

No. 272/24

7<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## **TO ALL BRANCHES**

Dear Colleagues,

### **CUBA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN- MEDICAL AID APPEAL**

The purpose of this LTB is to ask all branches to support the Cuba Vive appeal to send life-saving medical supplies to Cuba.

Cuba's commitment to health as a human right has helped the country achieve world-renowned health services for its people, despite 62 years of an illegal US blockade. These achievements are now under threat. Extra sanctions imposed under Donald Trump and maintained by the Biden administration have taken a terrible toll on the health service. Cuba's dedicated health professionals struggle with limited resources to treat patients. Surgical supplies, spare parts and medicines are all needed. Shortages are costing lives.

Let Cuba live – support the appeal

Together with other unions, the CWU is supporting this appeal which aims to fill and ship a container of vital medical supplies to Cuba. Since the appeal was launched in February, more than £80,000 has already been raised. With our support we can break the blockade on health and help reach the £100,000 fundraising target.

We encourage all branches to support the appeal by donating and publicising it to your members. In addition to financial support, it would be helpful if you could raise awareness by sharing this email and the attached leaflet with your members.

There is also a website to accompany the appeal ([www.cubavive.org.uk](http://www.cubavive.org.uk)), which has model motions, fundraising ideas, links to further information and online donation facilities. CSC can also provide links to films about the impact of the US blockade on health, as well as speaking notes for anyone who wants to organise a meeting or fundraising event to support Cuba Vive.

The appeal is supported by the Cuban health workers union. Their General Secretary, Dr Santiago Badía González, has sent a message of thanks for our support: "The Cuban people are very grateful for every action of support. You show that the unjust and illegal policies of the US government cannot and will not be able to block solidarity."

To make a donation or find out more about the Cuba Vive appeal and how you can support it visit [www.cubavive.org.uk/donate](http://www.cubavive.org.uk/donate). For further information, please contact the Cuba Solidarity Campaign at [campaigns@cuba-solidarity.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@cuba-solidarity.org.uk) or email the General Secretary's office at [jdunn@cwu.org](mailto:jdunn@cwu.org).

Yours sincerely

*Dave Ward.*

Dave Ward  
**General Secretary**



Cuba Vive -  
blockade-on-health-ic

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# Cuba Vive



## Medical Aid Appeal

# END THE BLOCKADE ON HEALTH



# US sanctions are depriving 11 million Cubans of vital medical supplies



*"I am proud of the internationalism and humanitarianism of our members who are helping to deliver life-saving medical supplies to the people of Cuba. In the CWU we don't see borders as barriers to solidarity!"*

**Dave Ward**, CWU General Secretary

Cuba's dedicated health professionals are facing unprecedented shortages due to increased US sanctions. From paracetamol to sutures, vital medical supplies cost up to three or four times more. Shortages are costing lives.

After leading the region for many years, Cuba's impressive health indicators are now beginning to suffer. Between 2019 and 2022 the infant mortality rate rose from 5 per thousand live births to 7.5.

## Let Cuba Live

CubaVive is an appeal to provide urgent medical aid to Cuba.

Sutures, syringes, catheters, antibiotics, butterfly needles and paracetamol are just a few of the items on the list of needs for Cuban hospitals and polyclinics.

The CWU is contributing to the Cuba Vive medical appeal by asking branches and regions to raise funds to send vital medical aid to Cuban hospitals and clinics.



**12 HORAS DE BLOQUEO EQUIVALEN  
A TODA LA INSULINA ANUAL NECESARIA  
PARA LOS 64 MIL PACIENTES DEL PAÍS**

A billboard reads: Twelve hours of blockade is equal in cost to all the insulin needed to treat the country's 64,000 patients for a year

## **CWU Essential Medical Supplies Kit Help treat patients and save lives in emergencies**

**£350 will pay for a set of medical supplies for a hospital or clinic to help with daily treatment of patients. Each kit will contain:**

Blood transfusion and infusion sets, syringes and needles, surgical gloves, clinical thermometers, intravenous drips, catheters, sutures, butterfly needles, dengue fever testing kits, paracetamol, hydrocortisone, antiseptic, iodine, and folic acid tablets for pregnant women.



**Help break the blockade on health.  
Support the Cuba Vive appeal to  
provide urgent medical aid for Cuba.**

**“ I have met mothers and fathers who see their children die from cancers that would be and could be treatable if it were not for the fact that Cuba cannot buy chemotherapy drugs from American companies. ”**

**Bob Schwartz, Global Health Partners, USA**

**Yes, We want to support Cuba Vive by donating an CWU Essential Medical Supplies Kit**

Here is our donation  £350 for one kit. Additional kit or donation  Total enclosed

Please make cheques payable to 'Cuba Solidarity Campaign (Cuba Vive)'.

Name	
CWU branch/region	Position
Address	
Postcode	
Email	
Tel	

I'd also like to publicise the appeal. Please send me more copies of this leaflet. Quantity

Please return all forms and payments to the address below. To make a credit card, bank transfer or other form of payment please contact us on 020 7490 5715 or visit [www.cubavive.org.uk/donate](http://www.cubavive.org.uk/donate)

**“ Thank you for launching this appeal and showing that the Cuban people are not alone in their daily struggle against the inhumane US blockade ”**

**Ismara Mercedes Vargas Walter,**  
Cuban Ambassador to the UK



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 Cuba Solidarity Campaign

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