

Model motion on opposing the blockade on Venezuela



Venezuela
Solidarity
Campaign

This [branch/organisation] notes:

1. Under President Trump, the US created an extensive economic blockade against Venezuela of the type employed against Cuba since the early 1960s. The blockade's raft of sanctions is being maintained by President Biden.
2. Since their introduction in 2015, US sanctions have already cost the Venezuelan economy at least \$116 billion, and are illegal under international law. They are opposed by a majority of both pro- and anti-government Venezuelans.
3. The current energy crisis has is forcing the US to make tentative moves towards easing some oil sanctions very slightly but the blockade is still a major impediment to Venezuela's economic and financial trading.
4. The US's objective is still 'regime change', in pursuit of which it has regularly issued threats of military intervention against the elected Venezuelan government.
5. The British government is complicit in the US's drive for 'regime change' by continuing to support the blockade. Furthermore, 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 roughly \$2 bn.

This branch/ organisation further notes:

1. The right of the Venezuelan people to choose their own path, without external interference.
2. The call from the majority in Venezuela for a dialogue to peacefully address the nation's problems, and an end to sanctions.

. 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, '*President Biden – fully normalise relations with 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 by signing and circulating VSC's petition, '*Rishi Sunak, Give Venezuela Back Its Gold*'.