



latin america CONFERENCE 2026

¡Adelante!
SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Agenda

09:30–10:10 **Registration**

10:10–11:15 **OPENING PLENARY** Mander Hall + live relay to Room 9
LATIN AMERICA – RESISTING TRUMP’S WAR, SANCTIONS AND XENOPHOBIA

Chair: Bernard Regan

- Sarah Kilpatrick • Kate Hudson • Felix Plasencia • Diego Martínez
- Fidel Antonio Castro Smirnov • Jeremy Corbyn MP

11:25–12:25 **SEMINARS (A) & FILM FEST**

12:30–13:30 **SEMINARS (B) & FILM FEST**

13:30–14:30 **LUNCH BREAK:**

13.40–14.30 Mander Hall: **Documentary: *Fidel the Untold Story*** (dir Estela Bravo, 2001) featuring rare footage of Fidel Castro, and interviews with Muhammad Ali, Harry Belafonte, Angela Davis. Introduced by Fidel Antonio Castro Smirnov.

13.40–14.20 Room 9: **SALSA CLASS** with dance expert J. Castelo. ‘Cuban salsa’ or ‘Rueda de Casino’ is an expression of the joyful spirit of Cuba. In this session, we will briefly explore salsa’s Cuban cultural roots, learn a few steps, and shake the hips! We will start with the basics, so no previous experience is needed.

14:35–15:35 **SEMINARS (C) & FILM FEST**

15:40–16:50 **RALLY** Mander Hall + live relay to Room 9

NO PASARÁN – US HANDS OFF LATIN AMERICA!

Chair: Kevin Courtney

- Chris Hazzard MP • Jess Barnard • Carlos Ron • Mariela Kohon • Asad Rehman
- Ismara Vargas Walter • Richard Burgon MP

Hamilton House free wi-fi password available on the day

Follow us on X: @LatAmericaConf #LatAmerica26

Please note there may be further programme changes on the day.

Live relay in Room 9: see the main plenaries in comfort on the big screen!

DISABILITY ACCESS

Hamilton House is a fully accessible venue.

LUNCH

No food or drinks will be available on site. Please bring your own water and packed lunch and dispose of your rubbish in a bin. Coffee/tea or lunch can also be purchased at cafes nearby and around Kings Cross or Euston stations.

CLOAKROOM

There will be no cloakroom area. Please minimise the bags you bring with you.

ROOMS

Mander Hall and Rooms 5-9 are on the lower ground floor, left and right from bottom of stairs.

Rooms 1-4 are on the ground floor: turn right from street level entrance foyer.

TOILETS

Lower ground floor – at bottom of stairs, opposite doors to hall. Ground floor – turn right from foyer.

Speakers:

Clare Baker, International Officer, Unite the Union
Jess Barnard, Labour NEC
Sophie Bolt, CND General Secretary
William Booth, UCL
Lee Brown, VSC
Sam Browse, VSC
Richard Burgon MP
Tony Burke, Mexico Solidarity Forum
Fidel Antonio Castro Smirnov, Cuba
Brazilian Workers Party speaker tbc
Geraldine Cawthorne, Participant in recent delegation
to Nicaragua
Ben Chacko, Morning Star Editor
Dr Lauren Collins, Cuba Solidarity Campaign
Vincent Conquest, Arise
Jeremy Corbyn MP
Kevin Courtney, Cuba Solidarity Campaign, National
Chairperson
Luke Daniels, President, Caribbean Labour Solidarity
Sabby Dhalu, Stand Up To Racism
Celia Dignan, NEU International Secretary
Francisco Dominguez, VSC
Sian Errington, Arise
Dina Escalante, Chilean Communist Party
Maryam Eslamdoust, TSSA, General Secretary
Victor Figueroa, Director of Justice for Colombia
Jayne Fisher, CSC Executive
Edoardo Fusi, Participant in recent delegation to
Nicaragua
Lindsey German, Stop the War Coalition
Steve Gillan, Prison Officers Association, General
Secretary
Pablo Arturo Ginarte Sampedro, Cuban Embassy, First
Secretary
Professor Kamel Hawwash, British Palestinian academic
Chris Hazzard MP
Steve Howell, author of *Cold War Puerto Rico: Anti-
Communism in Washington's Caribbean Colony*
Kate Hudson, Vice President, CND
Louise Hutchins, Stamp Out Poverty, Climate
Campaigns Director
Niamh Iliff, Arise

Corinne Jean Jacques, Black Liberation Alliance
Sarah Kilpatrick, NEU Deputy General Secretary
Mariela Kohon, TUC Assistant Director, Strategy and
Delivery
Ben Liao, VSC
Gawain Little, General Secretary GFTU
Selina Marshall, Mexico Solidarity Forum
Carlos Martinez, VSC Executive
Diego Martínez, Colombian human rights lawyer
John McDonnell MP
Fraser McGuire, TUC Young Members Chair
Roger McKenzie, International Editor of the Morning
Star
Professor Susan Michie, UCL
Rob Miller, Cuba Solidarity Campaign Director
Fidel Narvaez, Ex-Consul of Ecuador in the UK
Felix Plasencia, Venezuelan Ambassador
David Raby, Mexico Solidarity Forum
Bernard Regan, Cuba Solidarity Campaign, National
Secretary
Carole Regan, Cuba Solidarity Campaign
Eva Regan, Bristol Link with Nicaragua (BLINC)
Louise Regan, NEU
Asad Rehman, Friends of the Earth, Chief Executive
Louise Richards, NSCAG
Gabriel Rodriguez, Argentina Solidarity Campaign
Carlos Ron, Former Venezuelan Foreign Minister
Mark Rowe, FBU, International Officer
Gus Scadding, VSC students
Fiona Sim, Black Liberation Alliance
James Schneider, Communications Director for
Progressive International
Ben Studd, VSC
Micaela Tracey-Ramos, UNISON NEC
Claudia Turbet-Delof, Wiphalas Around the World,
Bolivia
HE Ismara Mercedes Vargas Walter, Cuban
Ambassador
Adrian Weir, CSC Executive
Dr Dodie Weppler, Screen Cuba
Dr Stephen Wilkinson, Buckingham University
Matt Willgress, VSC
Helen Yuil, NSCAG

PROGRAMME

Seminars (A) & FILM FEST 11:25–12:25		Location
A1	<p>Science Against the Odds: Cuba’s Scientific Achievements and the Impact of the Blockade In January 1960, Fidel Castro declared that “the future of Cuba will be a future of men and women of science.” From becoming the first Latin American country to send a citizen into space to building a globally respected biotechnology and vaccine sector – find out how Cuba achieved these advances, how its scientists continue to contribute internationally, and what the future holds for Cuban science under a tightening US blockade that restricts access to equipment, finance and collaboration. Chair: Sue Michie Fidel Antonio Castro Smirnov • Lauren Collins • Rob Miller</p>	Room 8 Lower ground Floor
A2	<p>United Against War on Venezuela: Latin American and Caribbean Voices Speak Out! The military attacks on Venezuela – and kidnapping of President Maduro – are a dramatic escalation of illegal US aggression. The UK government backs this policy of war and sanctions, but voices across the region and the world are loudly coming together to urgently say “No War on Venezuela!” and demand the safe return of Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores. Chair: Ben Liao Felix Plasencia • Francisco Dominguez • Luke Daniels • Claudia Turbet-Delof • Pablo Arturo Ginarte Sampedro</p>	Room 9 Lower ground Floor
A3	<p>Colombia at the Crossroads and in the Crosshairs – Elections, Trump, and the Threat to Peace (Hosted by Justice For Colombia) Colombia goes to the polls in May in the context of US aggression against Venezuela and threats against Colombia. The extreme right is emboldened, but the left lead the polls. At stake is the implementation of the 2016 peace, and the continuation of progressive reforms. Come and discuss possible scenarios and their implications for the region. Chair: Victor Figueroa Diego Martínez • Mariela Kohon • Mark Rowe</p>	Room 6 Lower ground floor
A4	<p>The Far-Right Tide – Fighting Back Here and in Latin America Across Latin America, massive fights are taking place against the far-right. While anti-fascists globally celebrated when Lula beat Bolsonaro in Brazil, Trump’s return has boosted the far-right, with big wins for them in Argentina, El Salvador and beyond. How can we support their anti-fascist struggles as we fight hate here? Chair: Jayne Fisher Gabriel Rodriguez • Dina Escalante • Sabby Dhalu • Roger McKenzie</p>	Room 5 Lower ground Floor
A5	<p>International Solidarity is a Trade Union Issue (Hosted by GFTU) Progressive forces in Latin America have long provided inspiration for our struggles in Britain but today they are increasingly under attack. Trade unions must be at the heart of building solidarity with Latin America. How can we step up our solidarity work at this crucial time? Chair: Micaela Tracey-Ramos Gawain Little • Maryam Eslamdoust • Steve Gillan • Fraser McGuire</p>	Room 4 Ground floor
A6	<p>Why We Stand With Latin America’s Left – Forefront of Anti-imperialist and Anti-capitalist Struggle Hosted by <i>Arise – A Festival of Left Ideas</i> For decades, Latin America’s social movements, left governments and revolutionaries have been reference points for socialists globally. With polling in Britain showing socialism is no longer a ‘dirty word,’ especially amongst younger people, how can we link our struggles and advance left movements? Chair: Jess Barnard Matt Willgress • Ben Chacko • Fidel Narvaez • Richard Burgon MP • Louise Regan</p>	Suite 1 & 2 Ground floor
A7	<p>FILM FEST 11:25–12:25 Film <i>The Revolution Will Not Be Televised</i>. Chronicles the failed 2002 coup against Venezuelan President Chávez from inside the presidential palace, exposing the ruthless and reactionary nature of US intervention in Latin America. Introduced by Sean Waters, Arise Festival.</p>	Mander Hall

Seminars (B) 12:30–13:30		
B1	<p>100 Years with Fidel: Revolution, Sovereignty and Internationalism</p> <p>Exploring Fidel Castro’s legacy in Cuba, his impact on global solidarity and anti-imperialist struggles, and the lessons his leadership offers today. Personal reflections, historical analysis, and discussion of Cuba’s continuing role on the world stage.</p> <p>Chair: Micaela Tracey-Ramos</p> <p>Fidel Antonio Castro Smirnov • Steve Wilkinson • Chris Hazzard MP</p> <p>Plus 10-minute film: <i>Fidel: the Untold Story</i></p>	Room 8 Lower ground Floor
B2	<p>The Media Assault on Venezuela – ‘Manufacturing Consent’ for War</p> <p>Every week sees more corporate media lies about Venezuela as part of Trump’s drive to war and bid to capture the country’s vast oil reserves. Come and find out what’s really happening from recent members of delegations to the country and others – and learn how you can help rebut media lies and stand in solidarity.</p> <p>Chair: Adrian Weir</p> <p>Francisco Dominguez • Ben Chacko • Corinne Jean Jacques • Steve Howell</p>	Room 9 Lower ground Floor
B3	<p>Opposing “Trump-onomics” and the New Austerity Wave – What Can We Learn from Latin America’s Alternatives?</p> <p>(Hosted by <i>Arise – A Festival of Left Ideas</i>)</p> <p>The global capitalist economy is in near-permanent crisis, alongside deepening wars and conflicts and the climate emergency. Far-right ideas that will deepen these catastrophes are gaining traction, but can progressive alternatives developed across Latin America in recent decades point to a better way forward?</p> <p>Chair: Niamh Iliff</p> <p>Gawain Little • Sian Errington • Selina Marshall • John McDonnell MP</p>	Suite 1 & 2 Ground floor
B4	<p>Climate Catastrophe or People and Planet First?</p> <p>The politicians and their polluting profiteer paymasters are refusing to take action to tackle climate change, but they face growing resistance globally, led by Latin America’s left. Let’s take inspiration from their struggles and raise our efforts for climate and social justice.</p> <p>Chair: Vincent Conquest</p> <p>Asad Rehman • Dr. Lauren Collins • Claudia Turbet-Delof • Louise Hutchins</p>	Room 6 Lower ground floor
B5	<p>Brazil’s Stark Choice – Far-right Reaction or a New Wave of Progress?</p> <p>It’s been three years since Lula returned, defeating the far-right Bolsonaro. Waves of reactionary legislation have been reversed, and poverty reduced, but major challenges remain. With Trump’s return boosting the far-right, what are the challenges ahead?</p> <p>Chair: Celia Dignan</p> <p>Brazilian Workers Party speaker • Mariela Kohon • Richard Burgon MP • James Schneider • Gabriel Rodriguez</p>	Room 5 Lower ground floor
B6	<p>Latin America, the New Cold War and the Rising Global South</p> <p>Trump’s return has seen his xenophobic and warmongering rhetoric against both Latin America’s left and China put into practice. We urgently need to build links with supporters of peace and progress in the US and internationally in the years ahead.</p> <p>Chair: Carole Regan</p> <p>Sophie Bolt • Carlos Martinez • Fiona Sim • Roger McKenzie</p>	Room 4 Ground Floor
B7 FILM FEST 12:30–13:30	<p>Film: Oliver Stone on Venezuela and Hugo Chávez – excerpts from <i>South of the Border</i> (Dogwoof Films)</p> <p>An intimate encounter between the legendary former Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez and world-renowned film-maker Oliver Stone, featuring first-hand footage of the US-backed coup in 2002 and how the people defeated it – giving inspiration to us today as we fight war on Venezuela.</p> <p>Introduced by Gus Scadding.</p>	Mander Hall

Seminars (C) & Film 14:35–15:35		
C1	<p>Hands Off Cuba: End the US Blockade</p> <p>Cuba faces its most precarious time in recent history. The tightening of the blockade, environmental challenges, and a hardline US administration set on destroying the gains of the Revolution test the resilience of the Cuban people every day. Come to this meeting to find out how activists can respond with urgent and practical actions to defend Cuba's sovereignty and internationalism.</p> <p>Chair: Rob Miller</p> <p>Ismara Vargas Walter • Richard Burgon MP • Maryam Eslamdoust • Kevin Courtney</p>	Room 8 Lower ground Floor
C2	<p>No War on Venezuela – No Blood for Oil!</p> <p>Trump's war agenda with Venezuela is all about grabbing the country's oil and seeking to dominate Latin America. Keir Starmer meanwhile is unwilling to oppose this agenda and is keeping hold of Venezuela's gold. Stopping these crimes and further military attacks – plus campaigning for the safe return of Nicolás Maduro – must be a priority for all internationalists.</p> <p>Chair: Matt Willgress</p> <p>Felix Plasencia • Sophie Bolt • Lindsey German • Ben Studd • Gawain Little • Chris Hazzard MP</p>	Room 9 Lower ground Floor
C3	<p>Viva la Solidaridad – Latin America Stands with Palestine</p> <p>(Hosted by Arise – a Festival of Left Ideas)</p> <p>Latin America's progressive forces are at the forefront of solidarity with Palestine. James Schneider will update on the Hague group.</p> <p>Chair: Jess Barnard</p> <p>Prof. Kamel Hawwash • Bernard Regan • Sam Browse • James Schneider • Helen Yuil</p>	Suite 1 & 2 Ground floor
C4	<p>Mexico Turns the Tide Against Destabilisation</p> <p>AMLO's presidency changed Mexico dramatically, and now Claudia Sheinbaum continues the process with social reforms at home and consistent opposition to US imperialism internationally. From banning fire-and-rehire to a massive expansion in public ownership and services, there is a lot we can learn from Mexico's transformation.</p> <p>Chair: Tony Burke</p> <p>Selina Marshall • William Booth, UCL • Clare Baker • David Raby</p>	Room 5 Lower ground floor
C5	<p>Women and Young People at the Heart of the Nicaraguan Revolution</p> <p>Women and young people have played a critical role in the success of the Sandinista Revolution, from the 1970s insurrection against the Somoza dictatorship to the present day. This seminar will discuss the ways in which women continue to play a central role in the social, political and economic life of the country. Young people, who make up 70% of Nicaragua's population, and have benefited from the gains of the Revolution particularly in free health and education, are also involved in generational change shaping the future of the Revolution.</p> <p>Chair: Eva Regan</p> <p>Louise Richards • Geraldine Cawthorne • Edoardo Fusi</p>	Room 4 Ground floor
C6	<p>Latin America – Zone of Peace or US Base in the new Cold War?</p> <p>US military bases are returning to Latin America – big style – whilst Guantánamo Bay remains illegally in US (not Cuban) hands. The recent military attacks on Venezuela make this issue more urgent than ever. Learn about the role of US bases historically and today in pushing reaction and intervention in the region.</p> <p>Chair: Lee Brown</p> <p>Fidel Narvaez • Fiona Sim • Francisco Dominguez • Steve Howell</p>	Rooms 6 Lower ground Floor
C7	<p>FILM FEST 14:35–15:35</p> <p><i>Cuba, culture and society: Placing the focus on the human being, is cultural (2019, Anne Delstanche, 46m)</i></p> <p>A documentary illustrating how culture is central to the revolution. Explains the Cuban process of decolonisation, showing elements of Cuban culture and featuring various cultural figures. Introduced by Dr Dodie Wepler, Screen Cuba.</p>	Mander Hall