

## **Visiting Cuba before things change?**

By José Manzaneda

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The phrase is a cliché: "I am going to visit Cuba before it changes." But who is forced to change this country? It would be whoever is saying Cuba has to return to being a "normal country." It's for sure that in a "normal" Latin American country organized structural violence, children in the street, pockets of hunger, obvious contrasts between misery and opulence all do exist there. That doesn't seem to be a good sort of change for Cuba that, according to UNICEF, is the only country in Latin American without severe childhood malnutrition, and according to UNICEF, is the only one that has fulfilled the objectives of Education for All.

But by all means, you have to visit this beautiful country, full of obliging people, educated, and with good hearts. You have to also see their problems, quite common for people in the "developing world." And be sure that you have enough grit for changing, but it will be a long way from that other kind of "change" that is given as a fact.

*Translated by Tom Whitney*

## **¿Visitar Cuba antes de que cambie?**

By José Manzaneda, 21 junio, 2016

Es una frase cliché: voy a visitar Cuba «antes de que cambie». Pero ¿a qué está condenado a cambiar este país? Hay quien sostiene que debe volver a ser un «país normal». Claro que en un país latinoamericano «normal» existe violencia estructural organizada, menores de la calle, bolsas de hambre y contrastes sangrantes entre miseria y opulencia. No parece un buen cambio para Cuba que, según Unicef, es el único país sin desnutrición infantil severa de América Latina, y según la Unesco, el único que cumple los objetivos de Educación para Todos.

Pero sí, hay que visitar este hermoso país, repleto de gente amable, instruida y de buen corazón. Ver también sus problemas, muy comunes a los del «mundo en desarrollo». Y comprobar que tiene fortalezas suficientes para cambiar, sí, pero lejos de ese otro «cambio» que se da por hecho.