



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

School of Law
and Social Justice



Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Unit
Building Legal Capacity, Preventing NCDs

The Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Unit (or Law & NCD Unit) was set up in January 2015 to research how law can support the prevention of NCDs, and more specifically how robust evidence-based policy interventions can be designed to promote effective NCD prevention strategies at local, national, regional or global levels.

Our research primarily focuses on unhealthy diets, alcohol and tobacco as three major NCD risk factors, and more overarching themes such as health inequalities, addiction, and the relationship between public health, human rights and international trade and investment law. We have also done some work on air pollution and anti-microbial resistance – though to a much lesser extent. Within these broad themes, our members have developed expertise in a number of more specialised areas, including the protection of children against unhealthy food and alcohol marketing, food labelling, tobacco plain packaging, food taxation, and alcohol minimum unit pricing.

The Unit is made up of academics who collectively specialise in a wide range of sub-disciplines of law: international human rights and children's rights, public health, trade and investment, consumer, food, advertising, and European Union law. We embrace a multi-disciplinary, multi-partner approach to our work, and as such are always delighted to meet new colleagues and collaborators who work in NCD prevention and related fields. However, in order to maintain the rigorous and independent approach that defines our work, we have a strict policy against real, potential or perceived conflicts of interests, and therefore accept no funding from a wide range of industry sources, including the tobacco, alcohol, food, pharmaceutical and advertising industries.

Bearing in mind the complexity of NCDs and the multi-sectoral response required to address them, we have developed a strong interdisciplinary network of academic partners in Liverpool. Similarly, in light of the global reach of NCDs and the regional and international responses that the development and implementation of NCD prevention strategies call for, we have forged sustained partnerships with colleagues from other academic institutions with an established reputation in various aspects of NCD prevention, many of them are members of our External Advisory Board. Finally, to reflect our efforts to ensure that research can be translated into effective policies, we work closely with a wide range of partners, not least the World Health Organization and its regional offices, UNICEF, the International Development Law Organization, as well as many governments, public health agencies and non-governmental organisations worldwide.

The Unit offers a wide range of opportunities to its growing postgraduate community and welcomes queries from interested PhD and postdoctoral applicants. We also welcome Visiting Fellows and regularly organise public events. We offer teaching modules at undergraduate and postgraduate (LLM) levels, and have developed a range of bespoke training courses for public health policy actors (international organisations, governments, public health agencies) and members of civil society.

For more information on the activities of the Law & NCD Unit, please contact the Unit's Director, **Professor Amandine Garde**: amandine.garde@liverpool.ac.uk.