



ST. KITTS/NEVIS/CUBA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

The St. Kitts Nevis Cuba Friendship Association (SKNCFA) was established in 2009 just after the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban revolution. The group is a nonprofit organization that provides support to the parents of students studying in Cuba, assist in providing support to the Cuban Embassy Staff, Cuban Residents and the Doctors and Nurses working within our Federation where possible through the following:

AIMS

1. To recognize the existence of the friendly relations between the Republic of Cuba and the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.
2. To promote the bilateral relations by means of economic, cultural, educational, scientific, technical and social exchanges in general.
3. To express solidarity with the sister Republic of Cuba.

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote and to enrich the relations of friendship and solidarity between St. Kitts & Nevis and Cuba through mutual cooperation.
2. To support the agreements and directives from Cuba-CARICOM Summits.
3. To join forces with the rest of the world to work towards the elimination of the economic, political and financial blockades against Cuba that is imposed by the U.S.A.
4. To recognize the legal struggle of the Cuban people to defend their achievements and rights in the national and international sphere against terrorism and other counter revolutionary forces.
5. To spread the achievements of the Cuban people and to resist the negative propaganda against the Cuban people.
6. To spread the history of Cuba and to highlight the social and political achievements of this independent and sovereign nation.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

1. Despite the over 60 years of the inhumane treatment of the Cuban People in the areas of commercial and financial blockade. The extreme and damaging measures that were meted out to Cuba during Covid19 pandemic the people of Cuba has continued to advance to and maintain full enjoyment of human rights.
2. The St. Kitts Nevis Cuba Friendship Association stand in solidarity with the Government and People of Cuba in calling on the United Nations to acknowledge the progress that Cuba has achieved in the area of Human Right through its ratification over 44 of internationally recognized human rights instruments.
3. Members of the St. Kitts and Nevis Friendship Association has experienced firsthand the focus that the Government and People Cuba has placed on health care, education and gender along with all spheres of human development incorporating a human rights-based approach where all are equal and treated with respect love and the maintenance of human dignity in all services.
4. The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis has experienced the high level of health care that the Cuban Government and People have achieved for over 20 years. From 1996 to the present Cuba has dispatched medical brigades to St, Kitts and Nevis. The doctors and nurses who have made up the continuous medical assistance from Cuba has been specialists in their field. Over the years dozens of Cuban Medical Professionals has assisted in providing our citizens with care in several different fields.
5. Today we have Cuban doctors who are specialists in the field of Urology, Angiology, Anesthesiology, Epidemiologist, Oncology, internal medicine and biomedical engineer. The support is also in the form of specialist nurses who work at our hospitals and provide critical

care to our citizens on a daily basis. These doctors and nurses treat our citizens with respect and human dignity. Our Federation is much better off because of the ability to address many illnesses that we would have had to go overseas if we had the money to access the expensive medical expenses that is associated with many hospitals around our region or in North America.

6. On the 22nd of March 2022 the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis signed a new Health Cooperation Agreement with Cuba through the Ministry of Health and the Cuban Embassy in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Cooperation seeks to upscale the number of doctors and other medical professionals that will be requested to work at the main hospitals in both St. Kitts and Nevis. The Cooperation seeks to upgrade the number of specialties from 12 to a number that would adequately meet the required needs of both islands.
7. 2020 when the whole world was facing the uncertainty and life-threatening danger of Covid19 Cuba sent specialist doctors and nurses to many countries around the world. On March 28th, 2020, a contingent of thirty-four (34) health professionals arrived in St. Kitts and Nevis. The delegation consisted of thirty (30) nurses and four(4) doctors trained in emergency care. For the population of St. Kitts and Nevis was comforted by this humanitarian gesture that was offered by Cuba at our time of need. We believe that humanitarian intervention has saved untold lives not just in S. Kitts Nevis but around the world.
8. Women in Cuba have the same constitutional rights as men in economic, political, cultural, and social endeavors. As well as within the context of family life. At present there are over fifty percent of women in the highest office in Cuba. The Republic of Cuba is considered not just regional but global trend setter as it relates to the rights of women. According to article 44 of the Cuban Constitution, since “The state guarantees women the same rights and opportunities as men in order to achieve full participation in the development of the country.
9. As it relates to SDG 5 women hold over 50% percent of parliamentary seats in the Cuban National Assembly ranking sixth of 162 nations on issues of female participation in political life.

Many women in Cuba come from different racial backgrounds including Afro-Cuban Women who were considered a marginalized group along with other Cuban women.

10. On September 25, 2022, Cuba approved a new Family Code in a referendum, repealing the one in place since 1975. This Code is the result of decades of debates, conflicts, and the processing of political, social, economic, and cultural understandings within Cuban society. The legislation recognizes the possibility of same-sex marriage and establishes the right of all people to adopt similar to places such as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Uruguay. It includes provisions on gender and intra-family violence and establishes that all matters of discrimination and violence in the family demand urgent intervention. It affirms a wide range of rights and guarantees for people with disabilities and the elderly, including their right to decide where and with whom to live. It details care and protection provisions for minors in the case of divorce, separation, or disasters.
11. The Code also expressly prohibits discrimination based on identity and sexual orientation. It protects family ties not based on blood relations, such as adoptive and socio affective relationships, and grants multi-parental rights. In this way, the Code recognizes the diversity of existing families, including different forms of legal recognition (marriage or de facto union), and protects stepfathers, stepmothers, and cohabitants in the case of separation without divorce. In addition, it recognizes various economic agreements within marriage, prohibits child marriage (the minimum age is now 18 years), and offers guarantees to people serving as caretakers. In addition, therein is the recognition of the autonomy of children, which affirms the right of minors to be heard and protected in all their physical and emotional integrity.
12. Women enjoy full rights, on an equal footing with men, in regard to jobs and social security, in accordance with the legislation in force. Women receive equal pay for work of equal value; they have the right to own land and receive bank loans. They have access to free education and quality health services, as well as sexual and reproductive rights. Policies and programmes have been introduced to promote women's autonomy and their economic, social and political empowerment. Women account for 60.5 per cent of graduates of higher education. They

account for 67.2 per cent of technicians and professionals nationwide. They make up 49 per cent of the workforce in the civil service; more than 80 per cent of female workers have an intermediate and higher level of education. Women account for 48.6 per cent of leaders; 81.9 per cent of professors, teachers and scientists; 80 per cent of presidents of provincial courts, prosecutors, judges and professionals and of the workforce in the health and education sectors. Women represent 53.5 per cent of persons working in science, innovation and technology and over 64.2 per cent of cooperation personnel in countries around the world.

13. Education is a human right and many around the world do not have access to even primary education. Cuban education was nationalized in 1959 at a time when less than 50% of children had access to education. Today Cuba has the highest literacy rate in the world. Like in many countries when the government gives a scholarship for education the recipient is required to contribute to nation building and community development. The Cuban Education system has advanced to a level that has given Cuba the capacity to extend scholarships to many countries around the world.

14. The education achievement landscape of St. Kitts Nevis changed drastically in the late 90s because of the relationship and agreement between the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis where Kittitians and Nevisians were afforded scholarships to study in Cuba. For many families and individuals this was a gift that changed their lives. Imagine a poor family who would have never been able to afford the cost of a university degree now had the opportunity to see one of their own achieve such high level of education to learn a foreign language and a degree. There were challenges of the different language and culture but the benefits far exceeded the challenges.

15. Today over 110 Kittitians and Nevisians have benefitted from the human kindness of the government and people of Cuba. St, Kitts and Nevis now have specialists' doctors and nurses all trained in Cuba. As a matter of fact the current Prime Minister of the Federation attained his doctorate in Cuba. This act of human rights to education that Cuba extended to the Caribbean Region and St. Kitts Nevis in particular can never be quantified. St. Kitts Nevis now has 56

nationals trained in the medical field and 54 others trained in pedagogical careers, Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Architecture, Economics, Accounting, Psychology, Sociology, Agronomy, Telecommunications, Biochemistry, Early Childhood Development, Spanish Language and Literature.

16. Cuba has become an example to the world in the area of Human Rights Development. When we examine the Cuban achievement in the face of the crippling hash impacts of the blockade with its far reaching national applications that was imposed and reinforced by the United States of America's policy of the imposition of tariffs. These stringent measures has hampered Cuba's socio-economic development and comprises a conspicuous violation of the human rights of its people. Despite this dismal situation, Cuba has continued to make progress in its economic and social development.
17. Cuba has shown commitment to international human rights law by ratifying 44 of the 61 international human rights treaties. Cuba continues to uphold all of the fundamental conventions of International Labour Organization Convention that deals with the worst forms of Child Labour. In 2013, Cuba submitted to the Code of conduct to combat human trafficking thus complying with the United Nations (UN) Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
18. The St. Kitts Nevis Cuba Friendship Association stand in solidarity with the Government and People of Cuba in calling on the United Nations to acknowledge the progress that Cuba has achieved in the area of Human Right through its ratification of over 44 of internationally recognized human rights instruments.