

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users heads to Geneva, Switzerland this October**

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users – [INHSU 2023](#) – will be held at the International Convention Centre, Geneva, Switzerland, from 17-20 October 2023. Registrations open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Hosted by INHSU – the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users – INHSU 2023 will bring together over 800 people from 50+ countries, working in the fields of harm reduction, infectious diseases, drug policy and more.

“What makes INHSU different is the cross collaboration between different stakeholders dedicated to the health of people who use drugs,” says INHSU executive director Emma Day. “People who use drugs, people living with viral hepatitis, advocates, health care providers, program managers, harm reduction experts, researchers, and policymakers each have an equal voice. This leads to a program that facilitates impactful discussions and invaluable cross-sector learnings. This year, the conference will reflect a truly global outlook with more content from those from low- and middle-income countries than ever before.”

INHSU was founded in Switzerland in 2009, and this year marks the first time the conference has been hosted in the country since then.

Geneva is home to over 40 international organisations and 400 NGOs, including many of the world's major public health organisations. Switzerland itself is recognised for its progressive approach to healthcare for people who use drugs, being one of the first countries to introduce safe injection facilities in response to Platzspitz or ‘Needle Park’, during the 80s and 90s, and one of the first countries to introduce heroin assisted treatment.

“Switzerland is a pioneer in drug policy and Geneva is arguably the home of global public health,” continued Day. “It is the ideal location to come together to exchange knowledge and drive change for one of the world's most stigmatised and under-served communities. We're excited to head back to where INHSU began and welcome our global network to join us.”

Co-conveners of INHSU 2023 include the World Health Organizations’ Dr Niklas Luhmann and Philip Bruggmann from the Arud Centre for Addiction Medicine in Zurich, founder of INHSU, and other key Swiss and international organisations. The program will include over 100+ sessions on subjects including hepatitis C, hepatitis B, HIV, harm reduction, drug policy, social issues impacting the health of people who use drugs, women who use drugs, and more.

Prior to the conference, INHSU will host an invite-only policy day seeking to increase coverage of opioid agonist therapy (OAT) globally, a community day, organised by INHSU's Community Committee of people who use drugs, and a half day workshop hosted by INHSU Prisons – a special interest group dedicated to eliminating hepatitis C in custodial settings.

Tickets for INHSU 2023 will be available from Monday 8 May, with early bird closing on 31 July and standard registration closing late September. Virtual on-demand tickets will also be available. As a membership organisation, additional discounted rates are offered to members.

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