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MAY DAY 2022: Cuba lives and works!



By Cheryl LaBash
Havana, Cuba

Three days of solidarity will mark May Day 2022 in Havana. In Cuba, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation in 2020 and 2021, the awesome May Day march will joyously take place Sunday, May 1. The march theme, Cuba Vive y Trabaja — Cuba Lives and Works — expresses the firm and unconditional decision to continue consolidating "Our Economic-Social Socialist Development Model." The events are dedicated to Cuba's historical leader, Fidel Castro Ruz.

On the eve of May Day, April 30, the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba [Cuban Workers Central Union] is welcoming workers from around the world to learn from Cuban workers and their neighborhoods the pain caused to Cuban families by the unilateral U.S. economic, commercial, and financial blockade — essentially an illegal economic war. After meetings with the hotel and tourism union, delegations will visit communities under reconstruction and partake in the community soup called *caldosa* with Committees for Defense of the Revolution.

Hundreds — most under 30 years of age — are coming from the United States in various brigades, delegations and just coming as individuals to demonstrate their solidarity with revolutionary Cuba — real aid to the Cuban people. Their experiences will inform their work when they return to the U.S., be it in work places, mutual-aid projects, communities fighting for affordable housing and against evictions, to abolish the police abuse and murders and to stop the

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Solidarity activists will join the Cuban people in the Plaza of the Revolution. Pictured: May Day 2008.

PHOTO: BILL HARRIS

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Over 1,000 students at West High School in Salt Lake City walked out of classes April 6 to protest pending anti-trans legislation in Utah.

PHOTO: LINDSEY ADAMS

U.S.-NATO war and attacks on trans rights:

Two fronts in the class war

By Greg Butterfield

In Texas and Alabama, transgender youth are facing forcible detransition. A law passed by Alabama's legislature and signed by Gov. Kay Ivey April 8, and an executive order by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in February, not only ban gender-affirming care for children, but subject their parents and health-care providers to prosecution.

This means that even kids who have been transitioning for years, who have lived as and always been known as a girl or boy to their peers, would be forcibly "outed" and denied the care they need to grow up happy and healthy — even banned from using the restroom they choose at school.

These measures directly contradict the recommendations of medical experts, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association.

A University of Washington Study released at the end of February found that trans youth who got gender-affirm-

ing treatment experienced a 60% drop in depression risk and a 73% drop in suicidal thoughts, on average.

"Our study builds on what we have already seen from an already staggering amount of scientific research," study lead author Diana Tordoff told HealthDay News. "Access to gender-affirming care saves trans youth's lives."

Tennessee and Arkansas already have laws banning gender-affirming care. Nearly half of U.S. states currently have similar legislation pending.

It's worth noting, perhaps, that about 1.5 million people in the U.S. openly identify as trans — that is, less than half of 1% of the U.S. population of 330 million.

Slander campaign

In recent weeks, a new campaign of dangerous slander has accompanied this effort, as right-wing politicians, news outlets like Fox News and social-media bigots shout about the LGBTQ+ community and its supporters as "groom-

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