

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND
PÁIRTÍ CUMMANACH NA hÉIREANN**

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**To: Communist Party of Cuba, Havana
Federation of Cuban Women**

26th July 2020

Dear comrades,

On behalf of the National Women's Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland and the Connolly Youth Movement we wish to express its solidarity with our sisters & comrades on the anniversary of *el Movimiento 26 de Julio*.

We recently hosted an event to highlight the significant role of women during and following the Cuban revolution, which continues to be an inspiration to so many of us. As we continue our fight against the destructive system of neoliberal capitalism, we have an additional struggle to dismantle the system of patriarchy that further oppresses women. It is not enough for us to realise a socialist society if the old systems of patriarchy remain in place and we look to our comrades in Cuba to learn from their vast experience.

We recognise the problems that women and their families face in Cuba because of the ongoing hostility and the Blockade of the United States of America, and we support the campaigns to end the Blockade.

Cuba continues to move forward in building an increasingly just, prosperous and sustainable society, and to support those in need in other parts of the world. More than 400,000 health care workers have completed missions in 164 countries, over 56 years. The most notable of these involved Cuban participation in the fight against cholera in Haiti, Ebola in Africa and the COVID-19 battle being waged today by several brigades of the Henry Reeve Contingent in 31 nations.

We continue to learn so much from the advancement of women's rights in Cuba where the revolutionary ideals encourage our ideas for the same achievements in Ireland. We are grateful to learn from the exceptional work that has been done so far by the *Federación de Mujeres Cubanas* in particular.

Whilst July the 26th 2020 will not be same the physical encounter that is usually held, it will still be a historic occasion and as the Cubans themselves would say, "There is no better way to honour the rebellious spirit that Cubans assumed, once and for all, in 1953, than to win the COVID-19 battle, which is the next victory that we must now achieve".

Women (and men) as teachers, shop assistants, healthcare workers, food producers, engineers, are amongst all those who send greetings to the Cuban people. The Communist Party of Ireland once again would like to extend warm wishes to all comrades on this historic anniversary as we reaffirm our support for revolutionary Cuba-Viva Cuba

¡Hasta la victoria siempre! National Women's Committee CPI