

For Immediate Release

**International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Begins in NYC  
People from the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada and Cuba to Join Together to Call for an End to the U.S.  
Blockade on Cuba**

>> March 11 – 9am – 5pm / March 12 – 11am – 2pm  
Fordham University Lincoln Center Campus, Lowenstein Building  
113 West 60th Street, Manhattan, NYC

>> March 11 – 8-9:30pm  
Malcolm X and Dr Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center  
3940 Broadway, Manhattan, NYC

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More information and conference program: [www.us-cubanormalizationconference.org](http://www.us-cubanormalizationconference.org)

On March 11 and 12, 2023 activists, intellectuals, and artists are gathering in New York City for an International Conference calling for the normalization of US-Cuba relations. Conference participants have united around three main demands: Take Cuba off Washington’s List of State-Sponsors of Terrorism! End the US Blockade of Cuba! and End All US Anti-Cuba Economic and Travel Sanctions! Over 100 organizations from the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico have endorsed this important international event.

As explained by Ike Nahem of the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition, “For over 60 years, the U.S. government has imposed a complete and brutal economic blockade on Cuba. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trump administration added 243 additional measures to tighten the blockade. Despite promises, the Biden administration hasn’t eased the blockade or lifted any measures.”

The conference will include speakers from Cuba, the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada, workshops and panel discussions, a Cuban art exhibit and a short film festival. All plenary and workshop sessions will also be live streamed, allowing people to participate from around the world. Cuba solidarity organizers in Miami, Boston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St Paul, Portland and Vancouver, Canada will also be screening the conference at events in their cities.

A central discussion at the conference will be on former U.S. President Trump’s inclusion of Cuba on the U.S. State Department “State Sponsors of Terrorism” list. “Trump’s cruel and hypocritical addition of Cuba to this list has deepened the impact of the U.S. blockade. Cuba is met with further restrictions when trading on the world market which has made importing food, fuel, medicines and other essential goods increasingly difficult,” explained Alison Bodine, also an organizer with the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition.

This is the fourth time that the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference has been held in NYC and coinciding with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Featured speakers at the conference from Cuba include the Cuban delegation to the CSW organized by the Cuban Federation of Women.