

Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade

The subject matter of Bill C-45, An Act respecting cannabis and to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Criminal Code and other Acts, insofar as it relates to Canada's international obligations

Follow up response from Kathy Vandergrift, Chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, who appeared before the committee on March 29, 2018

This message is to provide some additional information regarding the question that arose during the hearing on Thursday: how do UN Human Rights treaties and drug treaties intersect in considering the international aspects of Bill C-45? Canada has ratified the international human rights treaties as well as the drug treaties and is obligated to take both seriously.

There is evidence of growing differences between human rights bodies and the drug control regime. One recommendation for consideration might be that Canada play a constructive role in international efforts to implement a human rights-based approach to the international drug control regime.

There is an International Centre for Human Rights and Drug Policy. It has focused more research on other drugs than marijuana, but there are some general resources: <http://www.hr-dp.org/>

One relevant paper is a publication by the Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme, entitled "*Recalibrating the Regime: the Need for a Human Rights-based Approach to Drug Policy.*" It is available at: <http://www.hr-dp.org/files/2013/09/23/BarrettRecalibratingTheRegime.pdf>.

The source for the discussion by the Committee on the Rights of the Child is included in the text I left with my presentation.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Kathy Vandergrift, Chair
Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children