



Progressive Trade Union Federation 47 (C-47)

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C-47 was established on January 11, 1970.

C-47 organizes workers in all sectors of the economy, private as well as the public sector. The needs of the workers are taken care of by signing collective labor agreements with employers, signing agreements with the Government, participating in tripartite institutions such as the Social Economic Council and establishing sector based relations in international trade union organizations.

**UPR SUBMISSION FOR CUBA**

1. The Trade Union Central of Commerce Workers of Suriname, grouped in the C-47 organization, has had a historic relationship of exchanges with Cuba. In this context we have visited that country, we have relations with our counterparts on the Island and we know about the Cuban reality.
2. Through this contribution we would like to highlight some elements of the Cuban reality, with regard to the established legal system and practice with respect to the human rights of its citizens. In this sense, we emphasize that Cuba is advancing in its efforts to achieve the fullest enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all its citizens. In this regard, it has ratified 44 international instruments on human rights out of the 61 that are internationally recognized. The constitution provides for the prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, and forced disappearance of persons. The Cuban Revolution, since 1959, has respected all churches and religious beliefs, without any discrimination, which is included in article 57 of the Constitution of the Republic, which was endorsed in 2019 by 86.85% of voters.
3. Contrary to what the large disinformation from the media tries to make believe, in Cuba periodic elections are held in which the people have a high level of participation. Law No. 127 of the 2019 Electoral Law increases the protection of the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs, aiming that the population is more represented and is the fundamental actor in the decisions that are made.
4. There is a broad legal-regulatory framework for the promotion, protection and exercise of workers' rights, including trade union freedoms. The Labor Code establishes among its fundamental principles the right of workers to voluntarily associate and establish trade union organizations. Cuban unions participate in the preparation, execution and control of development plans and the State budget.
5. Regarding its health system, Cuba conceives public health as a fundamental human right and a responsibility of the State. It provides its services, without discrimination, free of charge, and universally to its entire population. Cuba is recognized for the high quality of its public health system, which has 9.2 doctors for every thousand inhabitants, the most favorable indicator of its kind at the international level.
6. The Cuban immunization scheme protects children against 13 diseases through the application of 11 vaccines, 8 of them Cuban-produced, which has a profound impact on the quality of life of children. For this reason, 14 communicable diseases have been eliminated and another 9 do not constitute health problems. At the end of 2022, Cuba achieved a preliminary infant mortality rate of 7.5 deaths per thousand live births. 39 fewer deaths were reported than in 2021, when the country reached a rate of 7.6.
7. Cuban society is uni-ethnic, inclusive and of mixed race. There are not, nor have there ever been, legally, politically or socially recognized national majorities, ethnic groups or

national minorities. The right to equality is fully incorporated in its legal system.

8. All these results are just examples of the respect that the Cuban government shows to the human rights of its citizens. The Cuban government could do much more to raise the standard of living of its citizens if it were not a country that has suffered for more than 60 years from a criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade by the United States' government. This constitutes a serious and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people. This genocidal policy has been significantly intensified in the last five years, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, this blockade not only violates the human rights of the Cuban people, but also the sovereign right of all countries in the world to relate to Cuba without fear of being punished.