



StoptheDrugWar.org • P.O. Box 9853 • Washington, DC 20016
+1 202-293-8340 • drcnet@drcnet.org • <https://stopthedrugwar.org>

FOREIGN POLICY INTERNSHIPS

Hours: Flexible, Based on School Requirements or Availability

Supervisor: Executive Director

Location: Washington, DC or remotely

Internship length: February 1, 2018 - April 30, 2018, negotiable (also willing to discuss summer or fall internships)

The Organization

StoptheDrugWar.org works for an end to prohibition (e.g. for some form of "legalization") and the "drug war" in its current form. We want to replace the illicit drug trade and criminalization with a combination of regulation, health and social programs addressing substances' risks and harms.

StoptheDrugWar.org also works on partial reform efforts that are politically feasible in the shorter term. Some we're involved in are sentencing and police reform, advocacy for harm reduction practices such as needle exchange and naloxone distribution, demilitarization of US-driven drug policy in Latin America and other regions (including the US border), availability of substances for medical use, and human rights as affected by drug policies.

We are primarily US-based, but involved not only in US policy but also foreign policy. We are part of the global community of reform-minded NGOs who advocate internationally. We are a "niche" organization, in that we focus our limited budget and staffing on a few programs for which we are able to make a unique or disproportionate impact.

Our Values

- Tolerant
- Pluralistic
- Intellectual
- Open-Minded
- Friendly
- Passionate
- Positive
- Compassionate
- Team Players

The Internships

Foreign Policy Interns will work directly with the Executive Director, and will be involved in our efforts at the United Nations and/or our high-profile campaign to stop the drug war killings in the Philippines.

Our UN program has involved meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, meetings in New York leading up to the 2016 "UN Special Session on the World Drug Problem" (UNGASS), and others. The broad set of issues we and other reform-minded NGOs work on includes human rights, public health, development, security, and access to medicines. Our campaign, which was covered by outlets including WashingtonPost.com, also addressed the conflict between current UN treaty language and moves toward legalization of marijuana or other drugs.

Moving forward, our UN campaign will build on this past work. UN processes with which we will engage include the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2019 High-Level Review of drug policy, and the World Health Organization review of marijuana, among others. Our efforts will have a significant emphasis on coalition-building and organizing with NGOs and others around the world. Visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/global> to learn more about this program.

Our Philippines-related work has been very high-profile at times. At the Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting in Vienna in March 2017, we organized a side event, "Human Rights Challenge: Responding to Extrajudicial Killings in the Drug War," which catalyzed a major political incident in the Philippines after Vice President Leni Robredo sent us a speech by video, for which she was attacked politically, and which led to a drive for her impeachment.

Our work on the issue has continued since then, including organizing a sign-on statement coinciding with the November 2017 ASEAN Summit, which was held in Manila. Currently we are working with a range of organizations including Filipino and Filipino American networks to pass legislation calling for human rights conditions on some US aid to the Philippines and funding public health alternatives to the drug war. There are other projects that we are not at liberty to discuss publicly yet. Visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/philippines> to learn more about this program.

Responsibilities

- Tracking news on the Philippines related to the drug war as well as broader democracy issues.
- Tracking UN events and opportunities.
- Researching and compiling facts and statistics on extrajudicial killings in the Philippine drug war, in Indonesia where that has begun to spread, and other aspects of drug policy and the drug situation in the region.
- Compiling lists of organizations, legislators, media outlets, Hill staff and others; assisting with contacts to them.
- Assisting with the drafting of statements, and the accompanying preparation of references.
- Assist with preparing content for our web site on both these campaigns.
- Attending meetings with partner groups.
- Assisting with the organizing of conference calls, and prepare notes for distribution to partners.
- Maintaining our coalition spreadsheet.
- Helping organize a possible demonstration during the semester.
- Other tasks as they come up.

Job Requirements:

- Strong writing and research skills.
- Ability to interact effectively with people, from activists to reporters to legislative staff and others.
- Strong attention to detail.
- The applicant must use their own computer and telephone.

Work Arrangements

- Our practice is to work with interns to find specific tasks and projects that fit their goals and interests, while being helpful to us. We want people to be engaged in their work with us and to find it useful for them.
- StoptheDrugWar.org has not rented our own office since 2011, but we have use of space rented by a partner group, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP). When not there, we typically meet at local coffee shops.
- Interns and the Executive Director will meet at least once per week (normally in person, when necessary by phone or videoconference) to go over work and plans. In addition to directly work-related discussions, these meetings will also provide time for the mutual sharing of insights and knowledge and experience.
- Interns are encouraged to attend coalition and working group meetings that take place in Washington on a variety of drug policy and criminal justice issues, as well as think thank forums related to the issue.
- Unfortunately we are not funded to provide financial compensation for internships this semester. We hope that will change in the future.

Contact

- David Borden, Executive Director, borden@drcnet.org, (202) 236-8620.