

Crisis in Latin America

Conference Believes:

1. That university education is free for all in Venezuela.
2. That there are many Venezuelan students enrolled in the UK, being the third most popular destination for Venezuelans, and that Colombia has even more of its students enrolled in the UK, having 3,345 in 2003/4.
3. That Colombia's enormous arms expenditure, funded by the US and UK, massively outweighs that of its neighbours and has sparked a Latin American arms race that can only be hugely destabilising for the region and world.
4. That Colombia's recent and ongoing provocation of its neighbours and incursion into their sovereignty has destabilised the entire region, raising the possibility of Latin America's first war in over a decade.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Venezuela's government, in particular its prioritisation of funding for education, is a beacon of inspiration for students nationally.
2. That Hands off Venezuela is leading the international student campaign in solidarity with Venezuela against the threat of war, operating in over 30 countries and present on campuses all over the UK, such as London, Cardiff, Sussex, Manchester, and has over 6 million workers affiliated via trade unions.
3. A war in this region of Latin America would reverberate around the world because of the enormous natural resources present and their proximity to the US.
4. That students have always and must always be at the forefront of the anti-war movement.

Conference Resolves:

1. To formally affiliate to the Hands off Venezuela campaign.
2. To campaign with Hands off Venezuela and trade unions to put pressure on the government to stop its support for Colombia, condemn their actions in Ecuador and raise student awareness about the Venezuelan revolution as a whole.