



NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN ACTION GROUP

On 19 July each year, tens of thousands of Nicaraguans take to the streets to celebrate the anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution. This year marks the 44th anniversary.

Annual Report

Campaigns

The start of 2022 saw an escalation of US hostility and aggression (including the imposition of illegal sanctions) towards Nicaragua following the victory of Daniel Ortega and the FSLN in the November 2021 elections. Efforts by the United States to destabilise Nicaragua and bring about regime change continued throughout 2022 with the imposition of additional packages of sanctions aimed at preventing access to development financing and suffocating the country's economy. In the face of this, we intensified our campaigning work in defence of Nicaragua's sovereignty and right to self-determination. At the same time, we continued to stand in solidarity with Nicaragua's trade unions in their fight to defend the gains of the Revolution.

Communications

In spite of the remarkable social and economic progress made in Nicaragua over the last 16 years, the demonisation of Nicaragua by the US and UK governments, the EU and corporate media continued throughout the year. Through our communications work, we aimed to counter the misinformation and show the truth about Nicaragua as a progressive force in Latin America – we produced regular monthly updates, posted regularly on social media, wrote articles and participated in a range of webinars on subjects including labour relations and a comparison of democracy in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and the United States.

Events

We were also invited to speak at a number of regional and branch trade union meetings during the year. In September, EC members Julie Lamin and Francisco Dominguez spoke at a solidarity rally with Latin America's left, unions and social movements. This took place during the week of the Labour Party conference in Liverpool. In October, together with our sister organisation Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, we organised a solidarity event – *'Another way is possible: the example of Nicaragua'*. The event included presentations by Marlen Sanchez, Director of the Latin America Institute for Agroecology in Nicaragua and a member of the international relations secretariat of the Rural Workers Association (ATC) and a report back from the UK-Nicaragua teacher exchange (see next item).

UK Trade Union Solidarity

We are grateful to our trade union affiliates and supporters for their constant and unwavering support throughout this period. International solidarity has remained crucial in sustaining Nicaraguan trade unions through another difficult year which, as stated above, saw Nicaragua facing ongoing efforts by the US to

oust the country's democratically elected government and return Nicaragua to the dark days of neoliberalism, a move which – if it ever happened – would see Nicaragua's trade unions stripped of all the rights they have gained since the FSLN came to power in 2007..

A highlight of 2022 was a teacher exchange with Nicaragua. This took place in July/August when a group of eleven primary and secondary school teachers of Spanish as a second language visited Nicaragua to meet with their counterparts, all teachers of English as a second language. The delegation was sponsored by the National Education Union and Nicaraguan teachers' union ANDEN. The visit was a great success, providing the opportunity for teachers in both countries to exchange information and methodologies on the teaching of second languages as well as learning about their respective cultures and traditions.

With a return post-pandemic to the organisation of in-person events, we had solidarity stalls at the national conferences of the CWU, NEU, GMB and UNISON.

Finances

Although the 2022 accounts showed a small deficit of £660, the finances of NSCAG remained stable and NSCAG was able to sustain a good level of reserves (£7,771).

Income from our raffles amounted to £1,445 and our two appeals raised £3,545. Given that NSCAG is almost totally funded from affiliations and donations, this additional income makes a big difference to our ability to carry out our work successfully and effectively and we are extremely grateful for the support received both from those who donate raffle prizes and those who purchase tickets.

Affiliations

Our national affiliates are: - ASLEF, BFAWU, CWU, FBU, GMB, NEU, RMT, TSSA, UNISON, UNITE and USDAW. We also have affiliations from TUC London, East & South East Region, TUC Northern Region, Battersea & Wandsworth TUC, Crewe & District TUC, Merseyside Cuba Solidarity and Caribbean Labour Solidarity.

By the end of 2022, 111 branches and regions were affiliated to us, a small decrease on the previous year which appears to be mostly due to a number of branch/regional mergers.

We still need more support from regions and branches and hope that we can redouble our efforts to encourage more affiliations during the coming year.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to NSCAG's work, whether a trade union individual, branch, district, association, region or national office. A full copy of the NSCAG accounts is available on request.

A breakdown of current branch and regional affiliations by union is shown below:-

Branch & region affiliation breakdown by union:

	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22
ASLEF	0	0	0	0	0
CWU	9	10	7	13	12
GMB	10	9	13	10	9
NEU	7	9	7	10	9
RMT	1	1	1	1	1
UNISON	45	45	44	55	50
UNITE	46	38	30	30	30
USDAW	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	118	110	102	119	111

Staff: Louise Richards

NSCAG Executive Members 2022: Dave Auger, Tony Burke, Warren Chambers, Rabiah Chohan, Ruby Cox (Chair), Luke Daniels, Francisco Dominguez, John Drewery, Farzana Jumma, Julie Lamin, David McKnight, Ken Rustidge.

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