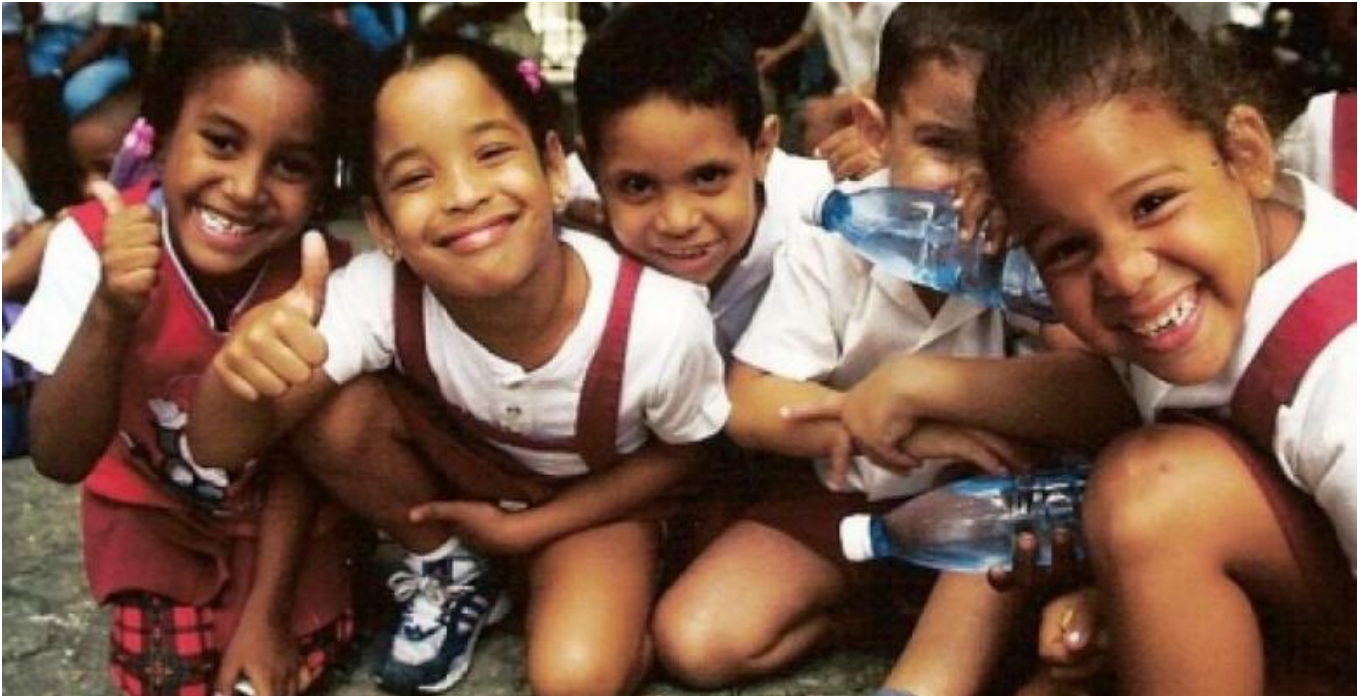


Cuba, where Childhood Does Matter

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Children are the future of this world, that's why day to day, mothers, fathers, everyone within the family is doing everything possible so that they can get good education and become men and women of virtue, but to make this happen, a happy childhood should be guaranteed for them.

So, the International Children's Day was proclaimed in Vienna in April, 1952 during the World Conference for the Well-being of Children. That convention agreed that by the mere fact of being born, the child has the right to be happy, something which is a glaring truth in Socialist Cuba.

Following the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, Cuba created an impressive body of legislation to ensure the survival, development, protection and participation of the youngest population. Consequently, we have in the island nation a Family Act, a Work Act and laws that defend the rights of the children and the youth.

To have free access to health services, to be protected against child labor and economic exploitation as a whole, to have access to public education and be protected against sexual abuse are basic principles for enjoying a healthy childhood. All this are guarantees so that they can develop freely and creatively their dignitary, attitudes and skills.

Phenomena as despicable as child prostitution, forced labor and street children are scourges that one does not find in the current Cuban, thanks to the efforts of the Revolution.

That's why a big party has been organized for them today with culture, sport and entertainment as its main offerings. We live in a country that dedicates not only a day but all days of the year to children so that they can live a childhood of fullness.

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