

## The Latin America Association's position on the human rights situation in Cuba and its recommendations for Cuba

For more than 60 years, Cuba has been suffering from an unprecedented economic blockade by the United States, whose avowed aim is to inflict the greatest possible suffering in order to impose a political regime to the liking of the United States. The US blockade clearly violates the fundamental human rights of the Cuban people and causes them unnecessary and pointless suffering. Since 1959, Cuba has made many achievements in human rights that the masses in other Latin American countries can only dream of. High-quality education and health care for all are achievements that may be taken for granted in the Western world, but not in the southern part of the American continent. Of course, these achievements are constantly and greatly eroded by the inhumane sanctions of the United States. In order to improve the human rights situation in Cuba, we therefore believe that, above all, the blockade should be lifted immediately. Moreover, the need for this is confirmed every year by almost all the countries of the world in votes held at the UN. While the United States is constantly violating the human rights of the Cuban people (and others, see the prison at the Guantánamo naval base), Cuban doctors are saving the lives of thousands of people around the world, from Italy to Sierra Leone. We believe that Cuba takes human rights very seriously. During the COVID-19 epidemic, they immediately closed the country to protect human life, taking the huge economic damage that this has caused and avoiding a disaster such as the one in Brazil. The family law passed last year also shows that Cuba is adapting to a changing world, for example by promoting the emancipation of gay people and responding to social challenges, such as punishing domestic violence.

We believe that the primary obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights by the Cuban people is the United States' sanctions policy, but the Cuban Government, of course, also has a major responsibility in the evolution of the human rights situation in Cuba. We recommend that the Cuban government pay particular attention to the most vulnerable groups in society, involve them in decision-making and support them to the extent of its power. Strengthen local communities and support community initiatives. Build links with countries around the world to mitigate the economic damage caused by the US blockade and other unforeseen events. Continue to provide health assistance to poor countries around the world.

To conclude this, we, the members of the Latin America Association of Hungary, think that Cuba is showing an example for the other countries of the world. Of course, neither this society is perfect, but we think that the all-time Cuban government continuously trying to make better the living conditions of the people of Cuba, and correct the haphazard errors. We would like to ask the honoured UN High Commissioner of Human Rights take our remarks into account during the Universal Periodic Review.

Budapest, 28th March 2023