


DIRECTIVE ON HARM REDUCTION PRACTICES

For the seed to distribution process
of cannabis for responsible adult
use

VERSION: 1.1

UPDATED: 23RD MARCH 2023



Directive 2 of 2023

In exercise of the power conferred by Article 69 and Article 52 of SL 628.01, the Authority for the Responsible Use of Cannabis (“the Authority”) is hereby issuing the following directive delineating the core and overarching harm reduction principles and practices that Cannabis Harm Reduction Associations (CHRAs) shall embed within their structure, operations, and internal management, giving due consideration for social equity and social justice principles directly impacting the realisation of a decriminalised framework.

The Authority reserves the right to amend this instrument at any time. The Authority shall not be held liable for any costs incurred in ensuring compliance to this instrument, including costs incurred in adjusting operations in line with subsequent amendments.

Effective Date: 3rd March 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEFINITIONS	2
<u>GENERAL CONDITIONS</u>	3

DEFINITIONS

“Harm Reduction” refers to the principles, policies, strategies and pragmatic practices that are applied with an aim to minimise the negative health, social and legal impacts associated with the use of cannabis.

“Association” shall mean a prospective or licensed Cannabis Harm Reduction Association (CHRA) as defined in Article 5 and as set-up in terms of Article 7A of the Drug Dependence (Treatment not Imprisonment) Act (Cap 537).

“Code of Conduct” shall mean a set of specific standards of conduct laid down by the Association incorporating harm reduction principles and practices aimed at fostering and applying high standards of ethical conduct, integrity and good governance within the Association.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Associations shall prioritise harm reduction principles amongst its registered members, as well as perform and promote harm reduction practices.
2. Associations shall be committed to adhere to any additional requirements and conditions pertaining to harm reduction, social justice and social equity which the Authority may issue and publish from time to time.
3. Associations shall ascertain democratic representation of all registered members, by facilitating active participation in decision making matters, including prospective developments of the Association.
4. Associations shall ensure accurate labelling as outlined in Directive 1 delineating the technical standards issued by the Authority.
5. Associations shall advise members under the age of 21 to refrain from consuming THC levels higher than 15 percent and provide additional information on the risks associated with the use of higher THC products on the developing brain. The distribution of cannabis with a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content higher than 18 percent to members under the age of 21 is prohibited.
6. It is prohibited for an Association to set a minimum consumption level for its members or develop internal marketing ploys to increase consumption levels.
7. Associations shall not practice any form of coercion on its members, including but not limited to attempting to encourage or prevent members from resigning.
8. Associations shall not adopt discriminatory practices, such as price differentiation amongst its members.
9. The founders, administrators, the Key Officer, the designated Key Official responsible for the distribution and other employees at the distribution site must attend training related to harm reduction principles and practices provided by the Authority.

10. Associations shall have effective external and internal complaint and redress procedures for its members.
11. Associations shall impart non-judgmental educational information on health and well-being related matters, but not limited to health warnings, whilst fostering dialogue amongst its members.
12. Associations shall include harm reduction principles in its internal Code of Conduct to ensure an ethical climate both internally and in any interaction with third parties.
13. Members shall be made aware that cannabis distributed by the Association is not intended as a substitute for medical cannabis, and that the product distributed may be unsuitable for individuals who suffer from specific medical conditions.

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