

Latin America: Crisis and Coronavirus

Online meetings hosted by Sheffield Cuba Solidarity Campaign & Chile Solidarity Network

The economic shockwave from coronavirus arrived in Latin America before the virus itself, battering a continent already mired in recession. The result: plunging national currencies; capital flight on a massive scale; collapsing exports and remittances from Latin Americans working abroad; devastation of the tourist industry—and all this is before the pandemic forced the continent into lock-down!

This new crisis hits a continent already heaving with mass social movements against racism, violence against women, and destruction of ecosystems; with rebellions and uprisings by indigenous peoples, workers and youth from Chile to Bolivia to Colombia to Haiti; and with Venezuela gripped in a life-and-death struggle between revolution and a counter-revolution orchestrated by President Trump and Secretary of State Pompeo.

Amid this dark picture, Cuba's medical internationalism and its preventative healthcare system show what's needed both to defeat the coronavirus and to protect the world's people from another pandemic. Although Cubans endure severe shortages resulting from the intensifying US blockade, their right to healthcare, education, housing and culture is guaranteed.

To attend a meeting you must register in advance. Ctrl-click on a meeting title and follow instructions. Visit our Facebook page for more information and links to recordings of meetings that have already taken place.

Friday, 22 May, 7:30pm

Cuba: the Ongoing Media War

The media's misinformation against Cuba continues, despite - or because of - Cuba sending medical teams around the world, and its effective (but unreported) containment of the virus in Cuba.

With **Keith Bolender** (author: *Manufacturing the Enemy: The Media War Against Cuba*). Organised jointly with Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Birmingham.

Monday 1 June, 7:30pm

Latin America: crisis and coronavirus

Latin America's economic crisis and how it has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, with **John Smith** (author: *Imperialism in the 21st Century*)

Thursday 4 June, 7:30pm

Bolivia's youth denounce the far-right coup

UMA – a youth organisation in El Alto, a poor neighbourhood in Bolivia's capital – denounces last November's ultra-right coup and the devastating effect of the coronavirus lock-down.

Sunday 7 June, Film: 4:00pm; Q&A: 5:15pm

Cuba confronts changing climate

Cuba: Living Between Hurricanes – a film about how Cuba is defending itself from climate change through reforestation, eco-tourism and sustainable farming, followed by Q&A with director **Michael Chanon**. More info: livingbetweenhurricanes.org

Monday 8 June, 7:30pm

Violence in the wake of Colombia's peace agreement

Killings and threats against social leaders continue unabated; coronavirus lockdown exploited by death squads, with **Justina Pinkeviute**, PhD candidate

researching on Colombia, member of Colombia Solidarity Campaign, part of [12 October Platform](#)

Thursday 11 June, 7:30pm

Cuba's medical internationalism

Julio E Pujol Torres, Deputy head of Mission, Embassy of Cuba & **Joe Ashton**, Cuba SC on Cuba's doctors fighting coronavirus at home and abroad + history of Cuba's medical internationalism,

Monday 15 June, 7:30pm

Chile's Awakening

Neo-liberalism in crisis and the impact of the Coronavirus

Thursday 18 June, 7:30pm

Venezuela, a country under attack

Carolina Graterol, Venezuelan journalist and social movement activist, and **Guillermo Rubin**, Venezuelan engineer, both members of GPPUK (Gran Polo Patriótico de Venezuela in UK), expose UK involvement in imperialist aggression against their country, and denounce the far-right opposition led by Juan Guaidó and his pact with mercenaries.

Monday 22 June, 7:30pm

Colombia: extractivism and resistance

Solidarity with those opposing the obliteration of environment, with **Miguel Hincapié**, PhD candidate researching on Colombia, member of Colombia Solidarity Campaign, part of [12 October Platform](#)

Thursday 25 June, 7:30pm

No to the US blockade on Cuba! Imperialist hands off Venezuela, Latin America!

Resistance roundtable, with Cuban Embassy (invited), +++ ??