



Call for Proposals

This Call for Proposals is designed to help you through the proposal submission process for the 2009 International Drug Policy Reform Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico – from explaining how the process works to giving some tips about what kind of proposals we’re looking for and how best to communicate your ideas.

1. Details About the Conference Audience, Program & Speakers

The Reform Conference takes place every two years and draws a wide range of participants including students, grassroots activists, scholars and other researchers, city, state and federal elected officials, people in recovery as well as active drug users, law enforcement officers, treatment providers and public health advocates.

In 2007, there were 59 sessions over the course of three days, including three plenary sessions. All sessions are 90 minutes long: usually 60 minutes of presentations and 30 minutes of question & answer. In 2009 we anticipate a similar schedule.

The Reform Conference has sessions in the following formats:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Plenary | A gathering of all the conference attendees. <i>(These are always programmed by conference organizers.)</i> |
| Panel Session | 4 speakers each give presentations led by a moderator and sometimes a commentator; question & answer follows. |
| Roundtable Session | A conversational dialogue of 6-7 speakers, led by a knowledgeable and engaging moderator. |
| Training Session | 1-2 speakers focus on a particular issue or topic and give session attendees skills and tips to address it. |

All confirmed speakers must register for the conference, and are offered a special registration rate of \$275. They are expected to arrange and pay for their own travel and hotel.

The Reform Conference has an extremely limited portion of scholarships set aside for speakers. Decisions on how these funds are disbursed are made based on the applicant’s need and the desirability of the presentation or session proposal.



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2. How Does the Proposal Process Work?

Each year, the Reform Conference features domestic and international topics and strives to create a balance of drug policy reform research, practice, advocacy and policy. We want the conference to inspire attendees and introduce them to new ideas and ways of thinking or working.

We welcome you to submit a proposal if you:

- Have an example of an effective or successful advocacy campaign;
- Can present the political or ethical implications of recent drug or drug policy-related research;
- Are involved in delivering innovative harm reduction services or enacting new drug policies;
- Wish to discuss or debate a particular area of drug policy or advocacy;
- Or just if you have a great idea about what we should include!

Proposals will be broken down into three types – and you should indicate clearly which yours is:

- 1) **Suggestion** – your idea about speaker(s) to invite or topic(s) to pursue, each with a detailed reasoning provided.
- 2) **Individual Presentation** – your own 10-12 minute presentation on a drug policy-related topic to be considered for inclusion in a session.
 - a. Please include a brief description of what your presentation will cover.
 - b. Please include at least one presentation objective (i.e. what attendees will learn from the presentation).
 - c. Please include your 150-word bio and your resume or CV.
 - d. You may submit your presentation with a title; however, please be aware that it is Reform Conference practice to list only *entire panel* titles rather than individual presentation titles.

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2. How Does the Proposal Process Work?

continued

- 3) **Session** – a complete 90-minute session featuring 2-6 participants (depending on format). *Please only submit this kind of proposal if you are in contact with most or all speakers and can confirm their participation.* If you are not in contact with all speakers, please submit your session idea as a Suggestion Proposal (item #1).
 - a. Indicate your proposed session format: *Panel, Roundtable* or *Training*. Please note that we typically have far fewer training sessions than other types.
 - b. Please include a listing of all speakers and a brief description of what each will cover.
 - c. Please include three session objectives (i.e. what attendees will learn from the session).
 - d. Please include your 150-word bio and your resume or CV, and the bios and resumes/CVs of the rest of the proposed speakers if possible.
 - e. Recommend a session title. Please note that conference organizers will have editing and final authority on session titles. We prefer titles to be descriptive and catchy, and if possible, to frame the content of the panel in terms of a question. Please see our [conference archives](#) for some examples from past years.

All proposals must be submitted in English and adhere to a 300-word limit.

Submit your proposal by emailing it as a MS Word or PDF attachment to Stefanie Jones, Event Manager (sjones@drugpolicy.org). Please do not send additional materials. The deadline for submission is **July 31, 2009**.



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3. How Does the Review Process Work?

All proposals will be reviewed by conference organizers as well as representatives of the Conference Advisory Committee, which is composed of representatives from co-host organizations and persons representing various interests, skills, expertise and experience in the field of drug policy reform. Members of the committee will submit their recommendations to the conference organizers, who will bring them before DPA for final deliberation. Please note that, while you may submit multiple proposals, in order to make the conference as inclusive as possible, in most cases only one proposal will be accepted per person.

Everyone who submits an **individual presentation** or **session** proposal will be notified whether or not their proposal has been accepted for presentation. Committee members or DPA may recommend that panels be reorganized or presentations be combined. If your proposal is accepted with these suggested changes you will have a chance to agree to move forward or withdraw your proposal.

Unfortunately, given the time demands on conference organizers, it often will not be possible to provide individual feedback as to why a proposal was or was not accepted. If your proposal is accepted, you will then need to confirm your participation by registering and paying the conference registration fee.



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4. What Kind of Topics Are You Looking For?

The bulk of Reform Conference sessions consistently fall into these broad topic areas:

- Advocacy Trainings
- Harm Reduction
- Foreign & International Drug Policies
- Marijuana & Medical Marijuana
- Prohibition, Decriminalization & Legalization
- Racial Justice
- Sentencing Reform

For 2009, given our location in Albuquerque and the current state of drug policy reform efforts, we would particularly like to encourage proposals on the following topics:

- Border Issues
- Constitutional & Other Legal Issues
- Drug Courts & Alternatives to Incarceration
- Immigration & Drug Law Reform
- Intersection of Criminal Justice Reform & Treatment
- LGBTQ Community & Drug Use
- Overdose Awareness, Research and/or Prevention
- Political, Historical, Sociological and Cultural Analysis of the Role of Drugs & Drug Use in Society
- Psychedelics, Entheogens & Healing
- Public Health-Focused Models
- Sex Work & Harm Reduction
- Southwest-Focused Topics
- Veterans & Drug Use

Other topics of interest include:

- Abstinence, Recovery & Harm Reduction
- By, With & For Drug Users
- Drugs in Sport
- Dual Diagnosis (between mental health and drug use)
- Economic Analysis of Drug Policies
- Engaging Law Enforcement Agencies
- Funding & Fundraising
- Gender Issues
- Harm Reduction & Human Rights
- HIV/AIDS & Hep C
- Innovations in Drug Treatment
- Pain Management
- Stimulants and/or Methamphetamine Use
- Youth, Drugs & Reform

However, this list is far from exhaustive and, naturally, proposals can – and should – also be submitted on topics not listed here.





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5. How Should I Format My Proposal?

There is no prescriptive format for a proposal. Please try to be as clear and precise as possible, succinctly stating the problem or topic, the approach taken to address it, and the outcome. We recommend thinking about presentation or session proposals in terms of a question you are trying to answer. If you would like more in-depth guideline suggestions, please check the [Call for Proposals page](#) on the conference website.

6. Further Information

We hope that this Call for Proposals encourages you to submit your ideas for our conference and helps to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. For further information, please visit the conference website – www.reformconference.org – or contact Stefanie Jones, Event Manager, at sjones@drugpolicy.org.