



**For Immediate Release:**

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## STATEMENT FROM THE COALITION OF CONNECTICUT PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADES AND FESTIVALS

[Hartford, CT] – The Coalition of Connecticut Puerto Rican Day Parades Festivals, which includes the CICD-Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. Hartford Chapter, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County, Puerto Rican Festival of New Haven, Meriden Puerto Rican Festival, Boriken Festival of Norwich, and the Waterbury Puerto Rican Parade & Festival, released the following statement today regarding Hurricane Fiona’s devastating impact on Puerto Rico.

“Our hearts and prayers are with our brothers & sisters in Puerto Rico as they once again are faced with the catastrophic devastation of a natural disaster – Hurricane Fiona. We continue to monitor official updates, media reports, and speak with families & advocates on the ground. In the last forty –eight hour, we have received countless messages asking how we – the Connecticut Puerto Rican community & beyond – can help.

As we have learned from past, we must be smart and strategic in our efforts. This is why in accordance with Governor Pedro Pierluisi of Puerto Rico’s request for the diaspora not to send humanitarian aid, at this time; we will not be organizing a statewide effort to collect humanitarian aid. Instead, we are relaunching “*CT Helps PR/ CT Ayuda PR*”, an online relief effort that was launched in the aftermath of the 2020 earthquake. Should you want to donate to our efforts you can do so by clicking here [www.CTHelpsPR.org](http://www.CTHelpsPR.org) / [www.CTAyudaPR.org](http://www.CTAyudaPR.org).

In addition, we are encouraging residents to donate to local reputable organizations on the island such as:

- **Taller Salud** - Taller Salud is a community-based feminist organization dedicated to improving women's access to healthcare, reducing violence in community settings, and fostering economic development through education and activism. Founded in 1979, Taller Salud is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.
- **Hospital del Nino** - The “Society to Prevent Tuberculosis in Children” was founded in 1924. Under the direction of Dr. José Rodríguez Pastor, a group of dedicated citizens joined forces to offer help and treatment to those suffering from this disease that affected Puerto Rico at that time. It was decided then that hospital facilities would be built in order to offer more complete services to the patients.
- **Para La Naturaleza** - Para la Naturaleza brings together every person who wants a sustainable future for Puerto Rico, where our children can grow up in habitable cities, swim in the crystal-clear waters of our rivers and feed themselves off the land. We make transformative experiences in nature happen. We protect lands of high ecological value and encourage people to take responsibility for all our natural resources while pushing forward public policy for their protection. With more than forty-three years working together with other organizations for the protection of nature in our islands, we have identified a common goal for every person committed to conservation.
- **Casa Pueblo Adjuntas Puerto Rico** – Casa Pueblo is a community self-management project that is committed to appreciating and protecting natural, cultural, and human resources. It was born in 1980 when the government of Puerto Rico wanted to start a mining operation in 17 deposits of silver, gold and copper. Mining would have caused an ecological and social catastrophe in 36,000 cuerdas of land in the municipalities of Adjuntas, Utuado, Lares and Jayuya. Among the founding members who started this fight and who still remain are Mrs. Tinti Deyá Díaz and Ing. Alexis Massol González, together with an exemplary body of volunteers.

**For more information on initiatives near you, you can also contact:**

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| Hartford   | (860) 904-7860 / <a href="http://www.HartfordPRParade.com">www.HartfordPRParade.com</a>  |
| New Haven  | (203) 887-9238 / <a href="https://pruinc.org/">https://pruinc.org/</a>   |
| Bridgeport | <a href="https://www.prpfc.org/">https://www.prpfc.org/</a>  |
| Waterbury  | 203-910-5707 / <a href="http://www.waterburypr.org">www.waterburypr.org</a>  |
| Meriden    | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MeridenPuertoRicanFest">https://www.facebook.com/MeridenPuertoRicanFest</a>                    |
| Norwich    | 860-287-7531 / <a href="https://www.facebook.com/borikenfestivalofnorwich">https://www.facebook.com/borikenfestivalofnorwich</a> |

*100% of all tax-deductible donations will be allocated to buy urgent items to benefit the Puerto Rican residents of the municipalities affected in Puerto Rico. This effort is purely humanitarian, non-partisan, led by the CT Puerto Rican Parades & Festivals Relief Committee*