



**ALSO TREATING INJUSTICE**

**SUING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT HARM  
REDUCTION AND EXPAND DRUG CONSUMPTION  
ROOMS**

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## OUR BATTLE



## HARM REDUCTION

Médecins du Monde FR works with people who use drugs, sex workers, and sexual and gender minorities, and favours a harm reduction approach to facilitate their access to healthcare and recognition of their rights.

- ★ identify needs and build solutions with the people concerned.
- ★ advocate for improving access to rights

## MDM ADVOCATES FOR:



- ➔ The removal of repressive policies that drive people to conceal and cover up their activities and that distance them from prevention and health care services.
- ➔ A legal framework and public policies that enable the establishment of permanent harm reduction schemes, effective access to these facilities and recognition and funding for community organisations.
- ➔ The removal of all criminal and administrative sanctions associated with drug use for minor offences that don't involve violence.

## DCR IN FRANCE

- Only 2 DCR operating in France, Paris and Strasbourg since 2016
- The DCRs are legitimized by several authorities, including the Defender of Rights, the Constitutional Council, and the Senate's Social Affairs Committee
- Several studies and research papers highlight the benefits provided by the DCRs and recommend their continuation as well as the opening of additional ones

## LEGAL STATUS

DRCs in precarious status: still under experimental agreement until 31/12/2025 after almost 10 years of existence

A repressive overall climate, marked by the criminalization of drug use and the stigmatisation of people who use drugs

**Harm Reduction is under threat**

## LEGAL ACTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- ➔ The first legal action, supported by Fédération Addiction, aims to demonstrate the responsibility of public authorities — specifically, their inaction or even active obstruction in the creation of drug consumption rooms (HSA) — and the resulting harm. Failing to open such facilities, despite scientific consensus on their public health benefits, constitutes a breach of duty by the State. This failure causes serious harm to both the physical and mental health of people who use drugs, and deepens their social exclusion. It is this responsibility that we are asking the courts to acknowledge
- ➔ Objective: Ensuring access to rights and healthcare for people who use drugs — and improving their overall situation — starts with supporting the opening of DCRs and, crucially, making them permanent.

## LEGAL ACTION FOCUS MARSEILLE

- ➔ The second legal action, also supported by Fédération Addiction and the organisation AIDES, is a judicial review for abuse of power in Marseille, seeking the annulment of the rejection of the DCR project early 2024. The aim is to challenge a decision – never officially published – based less on rational arguments than on political pressure, at the expense of public health.
- ➔ Objective: To pressure the French state to reopen the DCR Marseille project and provide practical support for the opening of the DCR

## MEDIA PLANNING

### AND THEN, ACTION!

- The two legal actions were officially launched on 14 April by submitting the appeals to the courts.
- Prior to that, a media press release was prepared and sent to journalists
- A media press conference was held on 10 April, attended by 10 journalists and several presenters:
  - *Representatives of Médecins du Monde and Fédération Addiction*
  - *Representatives of Paris and Strasbourg DCRs*
  - *Representatives of lawyers firm officially representing the petitioners*
  - *Representative of Paris DCR neighbour (part of a neighbour local organisation and collective created in favour of Paris DCR)*
  - *Representative of drug users (to present the benefit of DCR from a person who has been using the DCR)*



### NATIONAL

Salles de shoot : l'Etat attaqué en justice pour son « inaction » concernant l'avenir du dispositif

L'ONG Médecins du monde, soutenue par plusieurs associations, annonce avoir déposé deux recours contre l'Etat, reprochant notamment aux pouvoirs publics leur silence, voire leur obstruction, sur le dossier des « haltes soins addictions », dont l'expérimentation est censée s'achever à la fin de l'année.

Le Monde avec AFP

■ L'État attaqué en justice pour entrave à la mise en place des haltes soins addictions

- ➔ More than 110 press articles, radio and TV reports
- ➔ Majority of articles are positive about DCR and/or present all the parts involved (even if language used is still "salle de shoot"/shooting places)
- ➔ After nearly 10 years of DCRs operating in France, the general public largely supports them — opposition mainly comes from politicians.

### Actualités

Haltes soins addictions : l'Etat poursuivi en justice pour inaction

Article | 14 avril 2025 | Abonnés

**Haltes soins addictions : recours associatif contre "l'inaction" de l'État**

L'État est attaqué pour "obstruction" à la mise en place des haltes soins addictions

**Des associations attaquent l'État pour son "inaction" face au sort des "salles de shoot" en France**

SCIENCES ET FRANCE

SANTÉ

"Salles de shoot" : l'Etat sommé de sortir du bois

France: l'ONG Médecins du monde attaque l'État en justice pour son obstruction aux «salles de consommation»



### MARSEILLE



#### Halte soins addictions à Marseille :

Nos associations s'associent à AIDES et Médecins du Monde et saisissent le tribunal administratif contre l'abandon du projet

- ➔ In Marseille, organisation of a press conference with local actors involved in DCR opening, including Médecins du Monde, Fédération Addiction, Aides, Bus 31/32, Asud Mars Say Yeah and Nouvelle Aube
- ➔ Numerous interview requests that resulted in many articles

#### "Salle de shoot" à Marseille. L'Etat attaqué en justice : son "inaction" pointée du doigt

Salle de shoot : Médecins du monde attaque l'Etat pour réclamer l'ouverture d'une Halte soins addictions à Marseille

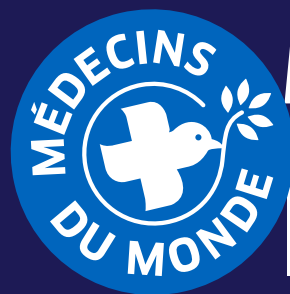
### IN TERMS OF ADVOCACY

- ➔ A city in France reached out to join the national legal action
- ➔ A letter from the Ministry of Health was sent, acknowledging their concern and expressing support must come from local authorities
- ➔ A member of Parliament proposed a law to sustain DCRs (this proposal must gather the support of 60 deputies to be put to a vote)

... trouver un nouveau lieu  
J'attache une grande importance à prendre en compte l'avis des autorités locales dans la mise en œuvre  
de ce dispositif de réduction des risques et des dommages. Dans un objectif de conciliation des enjeux  
de santé publique, de sécurité et de tranquillité publique, le ministère reste donc attentif à l'évolution  
de ce dossier qui, outre le choix d'une nouvelle implantation validée par l'ensemble des parties  
prenantes, devra également reprendre l'état des partenariats avec les acteurs sanitaires pour que les  
usagers puissent entrer dans un parcours de soins, conformément à la logique des HSA.  
le vous prie d'agréer, Messieurs, l'expression de ma considération

### WHY LEGAL ACTION ?

- ➔ To shake the powers/influences
- ➔ To create an opportunity to take the lead — in communication and in setting the agenda — rather than always reacting, justifying, or trying to convince, as harm reduction is often forced to do under threat.
- ➔ To proactively spread the messages you have chosen to promote, instead of responding to the narratives and justifications demanded by opponent
- ➔ To help the media better understand what you stand for
- ➔ To have lawyers involved and committed
- ➔ To support the legal action, to get ready with the good tools (comics about DCR)



# ALSO TREATING INJUSTICE

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