

**Look  
for the real  
"substance"**

**Say no  
to all  
drugs**

**Committee of the Central Council  
of KNE Against Drugs**

**KNE** 

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Translation under the responsibility  
of the International Relations Committee of the CC of KNE

...you know living  
is the most real,  
the most beautiful thing...

*Nazim Hikmet*

*Happiness, sadness, fear, love, anger, hope...*

**We want a clear mind** to be able to feel beautiful things, to live and learn, to be taught from life itself and whatever life has in store for us, even from its difficulties, to keep on going...

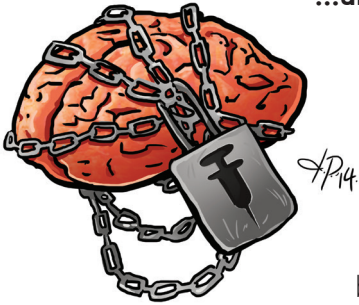
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**We want clear thought** to be able to seek the truth, to look the world and life straight in the eye, to experience happiness as powerfully as we can and to confront the obstacles we find before us in a decisive way...

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The thrilling moments and the real emotions are found in life itself. In our will and power to create a truly free world, a world full of hope!

## Narcotic Substances are a suppression of the mind...



### ...and they have a double target!

They are being used to intoxicate the mind, to marginalize a section of youth who use drugs. As long as someone witnesses reality with his mind "in a daze", he can't find the reasons and the ways to change reality. .

Drugs are being utilised so young people can become used to them and submit themselves to what drugs represent: a passive attitude towards every personal or collective problem, social alienation, lack of expectations from the people around them and from their life.

A compromise with drugs is a compromise with the causes that lead to use and addiction, the causes that are deeply bound up with the rotten exploitative system, capitalism.

## We say no to all drugs!

Our goal is the life that we deserve! We don't shoot our life; we don't want our mind to be intoxicated. We want free thinking and conscious action!



"In fact, I got into this whole thing mainly with my friends. They were trying it so I said I would try too. I was thinking that, OK, it's just a cigarette, so instead of drinking a beer I would smoke this and get high. We started needing something else, something stronger. This whole situation made me cut myself off from my friends and all of my social gatherings were centred around this. Even without daily use, our mind and fun was based on it".

Former male drug user



**N**ot all young people who try drugs are led to addiction. Personality, living conditions, the person's social environment, easy or difficult access to substances, their experiences, all these factors play an important role as to whether the experimentation will turn into occasional use, then into a more regular use and eventually to addiction. However, all addicts started doing drugs after initial experimentation.

Addiction starts occurring from the moment somebody seeks, wants a substance intensely. The addict gradually loses interest in life, in those activities and relationships which used to fulfil him in the past. His whole life begins to revolve around the substance.

## What if somebody does drugs only once in a while?

Drug use, even occasional use, shapes one's way of thinking and lifestyle. The drug user connects the substance with moments of his life that will constantly reoccur (relaxation, problem management, entertainment etc.). Therefore, drug use or at least the desire to use drugs, especially if one has access, reoccurs along with these moments. So, no one can ever say that "I have it under control".

Moreover, the human organism gets used to drugs due to their effect, and in time it may be necessary to increase the dose to get the same effect (tolerance effect), while the user often seeks a different substance to experience something "new".

Besides, there are many cases when even one-time drug use had a fatal outcome for the user e.g.: car accident, self-destructive behaviour etc.

## Did drugs always exist?

Man discovered by chance that some plants contained drugs as a natural “protection” mechanism against animals.

In ancient times, drug use within the whole community was very limited and only for coming-of-age ceremonies, tribal initiation rituals etc., it was part of societal customs. On such occasions, drug use had the character of initiation into a social cause, aiming to create an unforgettable moment that would never return in the course of a person's life. Drug use was forbidden at any other time.

On a more regular basis, drug use did not concern the whole tribe, only the spiritual leaders e.g.: oracles, priests etc., who believed that drugs would give them more abilities. This reveals the immaturity of society's collective thought at that time, since on the one hand, it didn't know anything about drug effects and on the other, it didn't have the knowledge to explain a number of phenomena, such as rain, earthquakes etc., and they attributed supernatural and divine qualities to everything. Therefore, it was reasonable to regard man as someone who can acquire “godlike” characteristics thanks to one simple substance that creates side-effects.

### Drug use in ancient times has nothing to do with drug use in today's society

Today, by doing drugs, a young person tries to experience feeling he believes his social relationships do not offer him. He tries to escape from a reality he can't stand, not to integrate into it.

Even when he is with a group of people, all of whom are drug users, he still isolates himself. Contact, interaction, does not unite this group of people. The substance keeps them apart. Everyone closes into himself and whatever he is feeling at that moment. Social ties are cut instead of being strengthened.

.....

*"Day after day I felt like I was sinking into a swamp. I was feeling so lonely, that even if I was in a place with ten people, it was like I was alone. I had no friends; I only had some people with whom we were sitting around. Everyone was in his own world. There were times when we wouldn't even speak at all and the time just went by like that".*

Former female drug user

## When did drugs first spread?

In the 19th century, in the period of the industrial revolution, i.e. during the development of capitalism, the first huge industrial plants made their appearance and the competition between capitalists of that era began. The living conditions of the newly created proletarian strata were dramatic.

At that time, mass production of drugs and addiction to them emerged. The development of industry and the development of science (e.g.: chemistry) contributed to the mass production of drugs. Bosses supplied workers with drugs -as stimulants- so they could endure the conditions of an 18-hour workday and avoid feeling the hunger. Mothers would give their babies laudanum (opium) to put them to sleep while they worked long hours at the factories.

### The pharmaceutical industries' hunt for profit led to the production of new drugs:

- Cocaine was produced in 1859, and its medical use was as a stimulant. At the same time it was used in daily use products (wines, beverages) to make them more attractive and competitive.
- Bayer AG produced heroin in 1898, to fight off morphine addiction. It was advertised and widely used as a medicine.



## Did you know that



- The "Opium Wars" were waged between England and China from 1839 to 1860 for the control of the drug markets?
- During the period of the American Civil War (1861-1865) more than 400,000 soldiers got addicted to morphine because they were using it to withstand the war conditions? This phenomenon was named "the Soldier's disease". The same phenomenon was later observed again during World War I, in World War II due to petrin use by the 3rd Reich, but also during our times in the imperialist wars in the Middle East, through the use of the so-called "Jihadist" Pills (Captagon).

## Capitalism, the system that...

...is based on the exploitation of man by man.

...distributes poverty, unemployment, insecurity about the present and the future to us and our families and ensures a lavish life for only a few people.

...gives rise to the injustice we experience and see around us, to the wars that slaughter people for the exploiters' interests and are caused by their conflicts.

...nourishes fascism and the "poison" of racism.

...destroys our rights and needs for culture, sports, life as a whole.

...has turned learning into a commodity and education into an expensive race starting from home, going to school and then to private tutoring classes, without having any essential free time, only for a minimum and only if our parents can afford it.

## ...it is the same system that promotes the drug culture and hands out drugs lavishly

- Profits from the international drug trade every year are over 570 billion dollars.
- By 2016, more than 620 new psychoactive substances were detected in Europe (UN<sup>1</sup>, 2017).
- In 2017, the extent of Afghanistan's illegal opiate economy exceeded the country's legal export in goods and services (UN, 2018).



“...the drug problem is affected by socioeconomic factors such as poverty, hunger, economic inequality, social exclusion, deprivation, migration and displacement, limited access to education and employment prospects, and exposure to violence and abuse. Those factors are important drivers of the drug problem...”

INCB 2015 Report



**1/2**

of drug users are unemployed



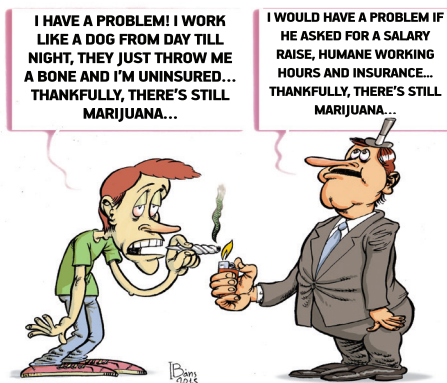
**1/3**

of drug addicts dropped out of school at the age of 15.

Source: KETHEA Report, 2017

## Drugs translate into double profit for capitalists

- Untold amounts in their pockets, whether drugs are dealt illegally or legally by their companies and states.
- Manipulation and prevention of peoples' resistance when conditions require an uprising!



## Check it out...

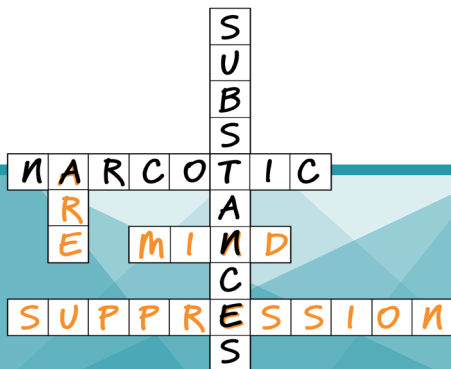


- In the Netherlands, the decriminalization of cannabis was voted in during a period of mass anti-war demonstrations in the 1970s.
- In 2002 in Portugal cannabis was decriminalized when the first signs of the capitalist crisis started to become more apparent with the rise of unemployment at younger ages!
- Soldiers in Vietnam used heroin and hashish to endure the conditions of war. At the same period, demonstrations against the war back in the USA turned into the "Hippie movement" also due to the promotion of marijuana.

## Did you know that

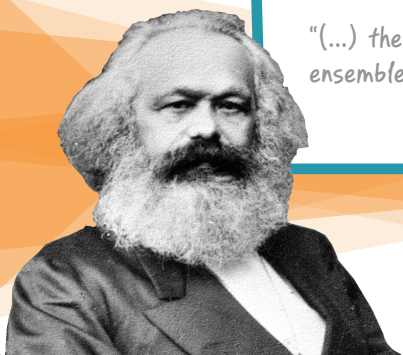


- In the Afghanistan War in 2001, the only areas that NATO didn't bomb were the ones with the opium plantations? After 7 years of American occupation, the country's production increased by 4,511%! Today, Afghanistan is the first country in the world in terms of heroin production.
- In Argentina during the period of the capitalist crisis of 2001, a very cheap drug called "paco", also known as the "poor man's" drug of extermination, appeared in the drug plazas. It contained ingredients ranging from battery liquids to rat poison. The situation got so out of hand that the Director of Buenos Aires Social Assistance against Addictions (Valdo Ferrari) cynically stated: *"We have no doubt that a whole generation needed to be exterminated. This concerns a generation of adolescents and young people that would have no work, no position in schools and universities, no chance of integrating in society in the normal way that the generations find their way in. Furthermore, they wouldn't have to be present as to fight for their rights against these political powers".*
- A similar situation occurred in Greece at the beginning of the capitalist crisis with the drug "sisá", which became known with the name "the poor man's cocaine". Due to its low price, its use increased at a great pace, while at the same time the age of its users continuously dropped.



## Addiction as a social phenomenon has its root in the capitalist system itself

**M**an is a social being; he cannot survive if he does not function within a society. Everything man has ever created was with his own labour. Man uses his activity and labour to connect with nature, to process and shape it so that he can satisfy his needs and evolve. Without the catalytic action of labour, man could never have risen above animals and stand out as the only natural being that has a conscience.

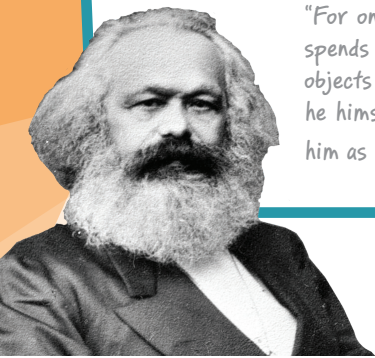


*"(...) the human essence (...) is the ensemble of the social relations."*

**K. Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"**

Man, though, neither works nor produces in isolation. The production process creates relations not only between the individual person and nature but also between people themselves. The social character of labour contributes to that. The activity and relations developed by man and the rest of society's members are the determining factors for the development of the human personality.

However, in capitalist society, man's labour is not used for the direct satisfaction of social needs. Working people, and more so unemployed people, lose their sense of contributing to society; they do not feel they belong to a community. Even basic goods, e.g.: housing, healthcare etc., are turned into commodities. Everything is for sale and everything is bought, as long as it is profitable to capitalists.



*"For on this premise it is clear that the more the worker spends himself, the more powerful becomes the alien world of objects which he creates over and against himself, the poorer he himself – his inner world – becomes, the less belongs to him as his own."*

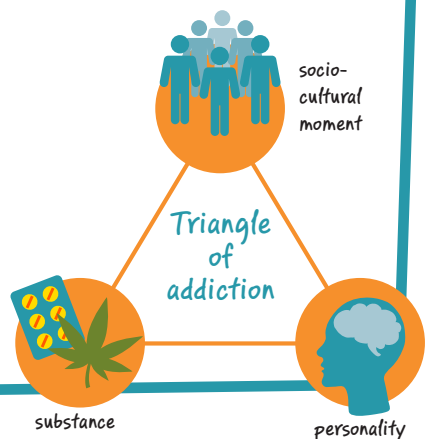
Karl Marx, Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844

Working people are the ones who work and produce everything, yet they own nothing. Everyone is trying to meet his needs individually through commodities, which he often can't afford. And, while working people are those who shape reality, in the end they do not completely connect with it. A commodity is needed to mediate. As long as one's relation to reality weakens, it is easy for something else to substitute for it.

The exploitative relations of capitalist society lead man to perceive that his personal interest is disconnected from his social interest and to act against others in a competitive way. Exploitation of man by man is transferred to interpersonal relationships that become even more individualistic.

## Drug addiction is a complex social phenomenon

It is determined by many factors (historical, social, economic, psychological etc.). So it is a multi-factored phenomenon that has its roots in capitalist society.



## Today's **socio-cultural moment** is capitalist society. In capitalist society...

- Exploitation of man by man is its base.
- Production's motor force is profit while labour has lost the content of social contribution.
- Sports and entertainment become very expensive commodities and are substituted by simple forms of venting.
- Education separates school-students into good and bad ones, promotes "rote-learning instead of true knowledge.
- Values of collectivity are replaced by "your death, my life", while we pretty much keep to ourselves.
- The family loses its bonds due to the lack of free quality time and non-existence of organization in the lives of its members.

Society shapes some vulnerable and weak personalities, without a room for freedom, who feel loneliness, emptiness, insecurity, and their dreams are crushed by the non-existence of choices.

**The system itself produces, advertises and generously offers narcotic substances.**

## Addiction is not some kind of disease or a personal problem

Nobody is born an addict, nor does he cause addiction to himself. Addiction is a social phenomenon and expresses contemporary man's overwhelming frustration, emerging from the fact of being forced to live under conditions of social and cultural degradation, a frustration expressed in a self-destructive way. If a young person's mental pain and anger about social injustice do not find a way to be expressed "on the outside" against the capitalist system, this pain will be inflicted upon himself. It's society that oppresses young people, that pushes them towards the use of substances. Drug addiction is an extreme form of alienation because man loses his very essence as a social being.

## And what about the ones who started because of their group of friends or to “show off”?

Curiosity, copying behaviour, showing off can lead someone to try substances, but they do not explain why someone keeps on doing drugs or why he ends up being addicted.

Curiosity is limited to a single experimentation. Besides, curiosity means that I have a little social experience, I have already heard a few things and I try to discover if they are true. Usually, the first thing a young person hears about drugs is how “he’ll get high”, how “he’ll get stoned” etc.

Copying behaviour and showing off mean that I want to identify myself with a different role, because I don’t like myself, my life as it is now. As long as a young person has an essential need to belong to a group and this need is drowned by relationships dominated by individual interest, then his need to stand out in every way, by any means and at all costs, strengthens.

.....

*“At first I did it to “show off””, to seem more sophisticated, more comfortable, that I wasn’t afraid of getting caught, that I didn’t care if my parents knew etc. I started hanging out with different people. It had been a long time since I started rolling and I became that “tough guy” but I still kept going on. Then, I found out that something else was wrong with me. I was missing something; I was looking for something. And the more I was rolling, the more I couldn’t find it.”*

Former male drug user

## The cause of both drug use and addiction is “escapism”

A drug user tries to escape from real space and time, he closes his eyes to everything that weighs him down and he creates situations that do not exist for real so he can endure reality.

Through drugs, he seeks a “magical power”, which will give him the illusion of supremacy, communication, filling the void of inner emptiness; something that will reduce fear, meaninglessness, insecurity, something that will get him a place in a marginal group at least. So he can feel he is “someone”, since capitalism deprives him of his social role while leading him to a pointless personal search.

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*“You start using drugs because you think you will become something more than what you are. Because you think you will feel something special, something that will make you stand out from others and that will make you feel complete. You desperately hunt for something else outside of your own self, that you eventually forget the person you are”.*

Former male drug user

## Are drugs a form of resistance?

Everything that oppresses a young person today is the creation of capitalism. As long as someone considers this system and the relations it forms amongst people to be eternal, with no way out, he thinks that every society means oppression. A young person ends up believing he will be free when he is not bound by any social rule, when he can distance himself from a reality that means nothing to him.

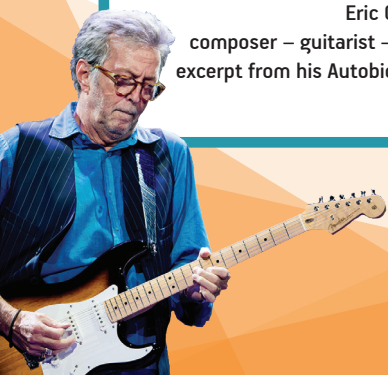
Therefore, drug use seems like an act of resistance against a dead end and meaninglessness. But in fact, through addiction, the young person ends up being more alone and weaker than before. He does not solve any problem, on the contrary he makes his life more difficult and destroys himself.

### Capitalism advertises drug use

Capitalism uses every means at its disposal to present drugs as something that “liberates” and “entertains”, something that “causes no damage”. For years, capitalism has been utilizing the unscientific distinction between “hard and soft” drugs, exonerating cannabis and other substances. It aims to develop personalities who accept drug use, but they also adopt it as an attitude towards life. Extravagant campaigns, networks and mechanisms promote how beneficial drugs are for our health and for the free development of our personality.

Drugs were the beginning of the end for the band. We couldn't do anything. We couldn't work. We couldn't agree. We were paralyzed, and this led to hostility growing among us. We attempted to make another album, but it just fell to pieces.

**Eric Clapton,**  
composer – guitarist – singer,  
excerpt from his Autobiography



“I didn't do drug to increase my performance during the game, but only to destroy everything! I couldn't even move during the game because during the week I wasn't able to train.”

**Diego Maradona,**  
world-class football  
player



## Substance use shapes an attitude towards life

It represents a way of living with personal escape from reality as the main element. It represents a passive, fatalistic attitude towards life.

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*"Use makes you living a dulled existence, with no interests, no worries, no critical thinking".*

Former male drug user

## There are no "hard" and "soft" drugs!

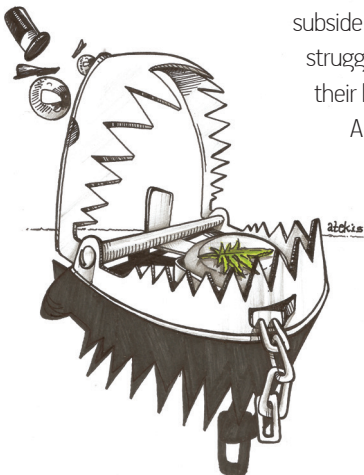
There are no "hard" and "soft" causes that can lead someone to drug use. No matter what substance someone chooses, the goal is to avoid feeling the real dimensions of despair, loneliness, emptiness and insecurity. There are no "hard" and "soft" effects of substance use. Every narcotic substance, regardless of the way it acts on the human body, is used to mediate in the relationships between man and everyone around him, to transform the reality one experiences, at least temporarily.

Drugs are not dangerous just because they harm the body and health. Man is not just a set of cells! Drugs are dangerous because they alter consciousness, which is necessary so every man can function in society. They are dangerous because they initially provoke social and mental death through withdrawal, alteration of human relations, and eventually a young person's submission to something beyond his powers.

Some substances create physical withdrawal syndromes, but every drug imprisons the drug user either by creating psychological addiction or by acting as a substitute for the person's satisfaction of essential needs that are not being met. The issue of substance addiction is not just about its effect on the human body, but also about what it represents to the drug user.

This is why rehab may last for years, whereas physical symptoms can subside in only 10-15 days. This is why there are cases of people struggling with rehab, but relapse to drug use, despite the fact that their body is clean of substances.

A number of addictions, e.g.: internet, gambling etc., prove that addiction is not caused by some chemical substance but by a person's positive expectations based on the repetition of a behaviour that rewards him back e.g.: making unpleasant feelings go away, a feeling of euphoria or excellence, of achievements, of venting feelings, etc.





## Is hashish harmless?

Absolutely not! Hashish is a drug with serious psychological and physical effects on man. The main psychoactive ingredient of cannabis is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

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*"...it distorts perception, affects attention, judgment, the ability to drive and control machinery, short-term memory, learning and educational performance. It has been connected to relationship problems, unemployment and a lack of satisfaction in life. Its use affects the lungs more than cigarettes and in some cases it has been related to serious psychiatric disorders, like psychotic episodes, schizophrenia and depression... The earlier one starts using cannabis, the worse its results become in terms of mental health and cognitive development..."*

Scientific intervention of KETHEA about cannabis, 7/5/2015



- From 2004 to 2011, an increase of 62% of emergencies related to cannabis use was recorded (UMHRI<sup>2</sup>, 2015).

For the majority of drug users, cannabis was the first step towards trying other substances. The young person, who seeks cannabis, gets in touch more easily with people who do other drugs, thus his access to them becomes easier.

- 90% of drug users started doing drugs through cannabis (KETHEA Report, 2018).
- 72% of drug users do parallel use of different substances, while hashish is the common substance at a percent of 68% (EMCDDA<sup>3</sup>, 2015).

"Those who initiated cannabis use at a younger age had a decline of 8 IQ units when they reached 38 years, whereas those who never used cannabis had an increase of a unit when they reached the same age."

**Madeline H. Meier et. al** "Persistent cannabis users show neuropsychological decline from childhood to midlife", PNAS October 2, 2012. 109 (40) 15980

"A 10 year follow-up study on a sample of individuals aged from 14 to 24 showed that incident cannabis use during the adolescence significantly increased the risk of incident psychotic experience in adulthood."

**Rebecca Kuepper et. al.** "Continued cannabis use and risk of incidence and persistence of psychotic symptoms:

## Cannabis is an addictive drug!

It creates the need for an increasingly higher dose to achieve the same result. Moreover, since THC remains in the human body for up to 2 weeks, the effect of the next joints, even in small doses, is more intense (reverse tolerance effect). It creates withdrawal symptoms such as anxiety, overstimulation, irritability, insomnia, appetite disorder, sleeping disorders, nausea and a depressive mood for 48 hours after the last use and they last for 2-6 days (Haney et. al, 1999). Psychological dependence to hashish has often been more intense in comparison with other substances, because it is not connected to death-related fears thus the drug user thinks "he can stop using whenever he wants".

### Check it out...



- In Greece, only 20% of the school-students that try cannabis don't move past simple experimentation for 1 to 2 times. (UMHRI, 2015)
- 80% of young people under 20 years old that first come in contact with a treatment program ask for treatment from cannabis addiction, while 1/6 adolescents that use cannabis, become addicted to it. (UN, 2016).
- Cannabis is the most often reported drug substance by those that begin drug treatment for the first time in their lives. (KETHEA Report, 2017).
- The treatment demand indicator<sup>4</sup> (TDI) in the EU has increased by 77% over the last decade. (EMCDDA, 2017).
- Cannabis is the basic substance used in a percentage of 36%. (KETHEA Report, 2018)

## What about “medical cannabis”?

There are no distinct strains of cannabis with medical proprieties. When referring to “medical cannabis”, what they really refer to is the plant “cannabis sativa” that contains psychoactive substances and is used to make hashish. The law which passed in the Greek parliament in 2018 on the production of “finished medicinal cannabis products” does not mention specific plant substances, which have been distinguished by scientific research. This way it becomes possible for cannabis and all its products to be considered as “medicine”.

While cannabis is presented as the “medicine” that does everything but resurrect the dead, the scientific community does not consider the research as of today sufficient enough, nor does it verify the existence of therapeutic properties in any of its ingredients. This is why cannabis is not recommended as the first treatment option for any disease!

“...there is no unique list of pathologies that can be treated with cannabis-based drugs...”

**European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)**

“...The criteria for substances [...] are no currently accepted medical use in the United States, high potential for abuse, and lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision...”

**United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)**

“...In no case the prescription (editor’s note: of cannabis) can be a first-choice treatment. It can only be considered in cases where the use of approved and established medicines was deemed as non-feasible, or/and non-tolerable or/and non-effective for the particular patient. For safety reasons it is recommended to use the minimum effective dosage, and for the minimum possible period of time...”

**Greece’s National Organisation of Medicines**


In fact, even if at some point in the future it is proven that any of cannabis’ ingredients can be utilized for medical purposes, this factor alone cannot lead someone to claim that the cannabis plant is “medicinal”. Scientists are able to isolate this ingredient and to package medicinal products after the requisite scientific tests and this medicine could be administered with appropriate medical supervision. Laws allowing such research have existed for many years. A number of psychoactive substances like opioids, barbiturates, amphetamines, etc. contain some ingredients that are already used in medicine. Nevertheless, nobody claims that there is “medical heroin” or opium. Nobody claims that heroin, in general, is beneficial the same way as they try to convince us that cannabis is!

It is hypocritical when they say they care for our health, while at the same time eradicated diseases like measles are re-emerging, the hospitals are being destroyed and medicines and health prevention screenings are getting more and more expensive. They exploit the pain and anxiety of thousands of patients with serious chronic diseases, who have to face the huge shortages in the Healthcare system, and all the above for the benefit of the multinational companies! They are taking us back to the Middle Ages when they claim that “anyone can tell what kind of medicine they need for their own treatment by themselves” while scientific progress is tossed into the garbage!

## **“Medical Cannabis”: profits for capitalists, immeasurable costs for the youth**

- In the U.S., those states that have legalized programs allowing medical use of cannabis, this substance is directed towards illegal trade (UN, 2015).
- In the USA, among students that have used cannabis, 1/3 of them got it through a medical prescription prescribed to someone else (UN, 2015).
- Research shows an increase of cannabis use and an emergence of disorders caused by this substance’s use in U.S. regions where “medical” cannabis programs are in effect (UN, 2017).
- The programs for medical use of cannabis, which are not governed by a sufficient regulatory framework, increase the danger of directing the use of cannabis for non-medical purposes, since cannabis becomes widely available, sometimes at a lower price than the strong form of cannabis (UN, 2018).

At the same time, a number of necessary yet expensive scientific procedures required for pharmaceutical preparation production are being omitted. However at the discussion in the Greek Parliament over the voting of the law for cannabis A. Xanthos, former Minister of Health of the SYRIZA government, stated: Medical Cannabis “...is a huge and emerging market internationally with a tremendous investment interest”. This proposal was also supported in principle by New Democracy (ND), despite the disagreements over certain parts of the bill. The fast-track voting of the law was not justified by scientific data, but by the needs of the monopolies for more profits!




The companies and private clinics that monopolize nowadays the production and distribution of cannabis are of the most profitable on the New York stock market



The worldwide market of so called “medical” cannabis reached 11.4 billion dollars in 2015 and is expected to reach 55.8 billion dollars in 2025.

20



In Europe only, cannabis represents the largest share (38%) of the illicit substance retail market, with an estimated worth of 12.9 billion euros per year.

Nowadays in Greece hundreds of companies are allowed to sell cannabis products, from supermarkets to vending machines. Some of them even provide instructions for the best euphoric result! While at the same time there is pressure to increase the THC content in those formulations!

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*"Factors like availability, accessibility and social acceptance of a substance increase its consumption"*

Scientific intervention of KETHEA about cannabis, 7/5/2015

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## **They foster a compromise with cannabis use!**

Cannabis is exonerated by them, aiming at its complete legalization! Besides, in countries that initially legalized medical use of cannabis, e.g. Canada, the next step was its deregulation for "recreational" use! It is not a coincidence that at the time of the voting of the law for "medical" cannabis, the parties standing in favour of the legalization of drugs (SYRIZA, KINAL, POTAMI) opened the discussion for legalization of all cannabis uses, promoting their views in meetings, seminars and interviews of their MPs.

This opinion is also expressed by ND leaders like Kostas Mpakogiannis. Besides, ND was in charge of the Municipality of Athens and allowed the first "drug festival" to be held in 2005, and as a government has encouraged the distinction of drugs as "soft" and "hard", and decreased the penalties for cannabis cultivation.

This is exactly what they are trying to do when they constantly promote cannabis as an alternative raw material. They aim to decrease the reflexes of the youth, and to make us forget what cannabis really is!

"Medical" cannabis programs that are governed by a bad regulatory framework and the resulting perception of the limited danger of the substance, may have contributed to the legalization of non-medical use of cannabis in some countries. (UN, 2018)

## They tell us that...

### ... "Everyone is free to do whatever they want to themselves"

In order for a person to be free and make decisions, society must offer them alternative choices. Under capitalism the dreams and the freedom of the young people get crushed by unemployment, endless job seeking, starvation wages, wars. Exploitation, submission and competition are presented as the only truth; and since capitalism first and foremost deprives us of any essential freedom, any right, then it presents drug use as "freedom of choice"!

Freedom does not mean that I am not bound by any need, rule and objective. It is not an imaginary independence from nature's and society's laws. Nobody lives isolated, independent from other human beings so that they cannot be influenced by his attitude. No one is "extra" in society, so that he can withdraw without causing problems to society and to himself.

Freedom of will is the ability of man to predict, to judge, to make decisions based on his knowledge of reality. A completely free man is a man belonging to the community and who is able to change social reality with his actions, in a planned and coordinated way with other people, according to their needs. He is a man that has equal relations with those around him, able to communicate, to share and create.



### Substance use is slavery!

Because a young person can see neither himself clearly, nor reality! Addiction as a lifestyle means loss of every freedom, even the sense of its search. It means subjugation to the substance.

## They tell us that...



### ... "If drugs become legalized, their use will decrease"

The examples of countries that have already done so, speak for themselves!



#### THE NETHERLANDS:

- Starting from its decriminalization and until 2011, an increase in use of all narcotic substances by 44% and cannabis by 250% was observed, with 30% of the Dutch people using hashish on a daily basis. (Eurobarometer<sup>5</sup>, 2011)
- More than 500,000 young people use synthetic pills every day. (ESPAD<sup>6</sup>, 2015)
- The Netherlands has played a crucial role in the production and distribution of MDMA (ecstasy) and amphetamines. (U.N., 2017)
- The treatment demand indicator (TDI) for cannabis increased by 88% from 2006 to 2016. (EMCDDA, 2018)



#### IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES:

- Increase of use and addiction is noted in all countries that have proceeded to partial or full legalization, like Portugal, the Czech Republic, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain. (INCB<sup>7</sup>, 2015)
- In the EU, despite decriminalization policies, for a third consecutive year deaths from heroin overdose have increased. (U.N., 2017)
- In Europe, 17.1 million school-students have used cannabis. More than 93 million people have experimented with illegal drugs at least once in their life. (UN, 2017)

.....

It is the capitalist system itself that gives birth to exploitation, unemployment, school drop-out, social-class exclusion, economic and cultural poverty, lack of freedom and meaninglessness. These are the causes that can lead someone to drug use. Legalization not only does not touch on the causes, but on the contrary, it ensures wider availability, easier access and social acceptance. In other words, more factors for use to increase!



**They tell us that...**

... **"Legalization hits drug traffickers"**

The illegal drug trade is tied to the capitalist economy. This market is linked with networks of brokerage, tax consultancy, and legal firms, as well as organized crime mechanisms. While the trade in guns, alcohol, cigarettes may be legal, the big profits come from the illegal market. It has been historically proven that when the profits of the traffickers decreased after the legalization of a substance, they launch a new substance on the market, like in the case of methamphetamine that was promoted after the legalization of cocaine.

- Amsterdam is currently the centre of international drug trade and among the cities with the highest crime rate in the world. Legalization didn't limit the illegal trade. On the contrary, 69% of the cases brought to court concern drug trade and trafficking (INCB, 2011).
- Despite the legalization of drugs in many countries of the EU, the EU remains the main avenue for illegal substance trafficking (UN, 2016), and shows the highest profit rates from drug trade internationally (UN, 2017).
- Every week one new substance appears in the drug plazas of Europe (EMCCDA, 2018).



**They tell us that...**

... **"Legalization can bring money to the state!"**

The bourgeois parties claim that drug legalization will bring financial benefits, boosting the economy, providing job openings etc. They brazenly ask us to give away our mind and life in favour of capitalist growth! They want us with cheap hands and sleepy minds! Their system is so rotten; it sells us our death and lures us by throwing us a bone for a job! Their system doesn't hesitate to transform itself into a drug dealer and to subjugate human dignity to the needs for bigger tax revenues for the capitalists!





**They tell us that...**

... **"Drug use and addiction will always exist.**

**We can only manage the problem"**

Drug use and addiction are "born and bred of the capitalist system and sharpen during periods when the barbarity of the system appears more intensely. However, the percentage of addicts would not have been the same as today, if the structures of prevention, treatment and reintegration existed, and were properly organized and equipped with personnel. The situation wouldn't have been the same if the dominant logic was the decrease of drug demand instead of the "damage reduction" policy in favour of the state fund. Our country has one of the lowest percentages of drug use and addiction Europe-wide. Nevertheless, the general policy against drugs, despite focusing on prevention and treatment, has shaped a number of policies that lead to the reconciliation of youth with existence and use of substances.

Over previous years, the basis that has led to the degradation of prevention centers, early intervention programs<sup>8</sup>, substance-free treatment programs and the promotion of drug substitutes<sup>9</sup>, is the unscientific perception that considers the users as patients with "permanent diseases", and on top of it, a disease "caused by the user himself". The results of drug substitution programmes are the constant increase in people who are addicted to these substitutes, the creation of new "drug plazas" and the direction of substances towards the black market. At the same time, a number of programmes for damage reduction in relation to user care and their motivation towards treatment, e.g., street work<sup>10</sup>, immediate access hangouts<sup>11</sup>, are constantly being degraded.

This criminal policy has been reinforced by the establishment of shooting rooms, i.e. areas for controlled drug use, where the user can bring his own cash and get his fix, away from public eyes and under doctors' supervision! This means that users are considered as "goners" and they are deprived of any motivation and possibility of treatment! Thus, drug use and the drug trade are in fact legalized, the state waives its responsibility for treatment and reintegration, but capital is free to invest uninterrupted and at the same time the addicts won't "ruin the image" of the cities. This inhumane measure is supported by all the bourgeois parties, i.e. ND, SYRIZA, KINAL, the Nazi Golden Dawn and MeRA25, with ND being the party that paved the way for the promotion of that measure a decade ago.

## **We don't face substance use with apathy!**

**W**e do not consider anyone who uses drugs as a “parasite”. We don't compromise with the logic “let him use, as long as he doesn't bother me”. Covering up the problem or isolating these people makes things worse. Support and honesty helps. We are disturbed knowing that one of our friends or colleagues is trapped within a prison created to set him up. We want him to realize the problem, to be by our side, so that we can dream, hope and fight for our future.

Everyone is capable of stopping drug use, even the ones in the stage of addiction. There are no lost cases. The proof is the hundreds of young people that complete a substance-free programme. The sooner a young person understands the problem, while he is experimenting with use, the easier it will be for him and those around him to escape these substances.

**It's not enough to know only about the  
impacts and the role of drugs.**

**We also have to fight against the causes that give  
birth to use and addiction! That means, against the  
capitalist system itself!**



## **We fight for a society free of drugs, not for a society with free drugs!**

**W**e want a life with happiness, sadness, emotion, anger! A life where we will be taught through our experiences, where we will evolve into strong personalities.

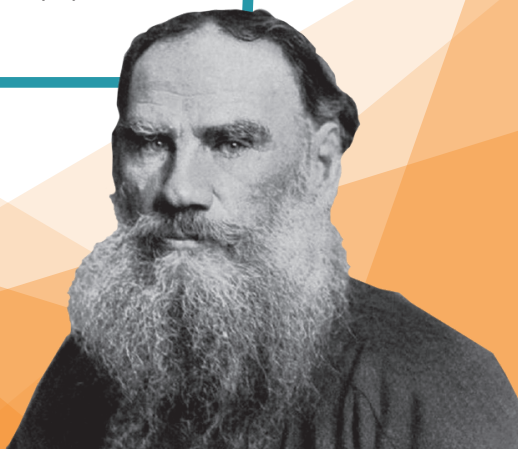
A life where anyone can learn the values of collectivity, and explore their interests freely, without class and social exclusions; a life where sports and culture will be for everyone and not only for those who possess a so-called "extraordinary talent".

We want a real life that we will be the ones to create and we will not need any kind of substances! A life with values, goals, dignity!

*"...Yet, thanks to self-stupefaction, that is just what is being done in life. Life does not accord with conscience, so conscience is made to bend to life..."*

Leon Tolstoy,

*"Why Do Men Stupefy Themselves?"*



## **Socialism renders drug use as a means of “escapism” unnecessary!**

**T**he society that will eradicate drugs is a socialist – communist society, because humankind and its needs are the focus and not profit; a society that shapes personalities with values like collectivity, cooperation, dignity; a society that guarantees social rights in work, housing, healthcare, education, and provides an essential content for free time.

Socialist construction in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (1917-1991) solved a number of problems, while it marked great progress in the rise of the level of people's prosperity. Based on the science of Marxism-Leninism, it set the foundation for the molding of the new man; for every person, integrated in the community, to have the leading role, to actively participate in the formation of the new society, the new power, for the all-round development of its personality. It is not a coincidence the fact that despite the existing problems drug use in the USSR reached 0%! (0.07%, UN Report, 1990)

### **In a Socialist society:**

**Work** acquires a new content; it constitutes an intrinsic part of social contribution.

**Education** is not based on the acquisition of fragmentary knowledge, but on the contrary, is based on the ability of man to discover objective reality.

**Sports** and Culture become integral parts of free time and an intrinsic part of our personality

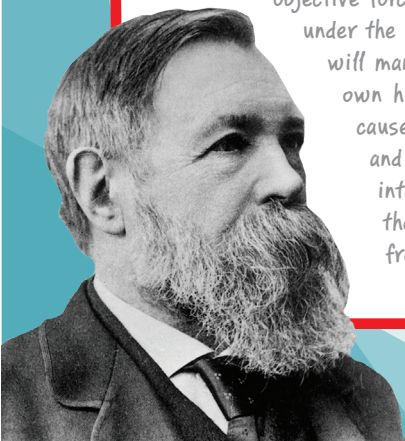
**Man** can really be free, to create, to evolve, to form equal relations with those around him. He doesn't feel alone, a sense of emptiness, insecurity, stress and anxiety for survival. He lives in reality and wants to improve reality for his own benefit.

**Socialism-Communism, the society for which KKE and KNE fight, is the society of true freedom, liberated from exploitation and any form of coercion.**

"With the seizing of the means of production by society production of commodities is done away with, and, simultaneously, the mastery of the product over the producer. Anarchy in social production is replaced by systematic, definite organisation. The struggle for individual existence disappears. Then for the first time man, in a certain sense, is finally marked off from the rest of the animal kingdom, and emerges from mere animal conditions of existence into really human ones.

The whole sphere of the conditions of life which environ man, and which have hitherto ruled man, now comes under the dominion and control of man who for the first time becomes the real, conscious lord of nature because he has now become master of his own social organisation. The laws of his own social action, hitherto standing face to face with man as laws of nature foreign to, and dominating him, will then be used with full understanding, and so mastered by him. Man's own social organisation, hitherto confronting him as a necessity imposed by nature and history, now becomes the result of his own free action. The extraneous objective forces that have hitherto governed history pass under the control of man himself. Only from that time will man himself, with full consciousness, make his own history – only from that time will the social causes set in movement by him have, in the main and in a constantly growing measure, the results intended by him. It is the humanity's leap from the kingdom of necessity to the kingdom of freedom."

F. Engels, Anti-Dühring



## References

1. United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
2. UMHRI: University Mental Health Research Institute, Greece
3. EMCDDA: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
4. Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI): Recording of the characteristics of users who ask for treatment from a country's treatment programs every year.
5. Eurobarometer: Research centre of the European Commission.
6. ESPAD: European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
7. INCB: International Narcotics Control Board
8. Early intervention: addressed towards groups that have a high risk of getting involved with use and criminality or towards young people who experiment with substances but still haven't developed an addiction to them.
9. Opioid substitutes: other addictive substances that are also produced from opium e.g.: methadone, buprenorphine, but they prevent the effect or withdrawal symptoms of heroin.
10. Street Work: programs that approach users in drug plazas, with the goal of providing medical, psychological care, the promotion of health for issues related to use and then the motivation in order for them to be included in treatment.
11. Immediate access hangouts: Places where substance use is prohibited and users have the opportunity to stay for a large part of the day away from drug plazas, receiving every kind of care needed (medical, psychological, food, clothing etc.). These places are also connected to treatment programs.



**Committee of the Central Council  
of KNE Against Drugs**



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