

The 26th of June has been always dedicated to the cause of the **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**.

The United Nations Association of New Zealand joins the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the international community in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime.

The UNODC was established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

Drugs can hold individuals to ransom, triggering a negative effect on an entire family, destroying not just individual human lives but whole communities. Furthermore, it undermines sustainable human development and generates crime.

Drugs affect all sectors of society in all countries. Drug abuse affects the freedom and development of a range of people, especially youth, the world's most valuable asset.

The United Nations Association of New Zealand supports the initiative of UNODC as below:

- to act to ensure that nations have the laws, knowledge and tools needed to deliver justice appropriately
- to strengthen the ability of states to provide essential HIV and AIDS prevention and care services to persons vulnerable to human trafficking.

The United Nations Association of NZ is deeply concerned about the increase of major trafficking as regards flows of drugs, firearms, counterfeit products, stolen natural resources, people trafficked for sex purposes or forced labour, as well as smuggled migrants. For that reason, we call upon all governments, international organizations and civil society to strengthen cooperation to counter the pervasive influence of organized crime and drug trafficking.