



“Protect our youth” and “Save our children” were popular slogans of the movement to repeal Alcohol Prohibition, as shown in this 1932 photo of a demonstration in Wilmington, Delaware.

What they knew in 1932 is still true today: Prohibition hurts kids.

The War on Drugs has failed to prevent young people from using drugs:

- More than half of U.S. high school seniors have tried an illegal drug, and nearly 90 percent say that illegal drugs are “easy” to obtain — even easier than alcohol!
- Drug use has increased again in the 1990s, with kids using more dangerous drugs at earlier ages than ever before.

Instead, the War on Drugs causes additional harm:

- There are 1.5 million annual drug arrests in the United States — 75 percent for simple possession — a large portion of which are young people. The trauma of incarceration, including the possibility of prison rape, is devastating. Even a simple arrest record can ruin a person’s future.

- Overdose deaths are increasing, largely because young people are too afraid of being arrested to seek emergency medical help.
- Due to the prohibition-inflated cost of illegal drugs, addicts of all ages often resort to prostitution or other crimes to obtain their drug money.
- Nearly 500,000 young people in the United States have one or both parents incarcerated for drug offenses. The drug war is destroying the family unit.

The solution is education, not incarceration:

- Instead of criminalizing users, we need to provide honest, realistic drug education, analogous to the UUA’s sex education curricula. We should also identify the reasons that young people are using drugs and promote healthier, non-drug alternatives.

Unitarian Universalists for Drug Policy Reform (UUDPR) is working for more just, compassionate and effective drug policies.

Please get involved today:

- Visit www.uudpr.org for more information.
- Vote for the drug policy Statement of Conscience, visit UUDPR’s exhibit booth, and attend our workshops at the 2002 General Assembly.
- E-mail CharlesThomas@uudpr.org to subscribe to our electronic newsletter (two to four messages per month).
- E-mail us (or call 301-270-1209) to request literature and speakers for your congregation.
- Order some excellent drug policy books through www.uudpr.org/books.html or call us for an order form.
- Make a financial contribution through www.uudpr.org — or write a check to “UUDPR” and mail it to UUDPR treasurer Frances Burford, 2016 Main #PH3, Houston, TX 77002. (Free books are available to people who contribute at least \$25.)