



ISLAM AND DRUG POLICY

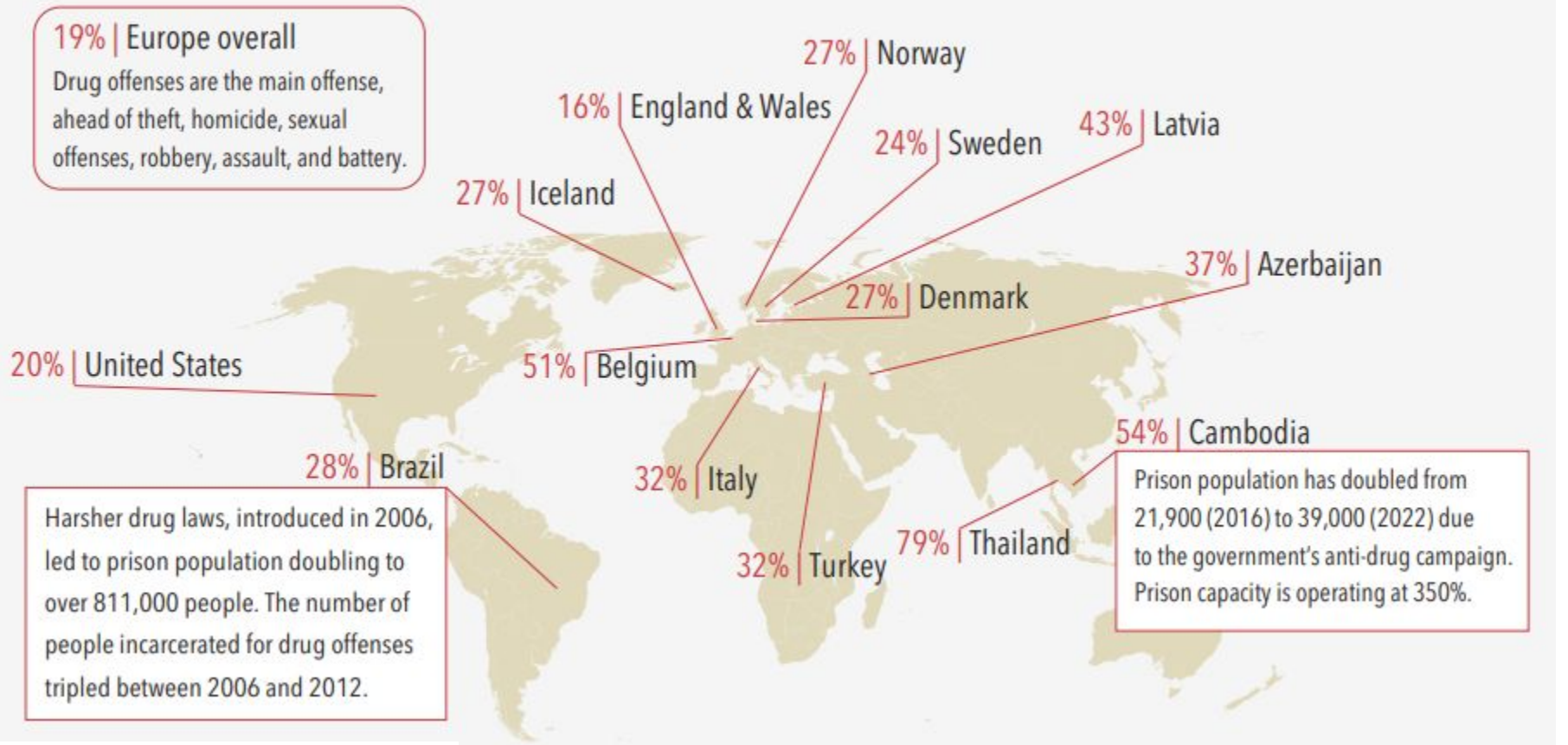
30TH APRIL 2026
WEBINAR

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

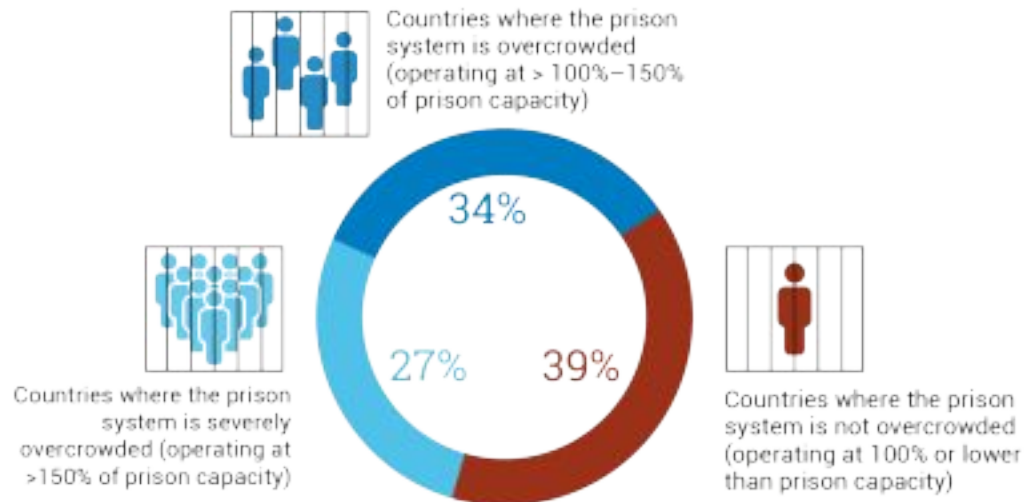
- **Global snapshot** - drug policy, incarceration, death penalty for drug related offences
- **Muslim majority country** - Organisation of Islamic Cooperation country (OIC)
- **Malaysia** - legal reform; opportunities and challenges
- **Islamic principles** that support human-rights, evidence informed approach to drug policy

Global Snapshot

DRUG LAWS AND MASS INCARCERATION: THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE CRISIS 55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63



Global Snapshot - Prison Overcrowding

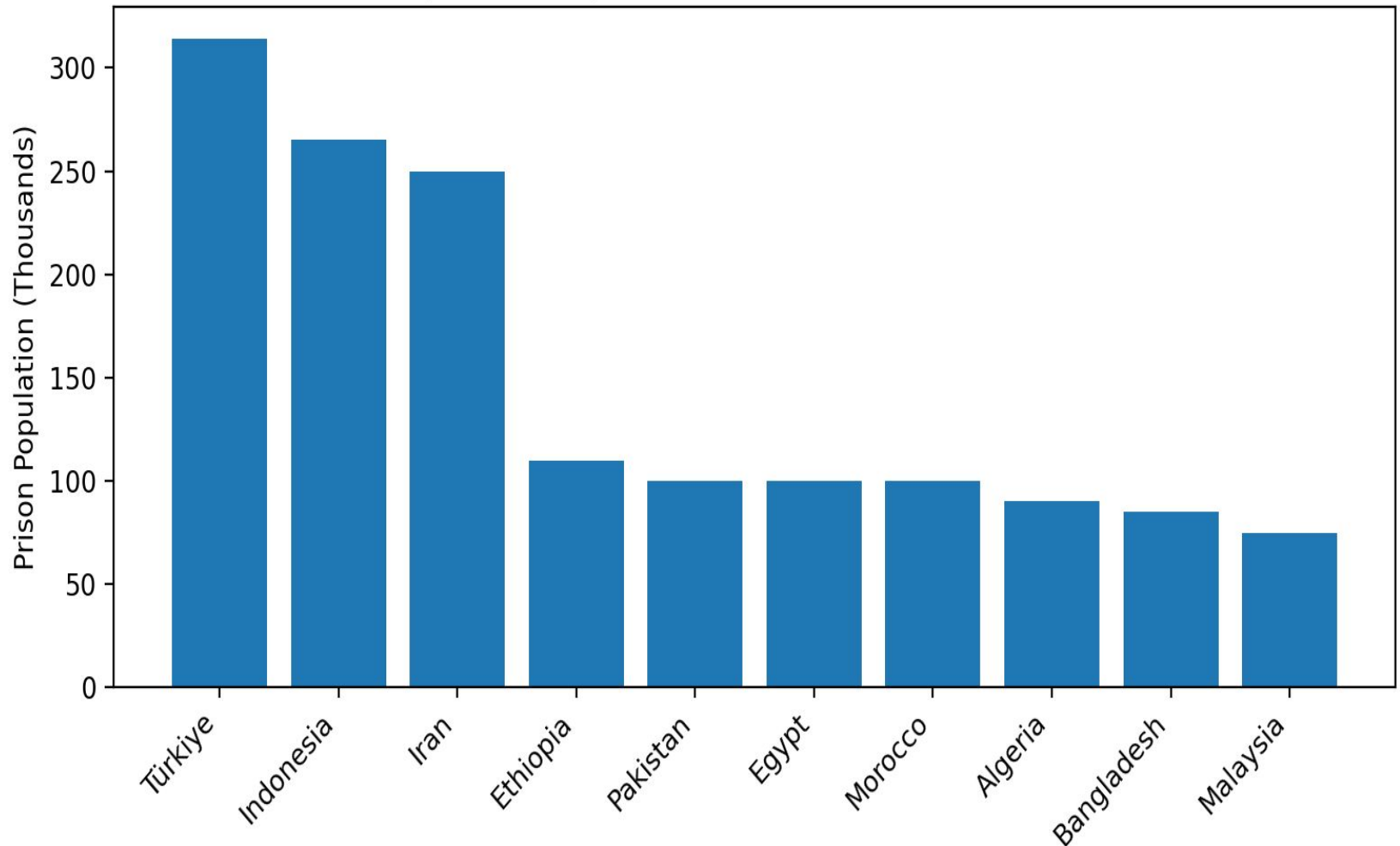


* Based on data from 181 countries (42 from Africa, 44 from the Americas, 32 from Asia, 47 from Europe, 12 from Oceania)



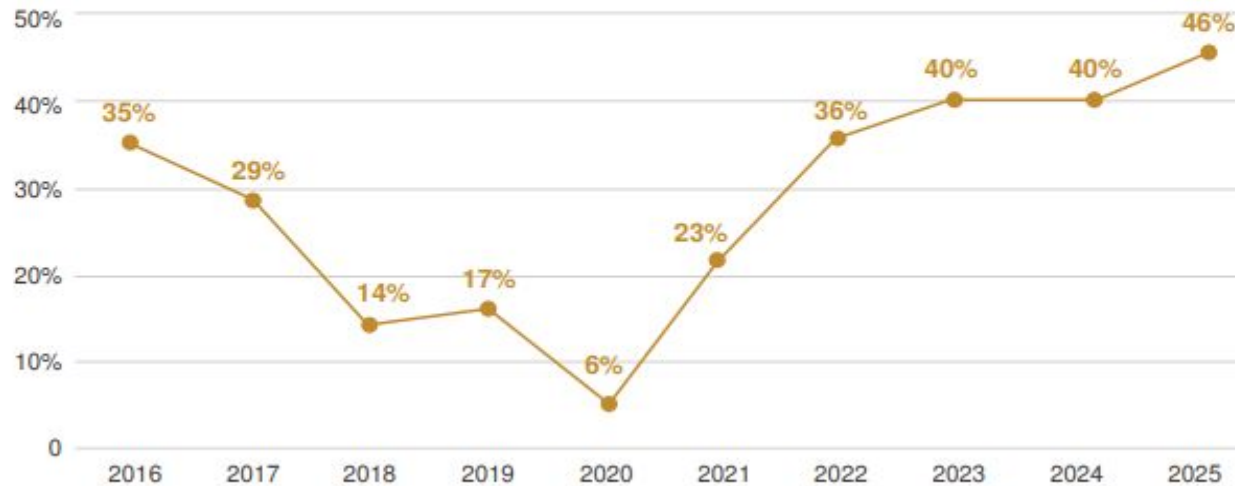
OIC Prison Population

Top Prison Populations in Selected OIC Countries



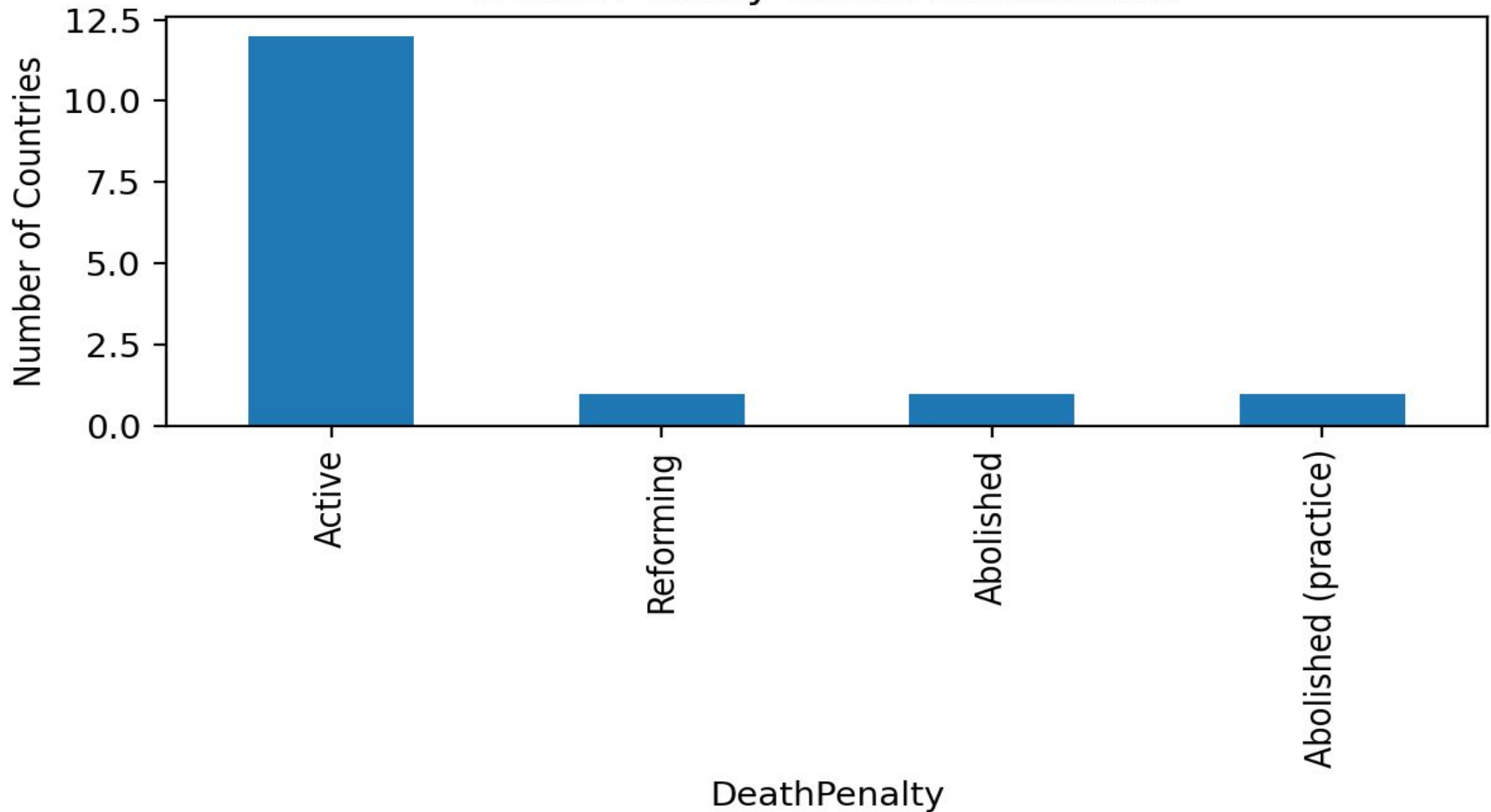
Death Penalty for Drug Related Offences

**PERCENTAGE OF KNOWN GLOBAL EXECUTIONS COMMITTED FOR DRUG
OFFENCES (2016-2025)**



OIC Death Penalty Status

Death Penalty Status Distribution



Malaysia: Legal Reform

- Abolishment of the mandatory death penalty
- The revision of Drug Dependants Act 1983 (r 2024)
- The formation of the National Task Force on Decriminalisation
- The move to set up pilot program on diversion

Malaysia: Remaining Challenges

- Total abolishment of death penalty
- The revision of Drug Dependants Act 1983 (r 2024) - still punitive in nature for repeat offences
- Competing drug laws - Dangerous Drug Act 1952
- Religious and moral arguments are still favoured/used as evidence to inform drug policy that retains its prohibitionist principles

Rahmah – Mercy and Compassion

A humane response to those affected by drug dependence

- Islam places mercy at the heart of dealing with human suffering.
- People experiencing addiction should be met with care, treatment, and support.
- Compassion reduces stigma and encourages recovery.
- A humane drug policy reflects the Islamic value of protecting people from further harm.

Karamah Insaniyyah– Human Dignity

Every person retains dignity

- Islam recognises the inherent dignity of every human being.
- A person who uses drugs does not lose their worth or humanity.
- Policies should avoid humiliation, exclusion, and unnecessary punishment.
- Respecting dignity supports reintegration into family and society.

Maqasid Syariah – Higher Objectives of the Law

Protecting what matters most

- **Hifz al-Nafs (Protection of Life):** prevent overdose and avoidable deaths
- **Hifz al-‘Aql (Protection of Mind):** treat addiction and restore mental wellbeing
- **Hifz al-Nasl (Protection of Family):** strengthen families and protect children
- **Hifz al-Mal (Protection of Wealth):** reduce wasteful incarceration costs
- **Hifz al-Din (Protection of Faith):** create pathways for repentance and renewal

Treatment, recovery, and harm reduction support these higher objectives.

Maslahah –Public Interest and Common Good

Policies should be guided by benefit and evidence

- Islamic governance values policies that bring benefit and reduce harm.
- Drug-related offences may fall under Ta'zir (discretionary measures by the state).
- This allows authorities to choose responses based on Maslahah (public interest).

Such responses may include:

1. Diversion to treatment
2. Community rehabilitation
3. Medical and psychosocial support

Taubah & Islah – Repentance and Reform

Recovery and second chances

- Islam always leaves the door open for repentance and positive change.
- People should have pathways back to health, family, and society.
- Rehabilitation is stronger than permanent exclusion.
- Drug policy should create opportunities for recovery and reintegration.