

POLICY FORUM

∞ Meta

June 28, 2022

Recommendation: “Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Organic Content Policy

“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Overview

Issue Statement:

Meta is committed to protecting voice and we recognize that individuals have a range of perspectives on the use of non-medical drugs. We have limited this speech, however, because safety groups have long-flagged the risks— particularly for young people and at-risk groups – from normalizing drug use through positive discussion. We would like to allow more speech about religious or traditional drug use without sacrificing safety, but recognize that it may not be operationally feasible to make such a nuanced change, so we must be prepared to decide whether to lean toward the value of safety or voice.

Number of Working Groups: 4

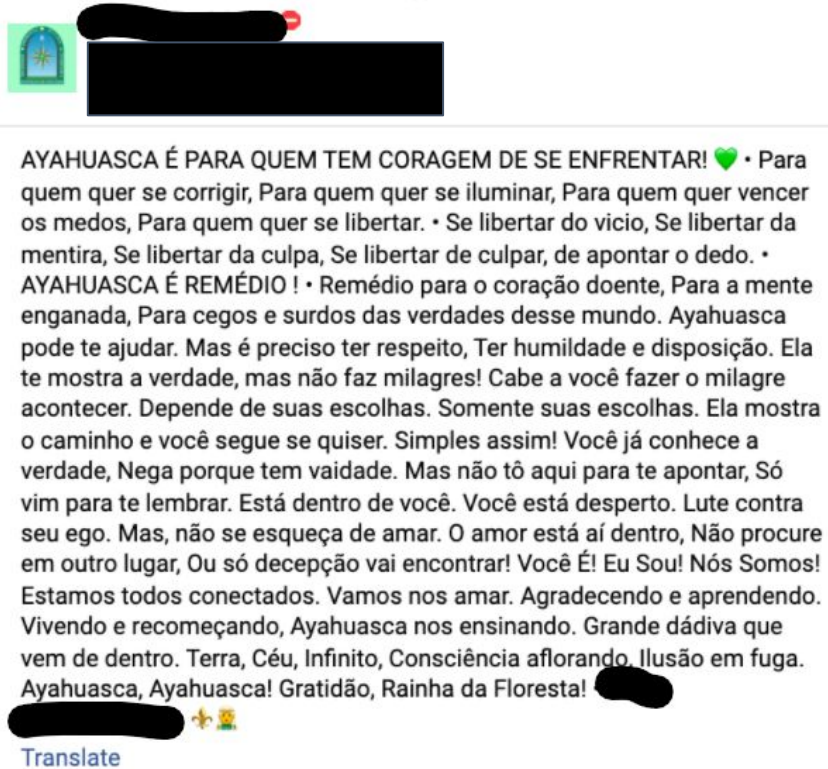
Number of External Engagements: 35

Number of Survey Respondents: 23,400

“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Challenges distinguishing between different types of drug content

Religious vs Non-Religious




Content posted by a self-described “spiritual school” refers to Ayahuasca as “a great gift” for those who want to “correct themselves,” “enlighten,” “overcome fears,” and “break free.” The content states that Ayahuasca “is teaching us” and shows the “truths of this world.”



“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Challenges distinguishing between different types of drug content

Instructions vs Non-Instructional

 **VICE**
Apr 5 2022 3:52pm UTC+00:00

When you're taking psychedelics, there are a few key things to consider: a good environment, proper dosage and the drug's purity. Taking too much, mixing drugs, not being emotionally and physically prepared for the trip, and not eating or hydrating enough can lead to a scary loop where you may unearth trauma or feel overwhelmed. The illegality of the drug and the guilt and shame around taking drugs can also lead to a bad trip. This is where "trip sitters" – people who remain sober while those around them take psychedelics – come in. The key to being a good trip sitter is to make people feel heard and supported. Let them talk through it. And if the person you're trip sitting doesn't feel like talking, give them space to express themselves creatively, like by painting or playing with clay. Choosing the right environment is also important—busy spaces can be triggering for some, so accessibility to nature is ideal. Wherever you're at, having a good understanding of the space you're in is a good place to start. Next: do an emotional check-in. See where the person's at emotionally and what they're looking for. Bad trips can feel never-ending, so sometimes it's necessary to spend the hours they're tripping assuring them that the trip is temporary and will come to an end. Last but not least, establish a buddy system. Make a pact with a friend to constantly check up on each other. Maybe you already knew all this—but just in case: save, share and stay safe 🍷

[Translate](#)

 **MERRY JANE** ✓
June 17 at 6:40 PM · 🌐



MERRYJANE.COM

The Best Strains for Watching Comedies

We know stoners love a good laugh so here are some perfect strains to smoke while you w...

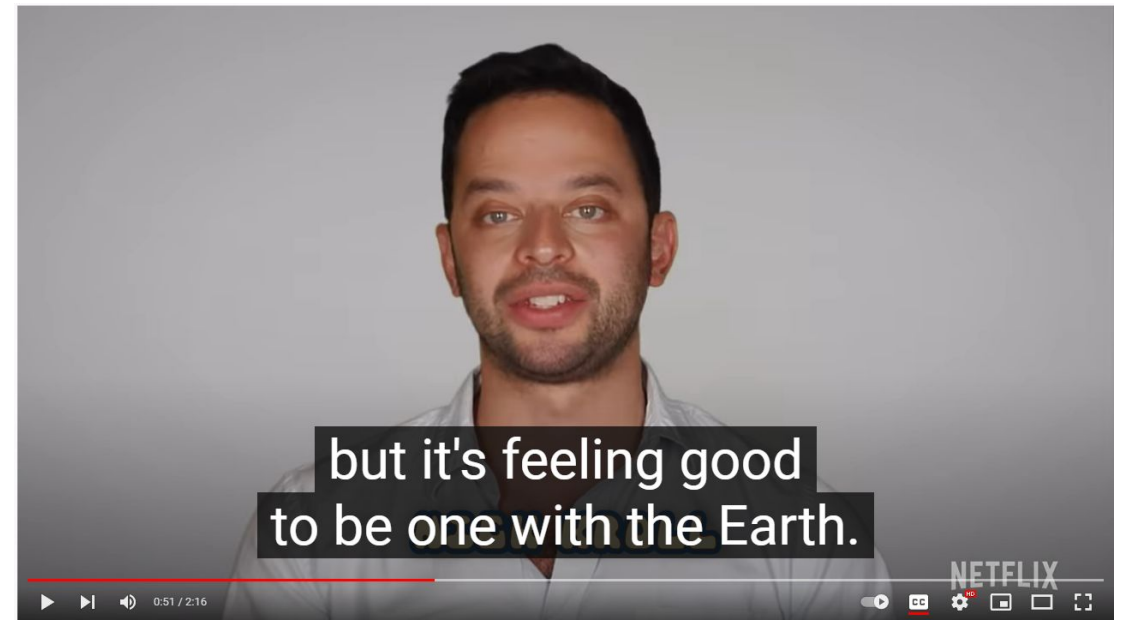
“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Challenges distinguishing between different types of drug content

Admission vs Promotion



I got so high the other night I put food in the oven and went to go set my timer on my phone but accidentally set my stopwatch. So I just ended counting how long it took to burn chicken nuggets. Bout 78 minutes.



Have A Good Trip | Official Trailer | Netflix

“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Oversight Board Recommendation

- In the “Ayahuasca Tea” case, the Oversight Board overturned our removal of content that spoke positively about Ayahuasca — a plant-based brew with psychoactive properties— in a religious context. The Board found that such positive discussion “was not closely linked to the possibility of harm.”
- The Board recommended in a Policy Advisory Statement that we “**allow positive discussion of traditional and religious uses of non-medical drugs where there is historic evidence of such use.**”
- A minority of the Board agreed that the policy should be changed, but felt **Meta “should not be in the position of attempting to distinguish posts that positively discuss traditional and religious practice,** finding this to be too porous a line for effective enforcement.” This minority instead felt positive statements should be allowed for all non-medical drugs with traditional and religious uses regardless of context.

“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Research and External Engagement - Mixed Signals

Research

Key Points:

- Defining what counts as a religious or traditional context is difficult; additionally, 65% of adults in 13 countries surveyed say it would be unfair for FB to have different rules for certain religious or indigenous groups
- While medical authorities say entheogens are unlikely to cause harm, the public is divided about them:
 - In Japan, Egypt, and France, about half of adults say *positive posts* about entheogens definitely should not be allowed; those in the US, UK, and India are much more permissive
 - In many countries, the public expresses broad concerns about entheogen use that medical experts and stakeholders do not share
- At least 9 countries allow the use of NMDs as a cultural/religious exemption or as part of a more permissive approach to drug policy

External Engagement

Key Points:

- Stakeholders are divided on a definition of religious/traditional context due to the diversity of religious, traditional, cultural and legal practices - but agree there is no comprehensive list of indicators.
 - Defining indicators on a global scale could lead to excluding groups the policy is trying to protect.
- Stakeholders stress the difficulty of defining the severities of harm, but some argued that NMDs, such as Ayahuasca, Peyote or Mescaline, psilocybin, etc. do not harm people by themselves.
- Stakeholders agree on giving greater voice to our users to positively discuss entheogens but disagree on exactly how broadly to expand voice.

Entheogen: A group of plant-based drugs that are used in religious and/or traditional ceremonies for their mind-altering effects.

	Pros	Cons
Option 1 [Status Quo]: Remove promotion and admission to using NMD in all contexts except admission in a recovery context	Safest and simplest	Restricting voice
Option 2: Allow promotion and admission of a select list of entheogen drugs when certain religious/traditional indicators are present	Allows more legitimate discussion in principle	Very high error rates, inequitable enforcement
Option 3: Allow admission and promotion of a select list of entheogen drugs except for coordinating and providing instructions for use	Allows more legitimate discussion, more objective than Option 2	High error rates, inequitable enforcement
Option 4 [Recommendation]: Allow promotion and admission of a select list of entheogen drugs in all contexts with an age-gate (18+)	Operational simplicity while allowing voice	Safety risks

“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

Examples

Promotion of Ayahuasca as a “medicine” that can “help us” and is “teaching us.”

AYAHUASCA É PARA QUEM TEM CORAGEM DE SE ENFRENTAR! ❤️ • Para quem quer se corrigir, Para quem quer se iluminar, Para quem quer vencer os medos, Para quem quer se libertar. • Se libertar do vício, Se libertar da mentira, Se libertar da culpa, Se libertar de culpar, de apontar o dedo. • AYAHUASCA É REMÉDIO ! • Remédio para o coração doente, Para a mente enganada, Para cegos e surdos das verdades desse mundo. Ayahuasca pode te ajudar. Mas é preciso ter respeito, Ter humildade e disposição. Ela te mostra a verdade, mas não faz milagres! Cabe a você fazer o milagre acontecer. Depende de suas escolhas. Somente suas escolhas. Ela mostra o caminho e você segue se quiser. Simples assim! Você já conhece a verdade, Nega porque tem vaidade. Mas não tô aqui para te apontar, Só vim para te lembrar. Está dentro de você. Você está desperto. Lute contra seu ego. Mas, não se esqueça de amar. O amor está aí dentro, Não procure em outro lugar, Ou só decepção vai encontrar! Você É! Eu Sou! Nós Somos! Estamos todos conectados. Vamos nos amar. Agradecendo e aprendendo. Vivendo e recomeçando, Ayahuasca nos ensinando. Grande dádiva que vem de dentro. Terra, Céu, Infinito, Consciência aflorando. Ilusão em fuga. Ayahuasca, Ayahuasca! Gratidão, Rainha da Floresta! 🙏🌿

Translate

Option 1:	✗
Option 2:	✓
Option 3:	✓
Option 4:	✓

Promotion [positive discussion] of Iboga in a health context

Sacramento Rene Botanicals Iboga a partagé une publication.
27 décembre 2021 · 🌍

Stop telling people it's hard to recover from drug addiction. Shooting dope every day just not to be sick is hard. Smoking meth all day in your bathroom while your kids bang on the door is hard. Cracking a beer every morning before 10 AM just so you don't shake is hard. Selling your body for a hit of crack cocaine is hard. Lying to your family every day is hard. Recovery is freeing. Recovery is rewarding. Recovery is an easier way of life. You can recover.

IBOGA ROOT BARK SHAVINGS

Sacramento Rene Botanicals Iboga est avec Tortugita Zemog et 39 autres personnes.
27 septembre 2021 · 🌍

Iboga is still largely unknown in the West. It is a dark African jewel, and has many facets as yet unseen and unexplored by many of us here. It is interesting in that ibogaine is used medicinally for addiction interruption, while in Africa it isn't known for this. It is a unique, deep, and cleansing plant, powerful, but with a soft touch, and approached correctly with respect, the experience it gifts has the capacity to a profoundly healing and life enhancing event.
#addictsbrother #iboga

Option 1:	✗
Option 2:	✗
Option 3:	✓
Option 4:	✓

Promotion [instructions on use] of Iboga in a health context.

26 octobre 2021 · 🌍

Tomorrow i wil start the iboga microdosing therapy for a heroin cocaine addiction i going to live with big heart and go up for a life adventure with making music and arts still afraid to make it through the day but im positive it seems 1 drop is enough?!?!does somebody some tips for me i live in@msterdam with love

Option 1:	✗
Option 2:	✗
Option 3:	✗
Option 4:	✓

Promotion of NMD as psychedelics

Psychedelic Club
January 29 at 8:48 PM · 🌍

Be safe and have fun this weekend! 🎉

DILUTING TO TEST FOR FENTANYL

METH OR MDMA:
3tsp OF WATER 10mg OF POWDER

ALL OTHER DRUGS:
1tsp OF WATER 50mg OF POWDER

MDMA PRESSES:
Fent strips won't work because you can't know how much MDMA is in the pill, making it impossible to dilute properly.

DILUTING TO TEST FOR FENTANYL

Test with reagents first so you know what dilution you need to use.

If you dilute with TOO MUCH water, you could miss any fentanyl that's present.

If you dilute with TOO LITTLE water, you might over-concentrate the substance and risk false positives.

Use our micro-scopes to measure level scoops of approximately 10mg.

Fentanyl is never distributed evenly in a bag or pill. You should test at of whatever you intend to consume. If you only test a little bit, you will probably miss the fentanyl.

RECOVERING YOUR POWDERS

RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

TESTING MDMA PRESSED PILLS

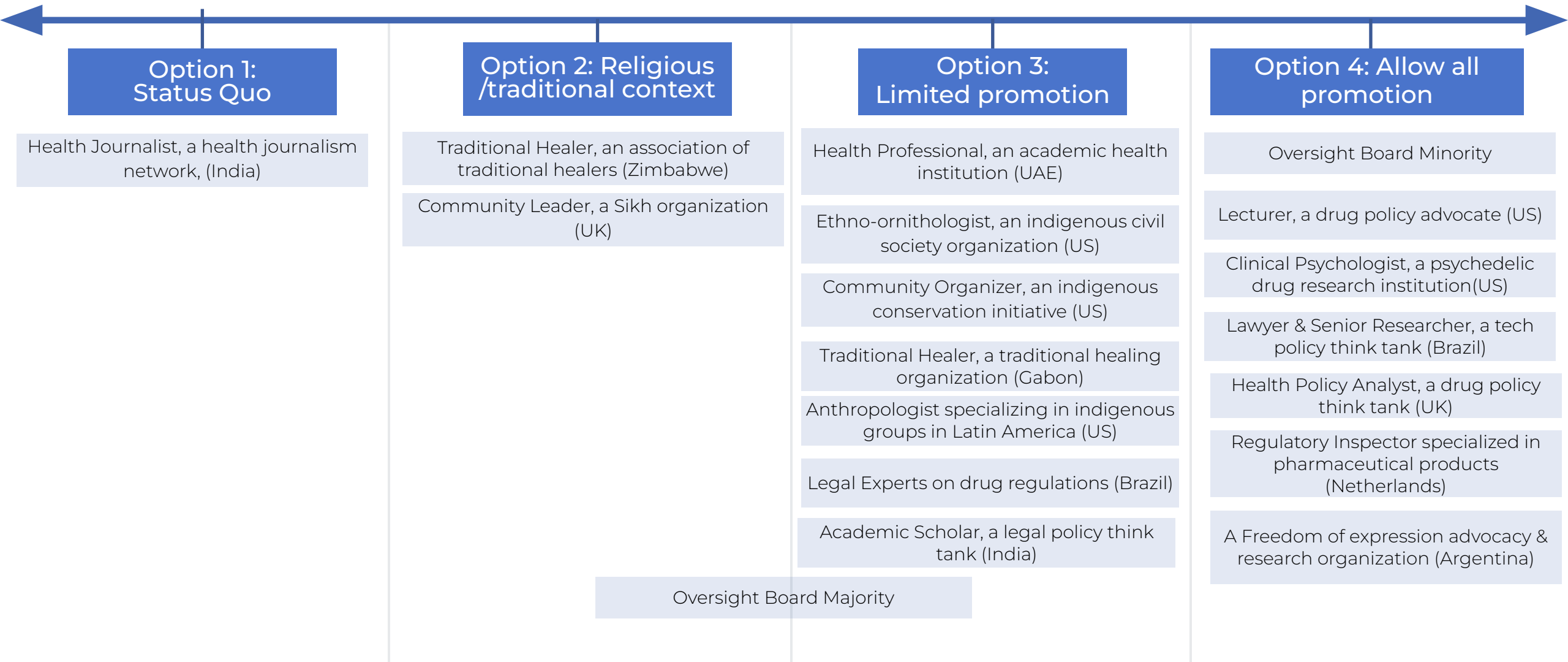
January 27 at 8:09 PM · 🌍

A simplified version of our instructions. Be safe.

Option 1:	✗
Option 2:	✗
Option 3:	✗
Option 4:	✗

“Positive Discussion” of Non-Medical Drugs in Religious or Traditional Contexts

External Outreach

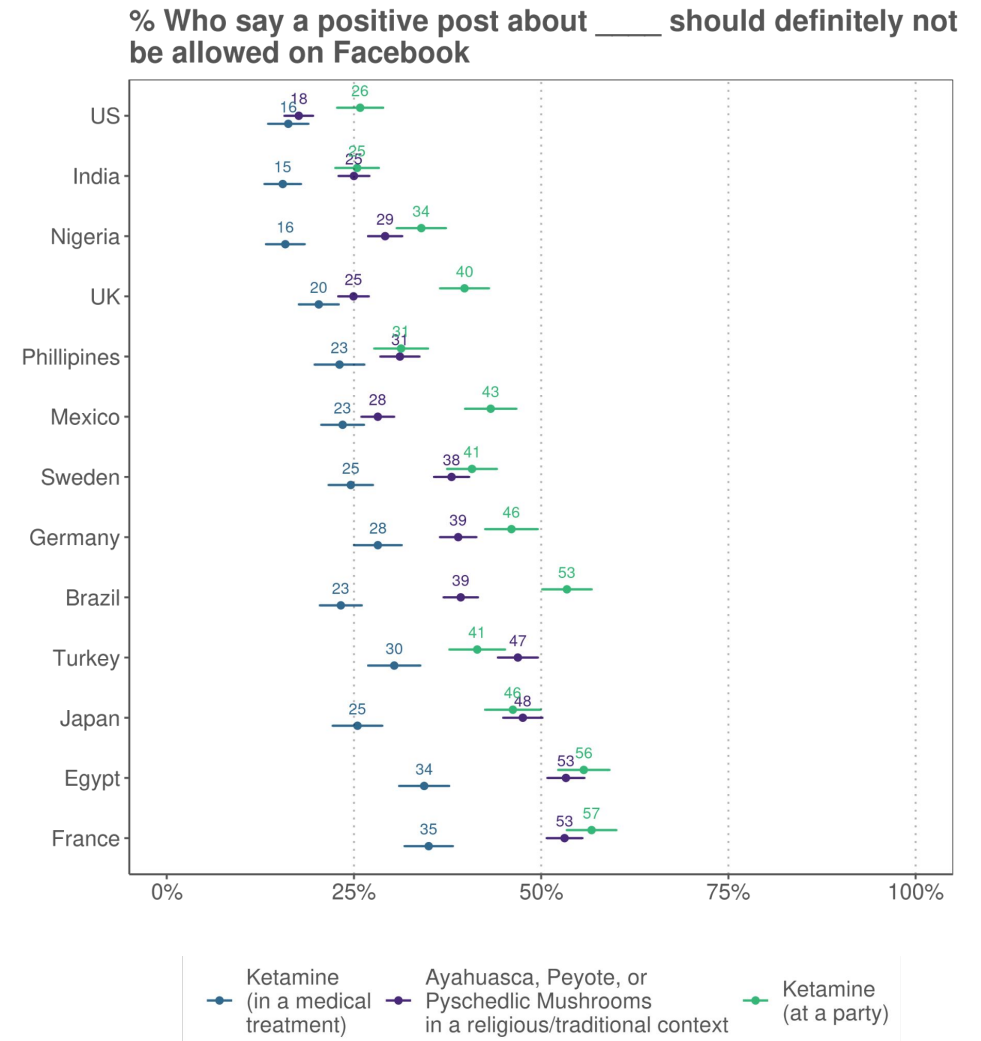


∞ Meta

Research Appendix

Public Opinion and Medical Consensus

- **Public opinion.** While there is not broad support for positive posts about entheogens on Facebook, only in Egypt and France are majorities strongly aligned with our current policy of not allowing posts about entheogens.
 - The lowest disapproval level is in the US, with 18% saying such posts definitely should not be allowed. The highest disapproval is in France and Egypt, each with 53%.
 - Support for allowing entheogen posts is generally higher than support for allowing positive posts about using ketamine at a party, but lower than support for posts about using ketamine in a medical treatment.
- **Medical consensus.** The estimated overall harm of entheogen use on individuals and society is [much lower](#) than other commonly legal drugs, like alcohol and tobacco, but ibogaine and ayahuasca are notable for their potentially fatal cardiac effects.



N=23,400; YouGov online adult samples from BR, FR, EG, DE, IN, JP, MX, NG, PH, SE, TR, US, and UK, Apr. 29- May 5, 2022. Estimates weighted to represent the online population of each country. Question wording: Imagine that a member of [a religious | an indigenous] group posted on Facebook about their positive experience using [psychedelic mushrooms | peyote | ayahuasca] in a [religious | traditional] ceremony. Do you think this post should be allowed or not on Facebook?; Now we'd like to ask you to consider a different case. Imagine that someone posted on Facebook about their positive experience [at a party | in a medical treatment] using ketamine (also known as "Special K"), another psychedelic drug. Do you think this post should be allowed or not? (Definitely should be allowed, Probably should be allowed, Probably should not be allowed, Definitely should not be allowed)