



Fighting the NIMBY Syndrome

Finding New Allies for the PWUDs

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Dr Elisabeth AVRIL, Gaia Association, Paris, FRANCE



PARIS DCR

Gaia is one of the leading Harm Reduction (HR) organisations in Paris, particularly known for launching the first and only Drug Consumption Room (DCR) in Paris, since 2016.

The other French DCR is in Strasbourg, northeast of France.

Gaia's outreach teams and mobile unit are established since 1989 and have witnessed the emergence of growing open drug-scenes in Paris since about 20 years.





NIMBY
Syndrome
A very stigmatizing
example




PARIS



Capitale MONDIALE du CRACK
Ils arrivent en bas de chez vous



NIMBY SYNDROM

- The 2023 EROPP survey showed that 83% of French people agree with the principle of DCRs and 55% would accept one in their neighborhood.
- However, all new projects trigger strong opposition from some residents.
- The latest DCR project in Marseille (south of France) was stopped due to lack of political support and opposition from a group of residents.

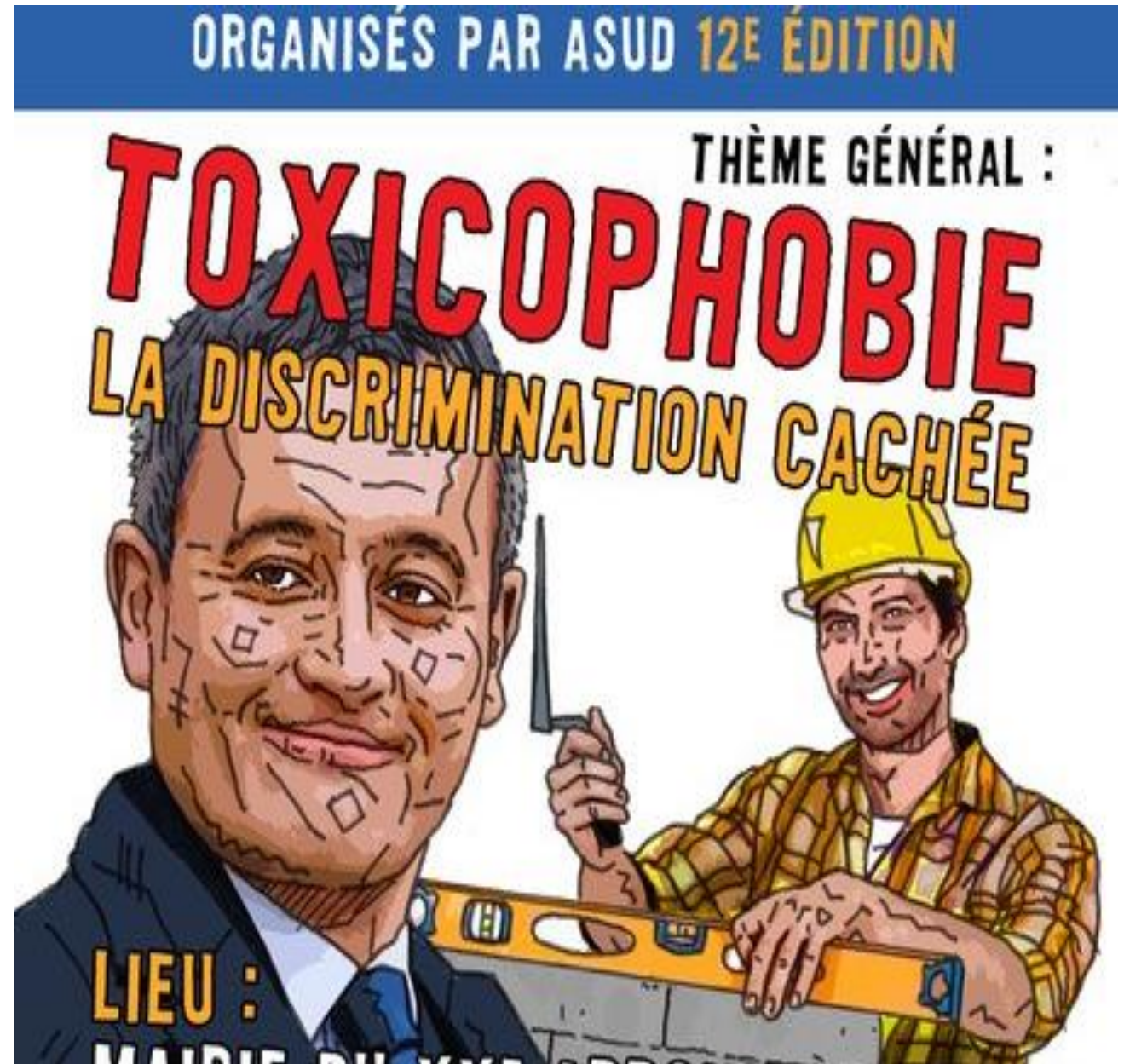


Discrimination

Setup of services for PWUD in cities is a very controversial topic in France. Concerning DCR the controversy is even more lively.

Consequently, a lot of local resistance is fighting quite aggressively against the presence of the PWUDs and strongly oppose any potential creation of new services, including much-needed additional DCR in the region.

At a political level, within the current government, the Minister of interior and Minister of justice have openly taken a position against harm reduction and against DCR on several occasions.



LOOKING FOR ALLIES

Paris DCR benefited since 2016, from multi-level governance: Paris steering committee, neighbourhood committee and monitoring committee. Following the mediation actions carried out before the implementation, Gaia continues to inform and raise awareness among the stakeholders in its environment.

Daily morning and afternoon outreach work to reach out to PWUD who do not use the DCR but also to residents and shopkeepers in the area.

Since opening we organise visits of the premise for any who may be concerned, these visits are important, they allow us to bring awareness on the reality of a DCR and explain which type of social and medical support we can offer to PWUD.

A hotline is dedicated to the neighbours, it allows them to report problems related to drug use in the neighbourhood, Gaia staff often intervene in public or semi-public spaces to reduce nuisances linked to injection or behavioural problems of certain users.

OUTREACH

Gaia is also involved in outreach work in stations and on the underground. Railways funds a year-round position for this work and official's representatives are strong defenders of the DCR.

Gaia is part of institutional or associative meetings, and develop awareness sessions on regular basis for police and railways agents



ALLIES TO SUPPORT THE DCR

An important threat will be the end of the experimental period of the DCR planned for December 2025, knowing that some politicians want to shut it down.

This experimental status decided for 6 years, was renewed for 3 years in 2022. Throughout these years the DCR has been the subject of several evaluations by certified state bodies.

The three main studies demonstrated the usefulness of the DCR in terms of PWUD health and public safety as well as its cost effectiveness. Despite this the device is in danger of being closed.

Collective La Traverse

All this communication and awareness-raising work has enabled the creation of a collective, named collective of "La traverse" in 2025. The collective wants to act for the sustainability of the DCR.

This collective brings together residents, neighbourhood associations, PWUD, HR services representatives and professionals of the DCR.

The collective organized a launch party in the DCR last December, the mayor and her deputies, journalists and residents outside the collective, including opponents, were invited.



PWUD ADVOCACY

Concerned in the forefront, PWUDs are mobilizing and increasingly wish to participate in discussions regarding the future of the DCR.

They elected representatives and decide to join with the residents supporting the DCR to make their voices heard.

To do so they wrote an open letter explaining what the DCR brings to them and why they need it. They read it during the evening in front of politicians, journalists and residents.



FUCK Nimby, Let's take action!

« Sans la salle de shoot... » : le pudique récit de Franck, revenu de l'enfer de la drogue

Tombé à l'adolescence dans la drogue, cet homme aujourd'hui âgé de 51 ans raconte comment la salle de consommation à moindre risque du Xe arrondissement de Paris lui a apporté le cadre nécessaire pour se relever.

Par **Florent Hélaïne**

Le 30 septembre 2021 à 06h00, modifié le 30 septembre 2021 à 11h27



Franck, ancien toxicomane, est un usager de la salle de consommation à moindre risque de Lariboisière (Paris, Xe) depuis son ouverture en 2016. Il a depuis retrouvé un emploi à mi-temps dans une association. LP/Olivier Corsan



"Salle de shoot" : immersion dans la salle en expérimentation à Paris



Konbini ✓

2,21 M d'abonnés

S'abonner

9 k



Partager



303 k vues il y a 2 ans

« Salle de shoot » : Gérald, agent immobilier, prend du crack avant d'aller travailler. Anthony, 34 ans se drogue depuis 9 ans. Ils vont à la salle de consommation en expérimentation à Paris. Immersion

**Thank you for
your attention**



www.gaia-paris.fr
association@gaia-paris.fr