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ONG con Status Consultivo en ECOSOC, Naciones Unidas

## **Contribution of The Center for Youth Studies to The Submission of Cuba's Periodic Report to The Committee Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

The Center for Youth Studies from the study on/with infants, adolescents and young Cubans, advocates for the defense and promotion of knowledge and exercise of rights by these populations. Torture constitutes a violation of the integrity and dignity of human beings and at the same time an act of extreme violence that leads to physical and psychological damage and even death. Cuba rejects any expression of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

The Center for Youth Studies (CYS) was founded as the Commission for Social Research in 1971, adopted its current name in 1982 and became a Non-Governmental Organization in 1994. It is the only Cuban institution devoted entirely to the study of adolescent and youth issues. Since 1999 it has had consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has been represented in important conclaves convened by the United Nations.

Although Cuba has a constitution whose principles are based on equality and social justice for Cubans, CYS, as an organization of Cuban civil society, promotes respect, dignity, a full life without violence and free of discrimination through research and other actions.

Consequently, and taking into account that young and precedent populations in the world are identified as the most vulnerable, with higher figures in young women; even when the reality of our country differs from this problem, actions are systematically developed with adolescents and young people aimed at the knowledge and exercise of their rights, the promotion of non-violence, non-discrimination, among others, through workshops and training for professionals to multiply positive experiences to know, identify and prevent situations and behaviors associated with or leading to violence. The evidences that emerge from the

experiences carried out are included as references in scientific publications in the “Estudio” magazine coordinated by CYS and others with a preventive approach.

On the other hand, our institution raises awareness and undertakes actions in the face-to-face and virtual modality and also actively in social networks to raise awareness of the need to put an end to behaviors that violate people's human rights, with particular emphasis on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Important dates for awareness-raising and advocacy work are:

June 26<sup>th</sup>: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

July 30<sup>th</sup>: World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

August 21<sup>st</sup>: International Day of Commemoration and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

November 25<sup>th</sup>: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Our work takes as main normative references the Sustainable Development Goals, the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as other international documents.

### **Actions**

- Virtual and face-to-face workshops with children, adolescents and young people.
- Training. Presence of the topic in a Diploma Course on Children, Adolescents and Youth.
- Presence and discussion of the topic at the International Congress of Researchers on Children, Adolescents and Youth.
- Training for the identification and rejection of the topic in pre-congress courses.
- Approach and exchange of the topic and human rights work in the virtual space Dialoguing on Youth.
- Scientific publications in “Estudio” magazine.
- Publications in the institutional blog “Futuro Cubano”.

- Sharing practices and experiences of the Cuban reality on the topic and other associated topics in national and international events.
- Celebration of June 26: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.
- Contributions to the Committee against Torture.