

How the **narcotics industry** affects society



THE NARCOTICS INDUSTRY - A DIRTY BUSINESS...

... but a profitable one. People trading in narcotics can earn vast sums of money. The production and export of narcotics is one of the world's biggest industries, estimated to be worth approximately SEK 2,250 billion. Narcotics smuggling is carried out by criminal groups with contacts in many countries. The big profits, but also the high risks, mean that smuggling must be well organised. There is a clear link between international organised crime and the narcotics trade.

There are long stories behind the drugs that are consumed in Sweden. The cocaine snorted in bars is produced in South America, the hash smoked at home is grown in Morocco, and the heroin injected into the body is made in Afghanistan.

Money changes hands many times and rich people become even richer. Some people lose their lives or end up in prison so that drugs can reach the consumers. As long as there are people wanting to buy narcotics, the trade will continue. **The profits are so great that the smugglers stop at nothing to provide the goods to the buyer.**



The journey from farmer to consumer is long. The narcotics pass through the hands of the Mafia, drug barons, drug mules, smugglers, wholesalers and pushers before ending up in the consumer's body.

But who actually buys narcotics, and why? Is it socially outcast drug abusers who are so addicted that they have no choice? Or is it serious criminals who have made it their lifestyle to misuse narcotics?

Or is it completely normal people who use narcotics now and again?



Who buys narcotics?



Martin, Amanda and Jakob are three of the more than 100,000 upper secondary students in Sweden who have tested narcotics at some time. Martin started smoking hash when he was 17. He likes to go to parties and have fun, so has also tested amphetamine and cocaine. Martin buys his narcotics from a distant acquaintance, but has never really reflected on where the narcotics come from. His view is that it doesn't concern him.

Amanda grew up in a stable family and smokes marijuana now and again. It is important to her that nobody has the right to tell her what she can and cannot do with her body. A couple of times she has travelled overseas and tested cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms.

Jakob has let his hair and beard grow, and is calm and laid back. He started smoking marijuana with his then girlfriend when he was 16. Jakob is strongly engaged in environmental issues and always buys organic produce in shops when he can.

Even if cannabis, which is the plant from which both hash and marijuana come, is without a doubt one of the most common narcotics, Swedes also use cocaine, amphetamine, pharmaceuticals, GHB, khat and ecstasy. **The UN has estimated that, in Sweden, approximately 145,000 people between the ages of 15 and 64 have used cannabis in the past year.**

What does it cost?

The further from the continent and the big cities, the more expensive narcotics become. In big cities in Sweden, the approximate costs of narcotics are as follows:

Hash – SEK 100 per gram.

Marijuana – SEK 120 per gram.

Synthetic drugs such as amphetamine – SEK 150 and 300 per gram.

Cocaine – between SEK 500 and 1000 per gram.

THE MOST COMMON NARCOTICS IN SWEDEN

*HASH AND MARIJUANA
PHARMACEUTICALS
AMPHETAMINE
COCAINE*



Simple mathematics:

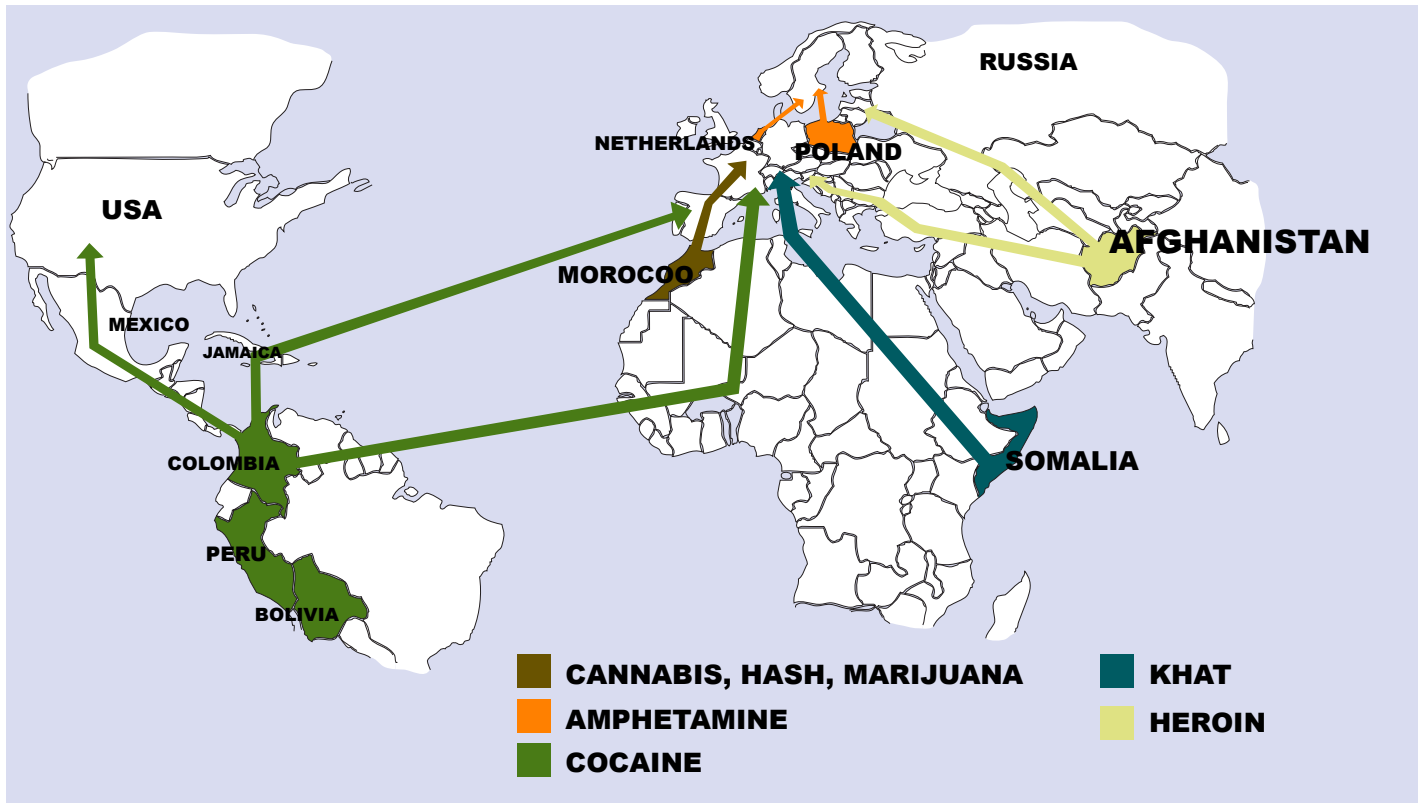
Multiply the price of the narcotics by more than a hundred thousand consumers in Sweden.

We're talking about SEK billions every year.

*WHO EARNS BILLIONS FROM AMANDA,
MARTIN AND JAKOB'S NARCOTICS HABITS?*

WHERE ARE NARCOTICS MADE?

Civil wars have been taking place in Peru, Colombia, Somalia and Afghanistan for decades. It is no coincidence that these countries in particular are major producers of narcotics.



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

THE NARCOTICS INDUSTRY PROLONGS **CIVIL WARS AND CONFLICTS**

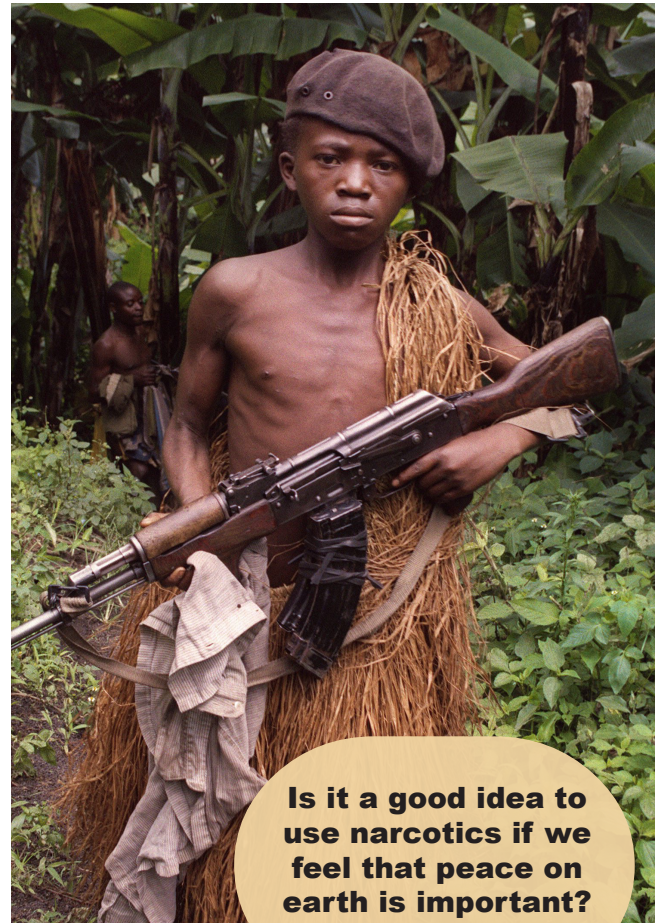
Production of narcotics often goes hand-in-hand with conflicts and civil wars. A study has shown that conflicts, in which one of the parties was smuggling diamonds or drugs, went on for an average of 28 years. Conflicts where there was no such smuggling went on for an average of six years.

Narcotics are usually produced in lawless areas, remote from government control. War and conflicts often create areas where rebels (and government militia) can produce narcotics and use the money to buy weapons. In situations where one or both parties benefit from prolonging the conflict, it is difficult to make peace treaties. A peace treaty would threaten the production of narcotics that bring money to guerrilla leaders and corrupt soldiers.

The FARC guerrillas in Colombia have been fighting the Colombian government for over 30 years, while taking the opportunity to produce and smuggle enormous quantities of cocaine.

Civil war and conflicts hit the civilian population hardest. Unfortunately, children are kidnapped and become child soldiers in the guerrilla armies. The logic of using child soldiers is simple.

They can be trained to block out feelings and take bigger risks than adult soldiers would take. Child soldiers can be pumped full of cocaine and then be sent on attacks that are so dangerous they are virtually suicide missions.



Is it a good idea to use narcotics if we feel that peace on earth is important?

THE NARCOTICS INDUSTRY DEVASTATES RAIN FORESTS

For a long time, the Colombian Government has been pleading to the environment-conscious Western consumers of narcotics that their cocaine habits are destroying the rain forest and threatening the sensitive balance in the earth's lungs – the Amazonian jungle.

The rain forest is important to the earth's atmosphere as it binds carbon dioxide and produces oxygen. The forest is the home to 1,800 bird species, 506 reptile species and more than 2,000 freshwater fish species.

The biological diversity in the Amazon area is bigger than anywhere else on the planet – nearly one in ten plant and animal species are found in the area. Nowhere else on the planet is so much cocaine produced as in the jungle of Amazonia.

The cultivators of the coca plant from which cocaine is extracted are moving deeper and deeper into the jungle to look for new land and to avoid the authorities. The growers think in a short-term perspective and overexploit the soil because they know they may need to escape from police and rivals. In order to grow a hectare of coca leaves, three hectares of rain forest must be burned down. The ash from the trees is only sufficient to provide nutrients to the soil for a short time.

In order for cocaine production to be at a consistent level, new rain forest must be cleared every third year. In the past 20 years, an area of rain forest the size of the county of Värmland has been burned down to make way for cultivation of coca bushes. Clearance of the rain forest is a serious threat to the Amazon's unique animal and plant life.

One line of cocaine clears one square metre of rain forest



**One kilo of cocaine is equivalent to
600 kilos of chemically polluted waste**



THE NARCOTICS INDUSTRY CONTAMINATES WATER

In order to produce narcotics, chemicals are needed. For every kilo of cocaine that the farmers in the Amazon rain forest make, 600 kilos of leaves and residual products are contaminated with chemicals. The farmers ignore the environmental consequences and dump this toxic waste in rivers. The Colombian authorities have estimated that approximately 200 litres of water are contaminated for every kilo of cocaine that is produced. The toxins have fatal consequences for water life because fish and plants die or are modified genetically. The problem is not confined to the Amazon, and occurs in all countries where narcotics are produced.

An example closer to home is the Netherlands where waste from amphetamine production is dumped straight into the canals. It is hardly possible to deliver hundreds of kilos of chemical waste to a recycling station without being asked where the waste comes from. The simplest solution is then to dump the toxin straight into the water.

How is the movement to improve the environment helped by using narcotics?

THE NARCOTICS INDUSTRY KEEPS COUNTRIES IN POVERTY

In many countries of the world, the production of narcotics is important for the population. Afghanistan is one of the many examples of countries where farmers earn more money by growing crops for narcotics production rather than by growing crops for food. Even so, this situation brings no riches to the population. Instead, the profits end up in the hands of the criminal gangs that buy the narcotics and sell them on.

Money from the narcotics industry is invested in weapons and bribes for the countries' police and politicians. Societies are therefore increasingly dominated by criminality, corruption and violence.

The drug barons become richer and richer at the expense of people in poverty, and can also keep themselves free from prosecution by bribing police and judges. In Morocco, police queue up to serve in the province where the greatest quantity of hash is produced because they can earn large sums of money through bribes.

Corruption is hard to resist once it has become established in a society because it challenges the confidence people have in one another.

Can you support fair trade labelling and poverty reduction if you smoke hash?



Are people of equal worth when those with money can operate outside the law.

Criminals benefit from people in poverty. With few other prospects, young men become soldiers in the armies of the drug gangs and young women become prostitutes. The farmers grow coca leaves, poppies and cannabis plants for a tiny fraction of the value on the street in Stockholm.

Drug mules are those desperate people who risk their lives and health by travelling as drugs couriers to rich countries. The most common way is for a courier to swallow cocaine in a condom and hope that it does not burst in the stomach or that they are not arrested on entering the country.

In Mexico, criminal gangs raid rehabilitation clinics and capture people who are trying to break out of their drug misuse. The clients become cheap tools for the drug gangs because they are so dependent on narcotics that they will do almost anything for their new masters. Another way for the drug gangs to control their dependents is to threaten their families – if anyone informs on the drug gang, their family will be punished.

Trade with narcotics involves a lot of money, but makes neither countries nor honest people richer. Corruption and violence prevent countries from developing and destroy people's confidence in their governments and one another.

Tax money that could have been used to build schools and hospitals is instead directed to fighting drug gangs and cleaning up after narcotics related violence. It is not easy to use aid money for beneficial purposes in countries where people in power and public officials have become used to bribes.



who is exploited?

>> WE BEGAN WITH SMALL PORTIONS IN GÖTEBORG
BUT WE EVENTUALLY ENDED UP TRADING WITH SEVERAL
KILOS IN OTHER COUNTRIES <<

The narcotics bought by people in Sweden come from countries far away. Smuggling narcotics through many countries and distributing them to buyers in rich countries is nothing that is done by a dealer in the local neighbourhood. Ciwan, now 30, was involved in drug smuggling when younger, but was caught and served five years in prison.

"I met a man who had international contacts in the drug world. In return for his love and acknowledgement, I started to smuggle drugs for him. We began with small portions in Göteborg but we eventually ended up trading with several kilos in other countries.

After a while I took over his position and started to exploit young girls, just like me, to smuggle in the drugs. In Sweden, they were met by someone who received the deliveries and sold them on to someone else who could distribute them further. I never knew who these people were."

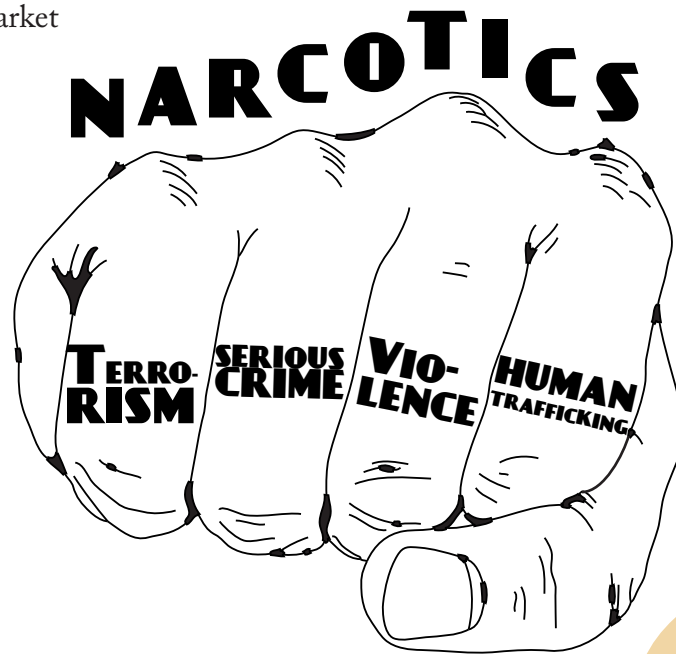
Narcotics smuggling requires good organisation and an extensive contact network in many countries. People furthest down in the chain do not earn much money, generally only enough to fund their own misuse. The big money is earned further up the chain. Ciwan continues.

“On our trips abroad, we met a number of men in suits with a respectable exterior but who were really villains with just one thing on their mind – earning money.”

In an attempt to map the market for cannabis in Sweden, the police found more than 170 gangs that were smuggling cannabis. It is hard to estimate how much cannabis is smuggled in to Sweden every year, but a conservative estimate is at least 30 tons.

**IT IS NO
COINCIDENCE
THAT SALES OF
NARCOTICS FORM
THE MAIN SOURCE OF
INCOME FOR ORGANISED CRIME.**

Swedish demand for cocaine is hard to estimate, but the market seems to have grown in recent years. More people are using the drug and prices have fallen.



When the organisation for smuggling narcotics is set up, the criminals can increase their profits by selling women's bodies, robbing banks and security transports, committing economic crimes, engaging in blackmail or kidnapping people.

**What and who
are you helping
when you buy
narcotics?**

the narcotics industry destroy societies and people

In Sweden, threats are growing against police and prosecutors who are working to combat organised crime. Users of narcotics are contributing to a tougher society where criminals are increasingly taking over. This has already happened in far too many countries already. The worst example is Mexico, where the narcotics gangs have become powerful through smuggling of cocaine from South America to USA and Europe. The narcotics money has been used to bribe police and public officials to encourage them to turn a blind eye to the drugs trade.

For a number of years, the authorities have been fighting a desperate battle to try to break the power of the drug gangs. Over 18,000 people have died since 2006 in battles between police, soldiers and criminals.

The drug gangs earn so much money from the narcotics trade that they can afford to equip themselves with the latest weapons for fighting the police, soldiers and each other. In gun battles with police, it is not old rusty kalashnikov rifles that are used, but modern helicopters and bazookas. There are drug gangs that consist entirely of former elite soldiers.

As so often happens during conflicts, innocent people suffer. In a raid on a party in January 2010, a drugs ring killed 13 young people in the city of Ciudad Juarez – the blood flowed out into the street and formed large pools. Policemen's families are murdered, heads are placed in front of police stations, and the bodies of informers are cut up and thrown in piles at the sides of roads. Mexican society is brutalised by drugs-related violence.

it is an unequal struggle.

**Are we
contributing to
increased violence
when we snort
cocaine?**



the narcotics industry supports trafficking in human beings

Profits from narcotics smuggling are invested in the trade in human beings. The same criminal networks that smuggle narcotics to Sweden also sell women as sex slaves.

The UN Commission on Crime Prevention regards trafficking in human beings as the fastest growing activity for organised crime.

Modern slave traders entice women to Sweden with promises of work, and force them to pay large sums of money for travel and accommodation. **Many girls are made dependent on drugs from an early stage so they can be controlled by their pimps. Without documentation and unable to speak the language, the women have little opportunity to escape from captivity.**

The Swedish National Criminal Police estimates that approximately 400-600 women arrive in Sweden every year to be sold as sex slaves. Most come from Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and Russia.



the narcotics industry sponsors terrorism

After the terrorist attack in 2001 against the World Trade Center, governments have confiscated large sums of money from the bank accounts of terrorist groups. In order to finance their activities, terrorists are turning to organised crime. In recent years, production and smuggling of narcotics have become important sources of income for terror networks such as Al Qaida. In Afghanistan, Al Qaida taxes opium production, while smuggling cocaine for South American drug cartels.

The terrorists need money and organised crime requires new smuggling networks. When both parties benefit from working together, any political differences are insignificant.

Al Qaida's bombings of Madrid's public transport system in 2004, which killed over 100 people, were largely carried out by people involved in hash smuggling from Morocco.

90 percent of the hash imported to Sweden comes from Morocco.

Swedish money finances terrorism. Sales of the khat drug to Swedish Somalians provide income to the terror network, Al Shabab. Al Shabab wants to introduce strict religious laws in Somalia and has, on many occasions, carried out public executions in the form of beheadings.

The irony is that many of the Swedish Somalians that once fled from Al Shabab now support the same organisation by chewing khat in Sweden.



Picture taken by a surveillance camera shows one of the bombs exploding at a railway station in Madrid on 11 March 2004. The terrorist attack killed 191 people.

people using drugs are helping
organised crime
destroy our societies

THEY ARE SUPPORTING:

Terrorism and trafficking in human beings

THEY ARE PROLONGING:

Civil wars and conflicts

THEY ARE PREVENTING:

Reduction of poverty and undermining trust between people

THEY ARE PROMOTING:

Clearance of rain forest, pollution of water, dumping of toxins in the environment, exploitation of people, corruption, and greater violence in society

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We in Sweden have **joint responsibility** with countries such as Afghanistan and Colombia to work against organised crime and narcotics smuggling.

If you do not use narcotics you are not supporting the narcotics industry... and that in itself is a great contribution.

But more can be done.

Using narcotics damages the user's health, and can have major consequences for their relatives. That is one good reason for not using narcotics. Unfortunately these arguments do not hit home with Martin, Amanda or Jakob. Do you know anyone who thinks the same as them?

QUESTION whether they have ever considered that, when they use narcotics, they are destroying other people's lives.

REMIND them that when they use narcotics, they are ambassadors for an industry that unashamedly exploits people. They are part of a dirty and ruthless sector and are a very poor example to other people.

ASK next time the subject comes up among your friends:

Are we contributing to increased violence when we snort cocaine?

Can you support fair trade labelling and poverty reduction if you smoke hash?

Is it a good idea to use narcotics if we feel that peace on earth is important?

How is the movement to improve the environment helped by using narcotics?

What and who are you helping when you buy narcotics

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND THAT HAS STARTED TO USE NARCOTICS?

If so, you can contact:

- **BRIS (CHILDREN'S RIGHT IN SOCIETY)**
www.bris.se / 0200 230 230
- **JOURHAVANDE KOMPIS (FRIEND ON CALL)**
www.jourhavandekompis.se / 3020-222 444
- **UNGA KRIS**
www.ungakris.com
- **TÄNK OM!**
Hedersvåld - Droger - Kriminalitet (Honour-related violence – Drugs – Criminality)
www.tankom.net / 040 6111050
Jour 0736 982832
- **NATIONELLA HJÄLPLINJEN (NATIONAL HELPLINE)**
www.nationellahjalplinjen.se / 020-22 00 60
- **HASELA HELPLINE**
www.hasselahelpline.se / 0200 220 555
- **DRUGSMART**
www.drugsmart.com / 08-412 46 00
- **SOCIAL SERVICES** in your municipality



If we can reduce the demand for narcotics in Sweden, we are not only benefitting our own society but also others. The only group that suffers from such a trend is those people involved in organised crime.

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www.unodc.org

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www.can.se

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www.sharedresponsibility.gov.co

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Act Now
www.actnow.nu

Stratfor
www.stratfor.com

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