



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Latin America Week I congratulate all those supporting, volunteering for, and engaging with the Latin America Centre on two decades of effective action to highlight the important links between Ireland and the countries, societies and people of Latin America.

Established in 1996 and building on the work of many other solidarity initiatives undertaken in Ireland since the early 1970s, LASC has played an invaluable role in Ireland, providing valuable information on events unfolding in Latin America and demonstrating genuine solidarity with movements striving for equality.

As we celebrate the Centre's campaigns, events and its flagship Latin America Week, that all have served to highlight the work and perspectives of many courageous people and groups, the long history of Ireland's links with Latin America is receiving greater recognition. It is appropriate in this context to highlight the exhibition on 'The Irish in Latin America' based on the work of Margaret Brehony, which I had the pleasure of opening both in Cork and in Havana.

As you gather to mark this milestone, I wish to express the hope that the Latin America solidarity network that you have galvanised for so long can, in the next decades, not only build on your achievements but also forge a deeper engagement with Latin America and prompt more institutional exchanges, not only in the academic and not-for-profit realm but also in the world of business, arts and politics.

Mar fhocal scoir, may I reiterate my heartfelt congratulations on your achievements, on your spirit of collaboration, co-operation and solidarity and my encouragement to continue to seek new and innovative ways to raise awareness of our mutual inter-dependence on this beautiful and fragile planet.

Beir beannacht.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland