

UNISON National Delegate Conference 20th – 23rd June 2006

To discuss support for UNT and Venezuela Solidarity

Conference congratulates and supports the colossal advances being made by the Venezuelan Revolution under President Hugo Chavez in carrying out policies, which benefit working people, the poor and the landless.

Conference recognises that the nine electoral victories won by Hugo Chavez since 1998, provides the Revolution with an overwhelming mandate. This reflects the overwhelming support for the social programs carried out by the government in relation to education, literacy, healthcare, land reform and subsidised food.

Conference recognises that to make social and economic progress, Venezuela:

- 1) is employing 10,000s of both Cuban and Venezuelan doctors to provide free Health care for the poorest 80%, for the first time ever;**
- 2) is encouraging independent trade unions and worker co-operatives;**
- 3) is undertaking a massive house-building project aimed at ridding the existence of the slums that millions live in;**
- 4) has success in eliminating illiteracy;**
- 5) has outlawed all discrimination;**
- 6) Is investing in developing universal free health and education;**
- 7) is redistributing land.**

Conference views with alarm the bellicose threats from the United States Administration and its imperialist puppets, including the Venezuela oligarchy and the Colombian Government, which pose a real threat to the life of Chavez as well as the Revolution itself. Conference therefore opposes all outside interference in the affairs of Venezuela. Conference deplores the attempts of the United States Administration to intervene in the internal life of Venezuela and agrees to raise these concerns with the British government.

Conference notes that the anti-democratic and illegal actions of the opposition, whilst little carried in the mainstream media, is shown dramatically in the **award winning DVD the Revolution Will Not be Televised. Conference notes the distribution difficulties and encourages the widest possible publicity of this and Venezuela solidarity in general.**

Conference expresses its support for the **National Union of workers (UNT) as the legitimate voice of the organised working class** and calls upon our union to build links with its Venezuelan counterpart.

Furthermore, conference pledges its support for the initiatives of the labour movement backed campaigns that further the above aims. Conference notes that three organisations have been created in Britain to promote solidarity. **These are the global HoV campaign, Venezuela Solidarity Campaign and the Venezuela Information Centre (VIC).** Conference notes that each of these have addressed different aspect of solidarity, worked positively on a range of initiatives and are all continuing to build solidarity and raise the profile of Venezuela in a range of areas. These include delegations, literature, public meetings, DVD distribution, press campaigns, web sites, supporter databases, meetings with MP's, Mayor of London and so on.

Conference notes that many regional and national trade unions have affiliated and supported the campaign groups. Conference further notes that the Trade Union Congress of September 2005 agreed unanimously to promote solidarity.

Therefore Conference agrees to:

- a) promote solidarity with the trade unionists of Venezuela to work wherever possible and practicable with trade union backed Venezuela solidarity campaigns.
- b) promote wherever appropriate, campaign material to branches and activists;
- c) discuss with Venezuela counterparts UNT and investigate a delegation, as well as inviting trade unionists from Venezuela to Britain
- d) publicise campaigns to branches and encourage affiliation and support.

Conference instructs the National Executive Council to work with broad-based organisations working for solidarity with Venezuelan workers providing these organisations comply with UNISON's criteria for affiliations.

129 Cymru/Wales Region - 129.1 City of Edinburgh - 129.2 National Executive Council - 132 Wolverhampton General