



## **Periodic Universal Evaluation on the Human Rights in the Republic of Cuba april-may 2013**

ACOSOP - Association for Cooperation and Solidarity among Peoples Report to the PUE; Portugal; October 2012.

Subject: Periodic Universal Evaluation on the Human Rights in the Republic of Cuba (UNHCHR)

Reporter: ACOSOP - Association for Cooperation and Solidarity among Peoples

Created in April of 2011, ACOSOP is a non profitable NGO, non partisan and non religious, that was born from the will to develop cooperation work with different people in several areas, among which culture and art, the different areas of human knowledge and education for peace, sustainable development and solidarity among people.

The respect for multiculturalism and difference are, as far as we see them, paramount in human development, being, human rights, self determination, independence and respect for peoples culture and traditions, values that we are committed to defend and broadcast in the course of our activities.

In accordance with the evaluation process:

The relations between ACOSOP and the Republic of Cuba are based upon cooperation concerning the training methods for adult learning "Yo si puedo", which is a project developed by the Education Ministry of Cuba destined to alphabetise adults in a short term period, and that ACOSOP is trying to adapt and implement in Portugal near social disabled communities. At the same time we promoted a show of Cuban cinematography, in which we worked in a partnership with the Association of Cuban residents in Portugal.

Within this process we have dealt with the Cuban government either by direct contact of one of our board members that displaced herself to Havana, or locally through contacts with the Cuban diplomatic representation in Lisbon.

In both cases we could develop our work freely, without any interference of any kind, even receiving help and support from the diplomatic personal to deal with the questions that showed more sensible along the process - mostly related with the economic difficulties shown by our NGO to pursue the goal of implement the projects.

As far as the freedom of action within either "Yo si puedo" as well as the film show, we never felt neither from the Embassy, nor from the Cuban Government or its institutions any pressure or impediment to speak to whomever we choose to, to promote by any means any image or opinion diverse to our own, or any threat to suspend or cancel our cooperation due to any other cooperation projects with any other partner of ours. On the contrary the Cuban Embassy showed open to commit itself, through ACOSOP, with other Portuguese, or Portuguese speaking countries NGO's to promote cooperation in several



other areas as the environment, speaking openly of the interest of the Cuban Government to improve it's environmental legislation and practice by straightening interchange of information, training and experience.

On the other hand, ACOSOP while participatory membership in Portuguese society has yet to record the excellent work, medical and human, that was developed by the brigade of Cuban doctors, who for years acted in Portuguese hospitals, especially those in the periphery, and recently released by the portuguese government, under the guise of alleged financial crisis.

In conclusion from all our experiences with the Republic of Cuba we ACOSOP are in position to state that as far as we know there is a sincere effort from the cuban authorities to comply to both the UN Chart as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and so from our point of view there could only be a positive evaluation on this standards.

Lisbon october the 4th 2012