



Universal Periodic Review (Fourth Cycle): Cuba
Written Submission by: "Foundation Cuba Vive"

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The Foundation Cuba Vive is chaired by Arnold van Wezel, a Dutch man, interested on society problems and involved in world events, in which he has seen and experienced a lot of injustice, dangers and a lot of misery in South and Central America.

After visiting and experiencing various organizations, including in El Salvador and Nicaragua, he has ended up at CUBA and decided to go for CUBA. He took this decision, especially taking into consideration that CUBA had been resisting the United States of America aggression for more than 60 years.

Foundation Cuba Vive has visited CUBA for more than 30 times since 1986 to participate in a work brigade, so called "Brigade José Martí". During this period, we have been able to recognize that CUBA broadly meets the requirements that show it complies with Human Rights, for example:

HEALTH:

- In Cuba, health is a universal right. The State is responsible for ensuring access to quality medical attention, free of charge, protection and recovery services for all persons without any discrimination.
- Cuban Health System is very focus on elderly people treatment. They have created more than 300 grandparent's houses for care of this growing group. They have 53 geriatric services institutions.
- Cuba has 12 Medical School Universities, and a Latin American School of Medicine, where they have received students from the entire world.

EDUCATION:

- The access to a quality education is guaranteed in Cuba. Cuban government offers free, affordable and quality education services for of all citizens from early childhood to university and post graduate education.
- In Cuba, classrooms in primary and secondary level do not have more than 20 children to allow teachers to have as more personal guidance as possible.
- Cuba has developed a high level Education System for people with disabilities or special necessities. Educational centers, from primary schools to the university, offer assistance to students with disabilities and reasonable adjustments are made in accordance with their needs and possibilities.

CULTURE:

- Cuba has been recognized around the world for the high quality of its artists. The reason behind this reality is that persons can access to specialized education as well as other cultural options that will make it possible to enrich their spiritually and develop their talent.
- During Cuba Vive participation in work Brigades in Cuba, we can exchange with Cuban artists, so we have clearly noted that no Cuban artist has been persecuted for the way they think or what they express. The broadest possible pluralism of ideas is promoted, but as it happens in other countries it is not possible to use the exercise of this right to violate legality.

SOLIDARITY:

- Cuban doctors have been present in more than 50 countries. Even during COVID period, the Henry Reeve Brigade has offered assistance in more than 40 countries, in all the continents, including in Europe.
- The Cuban medical cooperation is based on the principles of humanity and solidarity and the practice of giving not what their surplus but sharing what they have. The health professionals that participate in these programs do so in a free and voluntary manner.
- Cuba's medical cooperation has been recognized and praised by top executives of the UN, WHO and PAHO.
- Cuba has eliminated illiteracy from 1961 and it has helped many countries to do the same, including by creating a teaching methodology so called "Yes, I can", translated into several languages, even in some indigenous dialect.

Cuba is a very peaceful country. Our Foundation members have visited many places around the entire country with total security. CUBA indeed has a different society, but it also serves as an example. Cuban people are happy, inspiring and cooperative. It is visible that they fully enjoy their human rights.

Recommendations:

1. We suggest that Cuban authorities disseminate more the Work Brigade Jose Martí activities and the call for participant. It is a very useful opportunity for young people around the world to visit Cuba and to know how the real implementation of human right is there.