

## **Model motion on opposing the blockade on Venezuela**

### **This [branch/organisation] notes:**

1. Under President Trump, the US has created an extensive economic blockade against Venezuela of the type employed against Cuba since the early 1960s.
2. Since their introduction in 2015, US sanctions have already cost the Venezuelan economy \$116 billion, and are illegal under international law. They are opposed by a majority of both pro- and anti-government Venezuelans.
3. To further advance its strategy of 'regime change' against the elected Venezuelan government, the US has issued threats of US military intervention.
4. The US has also supported failed coup attempts by self-proclaimed 'interim president' Juan Guaidó, whose latest attempt to topple the government by contracting a Florida-based private security firm, Silvercorp USA, to mount armed incursions by mercenaries, also ended in failure.
5. The British government is complicit in the US's drive for 'regime change' by supporting the blockade and recognising Guaidó, including working with his representatives on plans for British companies' involvement in 'reconstructing' Venezuela under a post-coup regime.
6. Although ostensibly independent of the British government, the Bank of England is also complicit by withholding from the Venezuelan government its deposit of 31 tons of gold, worth £820m that it needs to help tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

### **This branch/ organisation further notes:**

1. The right of the Venezuelan people to choose their own economic, social and political path, without external interference.
2. The call from the majority in Venezuela for a dialogue to peacefully address the nation's problems.
3. The work of the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign (VSC) in building a broad-based campaign to defend Venezuela's right to national sovereignty.

### **. This branch / organisation resolves to:**

1. Affiliate to the VSC to help build the movement against external intervention and in support of self-determination for Venezuela.
2. Support the campaign against the US's blockade and its drive for 'regime change' in Venezuela by signing and circulating VSC's petition, 'Oppose Trump's sanctions on Venezuela'.
3. Call on the British government to oppose the blockade and all US extraterritorial threats against UK-based companies, and to support dialogue in Venezuela.
4. Call on the Bank of England to comply with the Venezuelan government's rightful request for its assets to be released.
5. Urge sister union branches and individuals who are not already affiliates/members of VSC to affiliate to the campaign.