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# Solidarity Tours 2007

We would like to invite you on a solidarity tour to Venezuela in 2007. As a delegate on a VSC Tour you will meet leaders in the revolution among people in the barrios, small towns, missions and in government. The Venezuela Solidarity Campaign has undertaken several tours to help build understanding.

As part of our continuing work we have developed extensive links with representative unions of the UNT and democratically elected local and national representatives. We enclose information on our tours and would be very happy to discuss these with you if you were interested in visiting at this historic time. Besides expressing solidarity with the struggle of the Venezuelan people, tour participants will be able to see first hand the social, educational and in health care advances being made in Venezuela, communicate with workers and activists, helping to understand the depth of social and political developments in modern-day Venezuela.

Venezuela enjoys enormous support from trade unions and others in the challenges it faces. Now is your opportunity to both learn more and extend solidarity.

We have the warm and consistent support of trade union branches, regions and national bodies (including UNISON) and our work dovetails with the policy on Venezuela approved at the 2005 TUC Congress.

We are able to contribute to the wider and substantial work of other groups by offering the unique service of Solidarity Tours.

We would be very happy to discuss with you your thoughts on these or any other aspects of Solidarity work with Venezuela, and hope we can be of assistance.

Please feel free to contact us on Tel: 0121 288 1388 or [info@venezuelasolidarity.org.uk](mailto:info@venezuelasolidarity.org.uk)

Yours in Solidarity

Andy Goodall  
VSC Co-ordinator

**As a union delegate on a VSC Tour you will meet leaders in the revolution among people in the barrios, small towns, missions and in government. You will be introduced to "real Venezuelans" who are empowered - people who govern themselves through participatory democracy, unlike anywhere in the world. You will have the opportunity to dine on authentic Venezuelan cuisine, enjoy comfortable lodging all in the surrounds of spectacular mountain scenery and stunning cityscapes. For many, these tours offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela during an unprecedented time in human history.**

For your union Branch or Region VSC can offer a customised tour to Venezuela. In assisting a delegation VSC can help you experience the solidarity tour of a lifetime, meeting activists and leaders in the dramatic initiatives in helping build a decent and fair society. Over the coming years, Venezuela's Bolivarian wave will be felt throughout Latin America and the rest of the world. You can be part of this amazing process.

Witness for yourself this social and political renaissance of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Since 2003 Venezuela has ...**

- Introduced free health and education for all**
- Discounted foods and medicines for Venezuelans**
- Training thousands to be health workers**
- Undertaken to build houses for millions**
- Eliminated Illiteracy**
- Redistributed land to 100,000s**
- Provided discounted heating oil to poor communities in Latin America and Britain**
- Increased Indigenous Food Production for Self-Sufficiency**



*Union Branch banner grabs attention on the May Day March*

The Bolivarian Revolution within Venezuela has emerged from enormous struggles over recent years and has built the engines of social justice and economic equality for all the people of Venezuela. As part of this work, they have welcomed expressions of international solidarity and encourage people from other countries to visit Venezuela and learn first-hand about their struggles and successes. As a result of our work in raising awareness and solidarity, VSC has developed close links with many active participants in the process.



*VSC with May Day supporters in Venezuela*

These cover a wide range of areas from health, local communities, government ministries and participants both within Caracas and outside. As part of our campaign we have taken trade union delegations and individuals to meet with trade unionists and others. We can facilitate your local Branch /regional delegation at dates of your choice.

**Normally, visitors from Britain face *language difficulties* in Spanish-speaking Venezuela.** Our interpreters speak *superb English and Spanish*. They also have excellent relationships inside the government, unions and progressive organisations and a depth of understanding of the Bolivarian Revolution and of Venezuelan history

that is unsurpassed. **No-one in the world offers tours of this nature and calibre.**

**Full details of the delegation and meeting arrangements confirmed on booking but can include:**

**Contact with trade unionists and other activists**

**Witnessing the social missions in action**

**Barrio Adentro - Health**

**Mission Ribas/Sucre/Robinson – Education**

**Mission Mercal – food, Food centres**

**Mission Identity**

**Other Missions such as Negra Hipólita designed to rehabilitate street people and children into society.**



*Solidarity Greetings*

The final cost of each tour is based on group requirements, the time of year, length of stay, size etc.

*In order to offer maximum benefit to each participant, groups of 3 or 6 are preferred. Customised travel dates possible..*

**Participants should contact Venezuela Solidarity Campaign at:**

**C/O W-ton TUC P.O.Box 2917, Wolverhampton WV2 2YA**

**[www.venezuelasolidarity.org.uk](http://www.venezuelasolidarity.org.uk) or email [info@venezuelasolidarity.org.uk](mailto:info@venezuelasolidarity.org.uk)**

Tel: 0121 288 1388.

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**The Venezuela Solidarity Campaign** (VSC) developed following the April 2002 coup in Venezuela and subsequent rise of people's resistance to regain their democratically elected President. Since that time VSC has obtained support from a range of individuals, organisations, trade unions and others.

These include the **Trade Union Councils National Conference, Midlands TUC, West Midlands UNISON and County Association of TUC's**. In June 2006 VSC was supported at the **UNISON National Delegate Conference** along with other solidarity groups. In addition, numerous **trade union branches** and **Trade Union Councils** have expressed support. Venezuela solidarity work has the support of the **Trades Union Congress**, which passed a unanimous resolution in support of solidarity and backing trade union supported campaign bodies (**September 2005**).

We have hosted delegations, tours, public meetings, film showings, presentations, distributed documentaries and undertaken a range of campaigning activities to raise the profile and build solidarity with Venezuelan trade unions and activists. **We have held numerous two way international conferences and the VSC was part of the official welcome to President Chavez during his visit to London 2006.** We also supported and participated in his visit to Congress House (TUC) and the Parliamentary Labour Friends of Venezuela. We presented 200 copies of the DVD to Colin Burgon MP (Chair) who distributed the DVD to all supporters within Parliament.

**VSC attended as official observers the national UNT congress in Venezuela in May 2006. The UNT is now the dominant trade union federation in Venezuela – supportive of the Constitution. The TUC also sent an international delegation headed by UNISON Assistant General Secretary, Keith Sonnet – see website for report.**

As part of our work we have obtained coverage in local, national and international media. In addition we have joined with Venezuelans and undertaken interviews with local and national press, radio and TV in Venezuela.

## **The tour includes:**

**Hotel and Breakfast**

**Interpreters**

**Greeting at Airport**

**Transportation**

**Literature and Film Documentaries**

**Free time for sight-seeing**



*The training of the next generation of health care workers*



# VSC Solidarity Tours 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Website www \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Branch / Region \_\_\_\_\_

Please write below any additional comments and give details of what you would wish to see and achieve visiting Venezuela.

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Please return this application to  
[info@venezuelasolidarity.org.uk](mailto:info@venezuelasolidarity.org.uk)

Or

VSC,  
C/O W'ton, TUC  
P.O.Box 2917,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV2 2YA

Full costs and payment deadlines confirmed on enquiry.

Tel: 0121 288 1388 to discuss details etc.



Have you travelled to Venezuela before? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you speak any Spanish? \_\_\_\_\_

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