

A1's Project on Cuba

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ISSUE: Empowering women through development programs-The disabled people and their rights in the fields of education and work.





Geography

- Surface : 104,556 km²
- Population: 11,235,828
- Population/km²: 101
- Capital: Havana

Located in Caribbean sea ,North America

Bordering countries : Jamaica,haiti,Bahamas

Cuba

- Line of separation
- ★ National capital
- Province boundary
- Province capital
- Railroad
- Expressway
- Road

0 50 100 Miles

0 50 100 Kilometers

Informal Conic Projection, SP 29N/23W

HISTORY AND POLITICAL LIFE

CHE GUEVARA
★★★★★

Former colony of Spain

Independence

- War of independence February 24 1895
- Recognized December 10 1898
- Republic declared may 20 1902
- Cuban revolution July 26 1953-January 1 1959





Government Marxist-leninist one party republic
President-Prime minister Raúl Modesto Castro Ruz

Main events of the last 10 years

a) Fidel Castro announces his retirement 2008

b) Restrictions to Cuban-Americans visiting Havana and sending money into the country

c) Raul Castro is re-elected president 2013

e) The USA bans Americans on travelling to Cuba

f) Barack Obama visiting Cuba aiming to stop USA-Cuba rivalry and hoping to change Cuba's political regime from communism to capitalism 2016



CULTURAL ASPECTS

Official language: Spanish

Ethnical groups:

- **Caucasian 64.1%**
- **Mullato or Mestizo 26.6%**
- **African 9.3%**

(There is no discrimination between Ethnical groups in Cuba)

Religion : Roman Catholicism
el Morro castle in Havana

Lighthouse on





OFFICIAL REFERENCES/DOCUMENTS FOR DISABLED

Cuba is the largest Caribbean nation with 11 million people. According to the latest estimates, 366,864 people in Cuba have disabilities. In 2015, presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced that diplomatic relations between the two countries had been restored, after a period of more than 50 years. People with disabilities are given free medical care, however, difficulties with transportation and the lack of modern and/or specialized equipment (such as audiometry tests) limit their access to this care. Cuba is particularly prone to hurricanes, which cause regular and serious economic damage to the country and undermine living conditions, especially for people with disabilities who generally have fewer resources than people without disabilities.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION

A photograph showing a person in a wheelchair being assisted by a caregiver. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and blue pants. The caregiver is wearing white scrubs and is holding the wheelchair's handles. The setting appears to be a clinical or rehabilitation facility, with a white radiator and a window in the background. The lighting is somewhat dim, with a bright spot on the floor.


In Cuba, 38.29% of people with disabilities have an intellectual disability. This particularly high prevalence rate is due to several factors: a lack of information on the risk of children developing disabilities during pregnancy, a shortage of specialist medical equipment, poor guidance and preparation for families with disabled children, and the absence of a national integrated community-based rehabilitation model. The community-based rehabilitation project run by Handicap International plans to implement a pilot project to provide people with intellectual disabilities living in this province with specialist care. This project has already benefited 375 people under the age of 30 with severe intellectual disabilities, and 817 rehabilitation professionals.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a yellow tank top and sunglasses on her head, is seated in a blue wheelchair. She is smiling and holding a small stem with yellow flowers. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage and a cloudy sky.

The United Nations.- On June 10 Cuba presented its policies regarding the rights of disabled people and their inclusion within society, stated Cuba's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Oscar León.


During the conference between signatories of the Convention on the Rights of PersonswithDisabilities, he noted that visible achievements have been realized on the island despite the U.S. blockade imposed for over 50 years; the limitations Cuba faces as a developing county and the devastating impact of weather phenomena.

According to León, noteworthy actions include the implementation of a strategy based on the principles of freedom, equality, social justice and inclusion, as well as three national plans applied from 1995 through 2016, to support those with physical, mental or sensory limitations...

The background of the top half of the image features silhouettes of several individuals using mobility aids. From left to right, there is a person with a cane, a person with a cane, a person with a cane, and a pair of people, one of whom appears to be using a cane. The silhouettes are black and set against a light blue background with a faint grid pattern.

Cuba's policies regard disabled people as holders of rights with different capabilities, from a medical, educational and social-legal perspective, which aim to promote their physical rehabilitation, mastery and development of their abilities and social inclusion.

During the forum, León also noted that the objective of such policies is to achieve full social integration and improve the quality of life of this section of the population.

The background of the bottom half of the image features silhouettes of people in wheelchairs. On the left, a person is in a wheelchair. In the center, a person is in a wheelchair being pushed by another person. On the right, a person is in a wheelchair being pushed by another person. The silhouettes are black and set against a light blue background with a faint grid pattern.

He continued stating that although Cuba does not have a specific law relating to disabled people, there exist various legal bodies which guarantee protection for these citizens, among them the Children and Youth, Family, Civil and Work and Legal codes.

OFFICIAL REFERENCES/DOCUMENTS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By the numbers, Cuba appears to have made great strides toward gender equality. It's ranked third in the world in terms of most female representation in the country's main governing body with a Congress that is 49 percent female. For perspective, the United States is ranked seventy-sixth on that same list, our Congress being only about 20 percent female. Women are educated in impressive numbers (largely thanks to the revolution's commitment to free, universal education) and are well represented in important fields as professors, doctors, economists, etc. Obviously, however, the official statistics don't tell the whole story.

Despite the changes that occurred officially after the revolution in regards to gender, the culture of machismo, so common in many Latin American countries, is very much alive and well. For example, women are the ones expected to keep house and cook meals. Even if she has a full-time job as a doctor in which she spends all day at the hospital, she is still expected to maintain a clean home (especially difficult because it has to be done without many of the modern tools that we use in the United States), do laundry (oftentimes without even a washing machine), cook good meals (which requires trips to multiple different markets to obtain the required ingredients), and, if necessary, care for the children. At the same time that the woman is doing this, men are allowed to relax and enjoy a beer with their friends. As far as power dynamics go, the machismo mentality ensures that men receive the upper hand. All you have to do is walk down the street to see machismo at work. Catcalls, or *piropos*, and other forms of (non-physical) sexual harassment are unavoidable for women, even on a five-minute walk. This culture of machismo is deeply embedded in Cuban society and indicative of deeper, institutionalized gender inequalities as well.

[YouTube.com/TheTe](https://www.youtube.com/TheTe)



In actuality, employed women in Cuba do not hold positions of power—either political or monetary. The Cuban Congress, although elected by the people, is not the political body that truly calls the shots. The Cuban Communist Party—only about 7 percent of which is made up of women—holds true political power. Markedly, the systems of evaluating gender equality in other countries around the world aren't universally applicable, as women are much less represented in the true governing body of Cuba than we are led to believe. In addition, the professions that are usually synonymous with monetary wealth and the power and access that come with it (doctors, professors, etc.) do not yield the same financial reward here. Doctors and professors are technically state-employed and, therefore, earn the standard state wage of about \$30 per month. This means women employed in these traditionally high-paying fields are denied access to even monetary power as a form of establishing more of an equal footing with men. Evidently, in Cuba, women can be well employed but not where it matters.

Furthermore, Cuba has begun shifting toward a more privatized economy with the tourism leading the way. More and more Cubans are leaving state employment in search of jobs in the tourism industry, which are far more lucrative with access to wealthy foreigners and their subsequent tips. Many professors and doctors are leaving their jobs to drive taxis or become bartenders, a strange notion by US standards but all too common in Cuba. As a result, internalized sexism and machismo have led to the employment of more men over women in these new higher-paying jobs, thereby giving men access to greater financial power. If women are hired, it is often as a maid or cook, or a similar job that reinforces the traditional gender roles that they already struggle against. Although the private sector offers women some opportunity to start their own business (usually a restaurant), few are able to take advantage without access to the capital necessary to do so. So, even in this new economy, women are being left behind.



Unlike what is claimed by the Cuban government, gender equality is a long way off in Cuba. Unfortunately, most Cubans (including Cuban women) do not believe sexism exists because they grow up hearing that it was eradicated by the revolution. Awareness of the problem is always the first step to solving it, and without that awareness of the deep-lying sexism in Cuban society, there can and will be no push for change. However, with all the change happening in Cuba in recent years, anything is possible.

HISTORY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CUBA

SIN LAS MUJERES
NO HAY REVOLUCIÓN



In the first half of the 20th Century, women in Cuba had achieved a status comparable with that of other Latin American countries, such as Argentina and Chile. In 1933, during the 100-day government of Ramón Grau, Cuban women received the vote. In 1934 the percentages of Cuban women working outside the home, attending school, and practicing birth control surpassed the corresponding percentages in nearly every other Latin American country. Women in Cuba had been elected to Cuba's House of Representatives and Senate, serving as mayors, judges, cabinet members, municipal counselors, and members of the Cuban foreign service. The return of Grau to government, under the auspices of President Fulgencio Batista provided for the Cuban Constitution of 1940, one of the most progressive in the Western Hemisphere with regard to women's status, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex and calling for equal pay for equal work. According to Cuban government statistics, women represent 49.5% of all graduates at higher educational levels and 62% of university students. Women constitute 35% of Parliamentary members, 61% of attorneys, 49% of judges, and 47% of Supreme Court justices.

After the Cuban Revolution of 1959, the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) was established as an NGO. The FMC was recognized by the Cuban government as "the national mechanism for the advancement of women in Cuba". The organization claims to have more than 3 million members, which constitutes 85.2% of all women over age 14. There is also a Women's Training Center and a Women's Publishing House at the national level. The group generally adheres to the Cuban government's objectives "to defend the Cuban Revolution".



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Since the "Special Period in the r the Cuban Revolution of 1959, the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) was established as an NGO. The FMC was recognized Times of Peace" in the 1990s, women have stepped to the forefront of life in Cuba, calling for a step towards an existence without sexism. Sexism in Cuba goes hand in hand with the racism experienced by Afro-Cubans. Black women, especially, receive the lowest paying jobs, have the highest rates of unemployment, the lowest education levels and often live with the threat of gender violence.

Hip-hop, more specifically rap, has become the vehicle for Cuban women to express their dissatisfaction with race and gender status in Cuba. The lyrics of all female Cuban rap groups Krudas Cubensi and Obsesion ask for respect for diversity on the music scene and sympathy for women who have turned to prostitution for economic rescue. During the "Special Period", women came to the forefront in managing different economic and domestic situations and in doing so, assumed more responsibility and new authority. The popular dance style "perreo" can be seen as a symbol of this change, with women in front of men during the dance.¹ Promotion of female hip-hop artists is currently not on the same level as their male counterparts. However, through the support of the Cuban Rap Agency and specifically Magia López, the head of the agency, this may change. López is currently working to increase the participation of women in the Cuban hip-hop scene.

The average Cuban wage was only 334 regular pesos per month (\$16.70 per month) at the end of 2005.¹