manner on the same level as Heroin and Cocaine. They are of the opinion that it is high time that the responsible citizen should be the sole judge of what he or she considers dangerous or unreasonable. Regulation should be limited to the protection of juveniles or handicapped and where third parties are put at risk.

The Resolution relates to internationally applied conventions of the UN, and has been sent to the according authorities in Vienna (United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime), Brussels (European Commission, Coordination of anti-drugs policy), Washington (White House Office of National Drug Control Policy), and a number of national authorities within Europe.