



CUBAN ECONOMY UNDER SIEGE

WHY PRESIDENT BIDEN MUST REMOVE CUBA FROM THE SO-CALLED "STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM" LIST!

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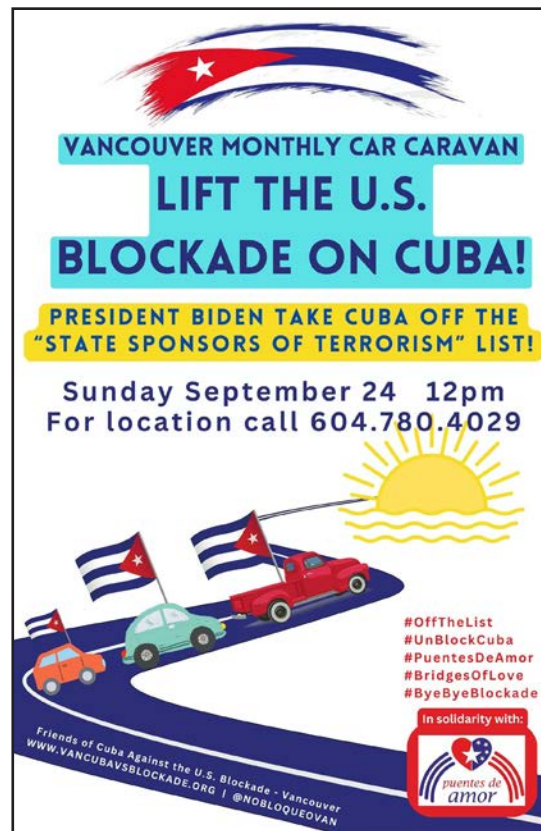


A special bilingual webinar
Thursday September 28, 2023
 8:00 PM Eastern Time (Havana)
 5:00 PM Pacific Time

U.S. CUBA NORMALIZATION CONFERENCE COALITION
WWW.US-CUBANORMALIZATION.ORG



Hey President Biden, CUBA IS NOT A 'SPONSOR OF TERRORISM'! REMOVE CUBA FROM YOUR LIST!





VANCOUVER MONTHLY CAR CARAVAN LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!

PRESIDENT BIDEN TAKE CUBA OFF THE
 "STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM" LIST!

Sunday September 24 12pm
 For location call 604.780.4029

#OffTheList
 #UnBlockCuba
 #PuentesDeAmor
 #BridgesOfLove
 #ByeByeBlockade

In solidarity with:


Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver
WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG | @NOBLOCKEOVAN

2023 PRIDE T-SHIRT!



**\$15-20
 SLIDING
 SCALE**

GET INVOLVED IN VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA (VCSC)
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Care For The Environment: A Cuban Priority

By Alejandra Garcia

Yesterday June 5th, the world marked International Environment Day, a date to raise awareness among humankind about the care and rescue of our common home, a struggle that Cuba has made a priority for decades. This should be a day where the whole world stops to reflect and take action against the alarming deterioration of the planet but unfortunately, especially in the developed world, it passes with the minimum of official notice.

Caribbean islands are particularly hard-hit by the impact of climate change. Cuba is losing fragments of land at a worrying rate due to rising sea levels, is hit by increasingly powerful storms and hurricanes, and lives under sweltering temperatures almost all year round.

The leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, foresaw 30 years ago the catastrophe that was coming to humanity and pointed out the main responsible for this crisis: consumer societies.

During a conference at the United Nations in 1992, Fidel pointed out that, "they are fundamentally responsible for the atrocious destruction of the environment, as they pollute the seas and rivers, contaminate the air, weaken and perforate the ozone layer, and saturate the atmosphere with gases that alter climatic conditions. We are already beginning to suffer the catastrophic effects".

At that meeting, he warned that "forests are disappearing, deserts are spreading, and billions of tons of fertile land end up in the sea every year as numerous species are becoming extinct."

"Tens of millions of men, women and children die every year in poor countries as a result of this, more than in each of the two world wars," he said.

Recently, Cuba began implementing policies such as the Life Task (Tarea Vida), which help us prepare in advance of the imminent rise in sea level. For example, this document

outlines a strategy to move coastal communities to non-endangered areas more inland.

Despite its few natural and economic resources, Cuba has not stopped thinking about the well-being of its people and the ways in which we can contribute to the environment.

Long before those words, Cuba was beginning to create initiatives that would reduce man's effect on the environment. In 1959, the Revolution returned the lands to farmers -after the successive governments of the U.S. neo-colony Era exploited them for profit- so that they could make it germinate and, at the same time, the people could be as self-sustaining as possible.



Over the years, the Cuban scientific community joined lawmakers in creating regulations to help contain the effects of environmental pollution, rural and forest fires, unsustainable agricultural, and illegal species trade.

"On this date, it is impossible not to return to Fidel's words," Cuban intellectual and former Minister of Culture Abel Prieto commented. "The severity of those words is frightening. They go into the essence of predatory capitalism and reveal the suicidal race that consumer life models and paradigms implicate. Fidel's wake-up call went unheard, as have so many scientists and leaders distressed by this chronicle of

an announced tragedy. The situation today is much more serious. The signs herding the collapse of the planet are multiplying. The blind selfishness of the elites keeps them from understanding the impending end," he added.

But, as Brazilian theologian and sociologist Frei Betto would say, we have to leave the pessimism behind for better times. Fidel summarized a meeting on this topic with a similar phrase: "Our duty is to fight." And that, at a Congress for World Balance, when foreign delegates asked him what to do in the face of Empire's seemingly invincible power, he replied: "Sow ideas, plant consciousness," Prieto recalled.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – English

Fall 2023 Edition



The Newsletter of
 Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba - VCSC
WWW.VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM

Why are we marching with Cuban flags and signs at Vancouver Pride?

By Azza Rojhi & Tamara Hansen

On September 25, 2022, Cuba passed a new “Families Code” in a national referendum in which 67% voted in favor of adopting this code into law. Over 6 million Cubans living outside and inside of Cuba participated in the referendum which has cemented and expanded LGBTQAI+, women’s, children’s, and elders’ legal rights in Cuba.

We see a new important development for the Queer movement in Cuba, which folks in Canada and internationally will benefit to know about. Since 1959, Cuba has used mass mobilizations and popular democracy within all levels of society towards building: agrarian reform, ending illiteracy, health initiatives (such as vaccination campaigns), national defence, and many other legal and political changes.

The Cuban people and their revolution have been in constant motion for change. Specifically with the goal of activating and including those who have been traditionally marginalized under capitalism: workers, farmers, women, youth, elders, people of colour, people of African decent, and the Queer community. Cuba’s new Families Code shows that Cuba’s revolution continues in this dynamic motion.

Trans Rights in Cuba

Trans people in Cuba have had access to free, gender affirming surgery and health care since 2008. Additionally, in

Cuba, trans folks can correct their legal names and gender on official documents without surgery since 2013. Cuba also has a national network of trans people and supporters called TransCuba, designed to provide support and family counseling and build social awareness about trans issues across the country.



Cuba’s New Families Code

The new families code expands on the rights of the LGBTQAI+ community and families by expanding the definition of family. Some important highlights of the Families Code include:

- It protects the rights of same sex parents to build a family whether that is through marriage, adoption, or assisted reproduction.
- Equal marriage and adoption rights regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

- Parental rights can now be shared among extended and “non-traditional” family structures, including grandparents, stepparents, and surrogate parents.
- The right to assisted reproduction.
- The extension of labour rights to those who care full-time for children, seniors, or people with disabilities.
- The right to a family life free from violence.
- The codification of domestic violence penalties and the outlawing of corporal punishment (in Cuba, a parent’s decision to disown an LGBTQIA+ child is considered domestic violence and is punished accordingly).
- The new Families Code does not limit the existing family code, but it expands it. It does not limit the rights of anyone, but again expands and extends them for others.

This new Families Code was not only written by lawyers, politicians or legislators. It was the result of the

research and work over many years by sociologists, psychologists, doctors, statisticians, social workers, and other social institutions in Cuba.

The debates and discussion on the contents of the Families Code took place throughout Cuba over many months in workplaces, community centres, and in the media. You feel it when you talk to people in Cuba. You see it when you observe how mass consultations and processes like this happen in the country. The popular democracy is alive in Cuba, and it is very engaging.

Cuba’s Families Code referendum was important proof of the relationship between the Cuban people and the leadership of the revolution including the government, state, and the popular mass revolutionary institutions such as the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the Cuban National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX), the University Student Federation (FEU) and others.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz Canel tweeted after the referendum on the families Code passed, “Approving the new Family Code [CódigoDeLasFamilias] is doing justice. It is paying off a debt with

several generations of Cuban men and women, whose family projects have been waiting for this Law for years. From today we will be a better nation. Love is now the law [#ElAmorYaEsLey]”

As we see the challenges facing the LGBTQAI+ community in Canada and attempts to roll back the rights of trans and non-binary folks, Cuba’s new Families Code shows us that a better future is possible. One that embraces diversity and respects the rights of all.

We hope you will join us in our work in solidarity with Cuba!

Join the New Postcard Campaign in defense of Cuba

Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver and the NY-NJ Cuba Si Coalition launched a postcard campaign aimed at U.S. President Biden which declares, “Cuba is NOT a ‘sponsor of terrorism!’ Remove Cuba from your list!”.

As part of this campaign, people can send postcards as often as they want to the White House. It is a physical reminder to their mail room about this ongoing campaign and this injustice by the U.S. government against Cuba. But also, as folks are mailing their postcard they can take selfies and share them on social media – making this also a public education campaign. Furthermore, these postcards could be used to hand out at events and protests as a way to engage with people and encourage them to take action in support of Cuba!

We hope that you will join us in this exciting new campaign in solidarity with Cuba. If you would like more information or to order postcards please email: nobloqueovancouver@gmail.com

Hey President Biden,
**CUBA IS NOT A
‘SPONSOR OF
TERRORISM!’
REMOVE
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Get Involved in Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) follow us on Twitter & Instagram:

@VanCuba_VCSC or find us on Facebook @vansubasolidarity. You can also keep up with our work on our website:

WWW.VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM or send an email vancubasolidarity@gmail.com

For more information about Cuba’s challenges and gains related to Queer rights, scan this QR Code to watch the June 29, 2023 webinar:

SCAN ME



Celebrate Cuba’s International Days Against Homophobia & Transphobia “For all Families, Love is the Law” organized by the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition

AZZA ROJBI – North African queer activist and board member of Fierste Canada Pride. Azza is also the Coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver. Azza participated in the Cuban Days against Homophobia and Transphobia in 2016. Azza is a member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper. She is the author of “U.S. & Saudi War on the People of Yemen” (Battle of Ideas Press).

TAMARA HANSEN - Coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). She is also a founding organizer with the US-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition, member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper, and the author of the book, “5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution the Challenges of an Unwavering leadership” (Battle of Ideas Press).