

**Nicaragua
Solidarity
Campaign**



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News and events February 2018

NSC turns 40! Ways in which you can get involved!



In September 1978, way back in the mists of the last period of the Cold War, a small solidarity group with Nicaragua was set up in London to organise a speaker tour by a representative of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, FSLN. This was at a time when fighting

intensified in Nicaragua, leading to the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship by the Sandinistas on 19 July 1979. Since these modest beginnings, thousands of people around the country have been involved in hundreds of different ways contributing to solidarity with those in Nicaragua fighting to overcome poverty and promoting social and economic justice. Forty years on it's time to celebrate everything we have achieved in solidarity with our Nicaraguan partner organisations!

Key 40th anniversary activities and how to get involved

- **SAVE THE DATE! Our 40th Anniversary celebration**, 29 September, only 2 minutes' walk from Waterloo station in London. 10am – 5pm. This will be our main celebration event and will include music, an exhibition, Nicaraguan food, festive drinks and cake, displays of solidarity materials, a guest speaker from Nicaragua and speakers/panel discussion with those involved in our work over the last four decades. Details to follow.
- **Contribute to our solidarity stories project**: throughout the year we will be collecting solidarity stories, quotes, and images from people/organisations we have worked with in Nicaragua and in the UK who have contributed to NSC's work.

Some ideas of ways in which you could contribute:

- If you have been to Nicaragua, what motivated you to visit?
- What do you feel you contributed? What did you learn from the experience? Did your perspective on life change as a result? If so, how?
- What does the word 'solidarity' mean to you?
- If you haven't been to Nicaragua, what motivated you to take an interest in the country?



How to contribute:

* Send us a solidarity story with some images: preferably no longer than 500 words and a few images OR alternatively a photo story with some text

- Describe an incident or send a quote about something that happened while you were in Nicaragua or involved in solidarity work when you came back that you feel sums up your experience
 - Send us copies of articles (published or unpublished) that you wrote about your visit to Nicaragua
- * If you would prefer to be interviewed either in person or by phone or skype let us know and we'll try and sort out a convenient time.

How we are planning to use the materials:

- * We will be setting up a page on our website for solidarity stories and will also post them on social media
- The June issue of Nicaragua Now will be a special 40th anniversary issue. We will include an edited selection of the stories.
- * We have archive materials of our history in our office and also stored in the People's History Museum in Manchester. We will add the solidarity stories to our archive. In 2019 we are hoping to secure a grant to set up an online archive.

Please send your contributions to Helen on campaigns@nicaraguasc.org.uk

Stop US interference in Nicaragua!



Our thanks to everyone –over 1,000 of you - who signed our petition on [change.org](https://www.change.org) calling for pressure to stop the US from imposing sanctions on Nicaragua. This legislation called the NICA Act has been approved by Congress and was introduced to the Senate on 22 December. If approved it would mean that the US would seek to use its influence to block all international loans to Nicaragua.

Our colleagues in the US are asking their supporters to lobby senators. We have also raised the issue with MPs and members of the House of Lords in the UK and asked for their support in ensuring that the UK Government will voice its opposition to the Act. We'll keep you updated on further developments.

If you haven't signed the petition it's not too late! Here's the link <https://www.change.org/p/boris-johnson-mp-stop-the-us-from-imposing-sanctions-on-nicaragua>

Trade union news

National Education Union (NEU) -NUT Section Teacher Exchange, July/August 2018



Following a successful programme in summer 2017, the NEU – NUT Section, in partnership with ANDEN (the Nicaraguan teachers' union), the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education (MINED) and the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group (NSCAG), is once again organising a teacher exchange visit to Nicaragua.

NEU – NUT Section is seeking 10 members to take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity. The project will build the English language and teaching skills of Nicaraguan colleagues, while simultaneously strengthening the experience and knowledge of Spanish language teachers from the UK and providing an immersive teaching experience in the Nicaraguan education system.

Further information: <https://www.teachers.org.uk/news-events/events/spanish-teacher-exchange-nicaragua>

Trade Union Stalls

We will be having stalls at the following trade union conferences:-

NEU – NUT Section Conference 30 March – 3 April, Brighton

CWU Conference 22-26 April, Bournemouth

UNISON National Health Conference 16-18 April, Brighton

If you are attending any of these conferences, please come along and see us. We have some great stuff for sale, but it is also your chance to find out the latest information on developments in Nicaragua.

We will be present at other trade union conferences from May onwards – keep an eye on our future mailings for details.

Visit from ANDEN General Secretary

Jose Antonio Zepeda, General Secretary of Nicaraguan teachers' union ANDEN has been invited as a guest to the NEU - NUT Section Conference and will be attending a number of meetings during his stay in the UK.

We have organised a public meeting on Education in Nicaragua at which Jose Antonio will be speaking. This will take place on Thursday 5 April at 6.30pm and will be held at UNITE, Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8TN.

Forthcoming events: Bristol, Bradford, Leicester, London, Machynlleth (West Wales), Sheffield, Tavistock, Reading

- **Tuesday 27 Feb, BRISTOL.** Nicaraguan Fairtrade producer **Urania Hernandez** (coffee, cocoa, SOPPEXCCA) will be guest of honour and will give a presentation at a Fairtrade Fortnight social event, 7.30pm, Palestine Museum, 27 Broad St, Bristol BS1 2HG. Vegan food available. This event takes place as part of Fairtrade Fortnight 26 February – 11 March see <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight> for details.
- **Thursday 8 March, LONDON.** **Celebrating International Women's Day Nicaraguan style.** Everyone welcome! Nicaraguan music, snacks, film clips and discussions with women who have visited and volunteered in Nicaragua. Guest speaker: Guisell Morales, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the UK and Ireland. 6.30 - 9pm. Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X 8JR (tube: Kings Cross, Chancery Lane, Russell Square).
Further details: Nicaragua Solidarity campaign. nsc@nicaraguasc.org.uk
- **Thursday 15 March, LONDON.** **Keep Trump's Hands Off Latin America: No to US Sanctions on Venezuela and Nicaragua,** No to military threats. Speakers: Chris Williamson MP; Christine Blower, NEU - NUT Section; Dr. Francisco Dominguez (co-author of 'Right-Wing Politics in the New Latin America: Reaction and Revolt'.) plus guests from Bolivia, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Organised by Venezuela Solidarity Campaign and supported by NSCAG <http://www.venezuelasolidarity.co.uk/>
- **Friday 16 March, LONDON.** **Pub Quiz to raise funds for pre-school in Managua.** Entry costs £5 per person. Every penny goes to our school in Nicaragua to pay the wages of seven teachers. Decent yet inexpensive food served in the pub. 7.30pm Upstairs room, The Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8JR. (Russell Square, Kings Cross, Chancery Lane). Further information: Tony on 07901 716045. Organised by Islington – Managua Friendship Association, see <http://www.imfa.org.uk>
- **Friday 16 March, LEICESTER.** **Global Challenges-Sustainable Solutions: Learning from Leicester's twin town in Nicaragua.** 9am – 4pm at Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ. The Leicester Masaya Link Group is helping to organise the annual conference for the East Midlands Regional Centre for Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development and will be running interactive workshops using examples from projects in Masaya to highlight the impact and importance of the Sustainable Development Goals.
<http://www.leicestermasayalink.org.uk>
- **Sunday 18 March, BRADFORD.** **Viva! Bradford AGM.** Food will be provided from 1pm before the meeting starts. Short 'business' meeting followed by a guest speaker and a film. 2 – 4pm, Kirkgate Centre, Kirkgate, Shipley. <https://www.facebook.com/vivabradford>
- **Sunday 18 March, READING.** Runners from Met Department at Reading University will be running Reading Half Marathon to raise funds for education and environmental projects in San Francisco Libre, Reading's twin town. <https://twitter.com/SfIReading>
- **19 – 23 March, SHEFFIELD.** **Estelí Week at Sheffield University.** This will include a quiz on Tuesday 20 March in Bar One, a film showing and other events TBC.
<https://studentsforesteli.wordpress.com/>
- **Friday 23 March, SHEFFIELD.** **Grand street naming of Estelí Parade** and unveiling of information board at 2.30pm Millsands, Sheffield S3 8DT with the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Guisell Morales, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the UK and Ireland, and Mayor of Estelí (TBC), refreshments and drinks. A celebration of more than 30 years of friendship and twinning.
<https://sheffieldestelisociety.org.uk/>

* **Friday 23 March, Whitchurch, nr TAVISTOCK.** The Santa Rosa Fund is having a Quiz Night to raise funds for projects in Nicaragua, Whitchurch Village Hall, nr Tavistock, Devon.

<http://www.santarosafund.org/>

• **Thursday 5 April, LONDON. Education in Nicaragua** public meeting with speaker Antonio Zepeda, General Secretary of ANDEN, the Nicaraguan teachers' union. Other speakers to be confirmed. 6.30pm, UNITE, Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8TN. (Holborn).

<http://www.nscag.org>

* **Wednesday 11 April, LEICESTER. Marking over 30 years of friendship, solidarity and learning between Leicester and Masaya.** 6- 8pm at the Chapel Café, Bishop Street Leicester, LE1 6AF. The event will include displays of archival material, presentations about our development projects and educational work and interviews with participants in Masaya and Leicester documenting the mutual benefits that the twinning has brought to both cities. We will also discuss the current challenges for international twinning links and global learning, the outcome of which will feed into a research brief we have been commissioned to undertake by Leicester City Council. <http://leicestermasayalink.org.uk>

* **Friday 20 April, LONDON. Pub Quiz to raise funds for pre-school in Managua.** Organised by Islington Managua Friendship Association. Details as per Friday, 16 March.

* **Sunday 22 April, OXFORD. Performance of the Misa Campesina** (Nicaraguan folk Mass), 11.30am, Blackfriars Church, 64 St Giles, Oxford. Organised by the Oxford – Leon Association (OLAT). <https://www.oxleonlink.org.uk/> OLAT is looking for musicians and singers to take part; if you are interested please contact jen_houston@hotmail.com or phone 07751 626006

* **Saturday 20 May, BRISTOL. Copa Sandino 2018,** hotly contested annual men's and women's football fundraiser for projects in Bristol's twin town of Puerto Morazán. To register a team contact alix.hughes@bristol.gov.uk

* **Saturday 30 June, LEICESTER. NSC /NSCAG AGMs and public event.** Details to be confirmed.

* **Sunday 1 July, SHEFFIELD. Ceilidh to raise funds** to support projects in Sheffield's twin town of Estelí. <https://sheffieldestelisociety.org.uk/>

* **Saturday 21 July, MACHYNLLETH, WEST WALES. El Sueño Existe, annual Victor Jara Festival,** music, politics, workshops, dance, poetry, theatre, inspiration! Nicaragua will be the theme of this year's event. Further information: <https://elsuenoexiste.wordpress.com/>

* **Saturday 29 September, LONDON, NSC'S 40th anniversary.** This will be our main celebration event and will include music, an exhibition, displays of solidarity materials, and a guest speaker from Nicaragua, speakers/panel discussion with those involved in different aspects of our work over the last four decades, Nicaraguan lunch and cake! Further details to be confirmed.