

Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association (GLEPHA)

Policy Statement on Tobacco Control and Harm Reduction

1. Purpose

The Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association (GLEPHA) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation, dedicated to promote and encourage the creation and sharing of new knowledge about issues at the intersection of law enforcement and public health.

GLEPHA recognises the significant harms caused by tobacco use and supports evidence-based approaches to reduce those harms. In line with our mission to promote collaboration across law enforcement and public health, GLEPHA acknowledges both the importance of tobacco control and the role of harm reduction strategies in improving health outcomes. Note that at this stage, this position statement includes e-cigarettes and Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs), although evidence is still developing on this aspect of tobacco use.

This statement sets out GLEPHA's position on engagement with the tobacco industry and related entities, emphasising transparency, integrity, and evidence-based and informed practice.

2. Scope

This position applies to:

- Members of the GLEPHA Board of Directors and Executive.
- Individuals acting as official representatives of GLEPHA (e.g. at conferences, working groups, or projects).

Individual members of GLEPHA are not bound by this statement but are expected to uphold the Association's general purposes and values.

3. Position Statement

1. Evidence-based approach

- GLEPHA affirms that tobacco use is harmful and that reducing tobacco-related harm is a critical public health goal. As per the World Health Organisation's (WHO) position, especially Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), it is also the position of GLEPHA that 'all forms of tobacco use are harmful, and that there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco' (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>).
- Harm reduction, alongside demand and supply reduction strategies, is a legitimate and necessary element of tobacco control. Tobacco harm reduction is consistent with the WHO 2003 FCTC (Article 1(d)) (https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/RecentTexts/FCTC_en.pdf).

2. Conflict of interest and transparency

- With respect to Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC, GLEPHA recognises the inherent conflict between the commercial interests of the tobacco industry and public health. As such, GLEPHA also condemns, as per the 2024 WHO Departmental update, any effort from the tobacco industry to influence healthcare and/or medical education (<https://www.who.int/news/item/12-06-2024-who-condemns-tobacco-industry-s-manipulation-of-medical-education>).
- Engagement with the industry should be limited to what is necessary for regulatory, research, or harm reduction purposes, and must be fully transparent. In those cases where engagement is necessary, it needs to be done publicly and transparently, as per Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.
- Any GLEPHA representative with current or past links to the tobacco industry (or its affiliates) must disclose these to the Board of Directors, in line with GLEPHA's Conflict of Interest policy. This disclosure will then be examined by the Ethics and Governance subgroup within GLEPHA, and the subgroup will identify an appropriate way forward.

3. Funding and sponsorship

- With respect to Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC, GLEPHA will not accept funding, sponsorship, or other financial support from the tobacco industry or organisations primarily acting in its interests.
- The above applies specifically to the Board of Directors. Furthermore, all prospective GLEPHA members will be subject to GLEPHA's Conflict of Interest policy and are expected to act with full transparency and by duty of candour.

4. Conferences, publications, and projects

- Presenters, authors, and contributors are required to disclose any funding or support received from tobacco-related entities, as per any research funding guidelines. Note that simple disclosure of funding or support does not guarantee abstract acceptance at a conference, and abstracts may not be accepted for inclusion by conference organisers.
- Decisions about participation to GLEPHA events will be guided by GLEPHA's commitment to evidence, transparency, and the integrity of public health.

4. Principles

In accordance with the WHO FCTC, GLEPHA acknowledges that tobacco distribution and consumption is 'a global problem with serious consequences for public health that calls for the widest possible international cooperation and the participation of all countries in an effective, appropriate and comprehensive international response'. GLEPHA is committed to help address the 'devastating worldwide health, social, economic and environmental

consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke’ for all members of the community, including vulnerable members of the community. GLEPHA’s approach is therefore guided the evidence base, by commitment to:

- **Harm reduction** — supporting pragmatic strategies (including regulation) to reduce harm from tobacco use, including safer nicotine products where evidence demonstrates effectiveness.
- **Transparency** — ensuring openness in all interactions and disclosures via public statements on the GLEPHA website.
- **Collaboration** — working with stakeholders, while guarding against undue influence.
- **Feasibility** — maintaining a policy commensurate to GLEPHA’s size, resources, and volunteer nature.

5. Review

This position statement will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if significant new evidence or global guidelines emerge. It will be circulated to all GLEPHA Board members and key stakeholders for feedback before each final iteration. All iterations will align with the WHO’s position under Article 5.3 of the FCTC, which states that public health policies must be protected from commercial and vested industry interests. Accordingly, GLEPHA will, to the best of its knowledge, reject industry contributions, exclude third-party entities acting on behalf of tobacco interests, and operate with full transparency and a clear duty of candour.

Adopted by the GLEPHA Board: 29 November 2025

Next Review: November 2028

SHORT STATEMENT

GLEPHA Statement on Tobacco and Harm Reduction

The Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association (GLEPHA) recognises that tobacco use causes significant harm to individuals, families, and communities. We also acknowledge that harm reduction, alongside prevention and cessation, is a vital and evidence-based approach to reducing these harms.

According to the evidence-base, and as per the position of the World Health Organisation, GLEPHA affirms:

- **Health first:** Tobacco use is harmful, and reducing this harm is central to public health.
- **Harm reduction matters:** Safer alternatives and pragmatic strategies can save lives, especially for those unable to quit smoking.
- **Transparency and integrity:** Any engagement with the tobacco industry must be limited, fully transparent, and free from undue influence.
- **Independence:** GLEPHA does not accept funding or sponsorship from the tobacco industry.
- **Evidence and collaboration:** We are committed to independent, peer-reviewed, evidence-based practice, open dialogue, and partnerships that protect health and wellbeing.

Through this stance, GLEPHA continues its mission to bring together law enforcement, public health, and communities to reduce harm and promote healthier societies.