



Public sector union UNE celebrates 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

## **NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN ACTION GROUP**

### **Annual Report**

#### **Introduction**

2020 has been a difficult year due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic. However, faced with a number of challenges and limited resources, NSCAG has continued to successfully operate thanks to the continued support and solidarity of our trade union affiliates.

A number of our planned activities had to be cancelled – these included the NEU teacher exchange to Nicaragua, visits from Nicaraguan trade unionists to the UK and trade union delegations to Nicaragua. However, we did manage to hold a series of successful webinars throughout the year. Featuring speakers from the UK, US and Nicaragua, these have covered subjects such as ‘COVID-19 and US imperialism’, ‘Trade Unions – the Nicaraguan Example’, ‘The Nicaraguan Revolution: Past, Present and Future – the threat of a good example’ and ‘Fighting blockades & COVID-19: Why US sanctions in Latin America must end’ (held jointly with the Cuba and Venezuela Solidarity Campaigns).

#### **UK Trade Union Solidarity**

As indicated above, 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 a particularly difficult year which has seen Nicaragua faced not only by the COVID-19 pandemic and two devastating hurricanes but also by continuing US aggression and efforts to undermine the country’s sovereignty, bring about regime change and return Nicaragua to the dark days of neoliberalism.

In response to the hurricanes which occurred in November 2020 and which caused damage estimated to be at around \$US742.671, equivalent to 6.2% of GDP, NSCAG set up an emergency relief fund and thanks to the generosity of our trade union affiliates, we were able to send £7000 to sister unions in Nicaragua to assist with repairing the damage to schools and health centres.

Income from our raffles amounted to £2,738 and our two appeals raised £4,365. This income makes a huge difference to our ability to carry out our work successfully and effectively and we are extremely grateful for the support received.

#### **Campaigns**

Throughout 2020, we continued to campaign in defence of Nicaragua’s sovereignty and democracy and the right of Nicaraguan people to determine their own future without foreign interference. We produced regular briefings, updates and website postings in order to show the truth about what is happening in Nicaragua as opposed to the lies and misinformation spread by corporate media in the US, UK and EU. At the same time, we provided updates on the many positive developments in Nicaragua, where the FSLN government continues to implement a raft of social and economic programmes designed to improve the lives and livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable in society.

## Dave Cosgrave

Dave stepped down as Chair of the NSCAG Executive Committee in December 2020 after five years in the role. We wish to place on record our thanks to him for his support, advice and wise counsel and for his excellent contribution to the work of NSCAG. We wish him well for the future.

## Affiliations

Our national affiliates are: - ASLEF, BECTU, 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 and Merseyside Cuba Solidarity.

By the end of 2020, 102 branches and regions were affiliated to us. Although the figures indicate a small drop in affiliations, this is largely due to the fact that, due to the pandemic, many branches have been unable to meet for some time in order to process affiliation renewals and there have been other delays also due to the pandemic.

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

We hope to intensify our affiliation drive over the coming months in order to encourage more branches to join us. A breakdown of current branch and regional affiliations by union is shown below

## Branch & region affiliation breakdown by union:

	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20
ASLEF	0	0	0	0	0
CWU	12	12	9	10	7
GMB	5	9	10	9	13
NEU	8	9	7	9	7
RMT	1	1	1	1	1
UNISON	36	38	45	45	44
UNITE	51	45	46	38	30
USDAW	1	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>102</b>

**Staff:** Louise Richards

**NSCAG Executive Members:** Dave Auger, Tony Burke (co-opted July 2020), Rabiah Chohan (from June 2020), Dave Cosgrave (Chair), Ruby Cox, Francisco Dominguez, John Drewery, Bob Hardie, Julie Lamin, David McKnight, Ken Rustidge

**Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group, 86 Durham Rd, London N7 7DT**

Tel: (020) 7561 4836 Email: [nscag@nicaraguasc.org.uk](mailto:nscag@nicaraguasc.org.uk) Website: [www.nscag.org](http://www.nscag.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nicaraguasc/> Twitter: @NSCAG\_UK