

Forum: Race and Cubanness

Past, Present and Future

Contemporary Cuba is a racially stratified society. Racism serves as a mirror for the violence that continues rooted deeply in society, and it keeps growing in its exclusionary power. The ideology of color still imposes its hegemony, and silence keeps plowing its furrows. It is not enough that this problem be examined in undermined, government-controlled spaces, where consensus is weak. Racism must be confronted head on. It must be directly challenged. Conscious of the urgency and dangers surrounding this issue, and in a desire to broaden and extend the debate about the history, present and particularities of race relations in Cuba, the **Citizens' Committee for Racial Integration (CIR)** has issued an invitation to ***Forum: Race and Cubanness. Past, Present and Future***, an open call for individuals to participate in the responsible, fundamental and respectful deconstruction of those mirrors of hegemony; to encourage research and a commitment to reality; to examine the constant semantic relationship between the concepts 'nation' and 'ethnicity'; to reconcile differences, to restore a measure of freedom and autonomy that allows transformational actions and multiplies options for the future. It is our desire that citizens exercise their sov-

ereignty and continue decoding the complexities of our identity. It is absolutely essential that we see Cuba through a different lens.

The ***Forum*** will be held in rooms at the Gustavo E. Urrutia Institute, in Havana, on the 26th and 27th of September, 2009. There will be talks, debates, and round tables about the following subjects:

- 1- The presence of African descendants in Cuban history and politics.
- 2- Racial inequality: legacy and reproduction.
- 3- Gender and race.
- 4- The race issue in the context of democratic change in Cuba.
- 5- The vanguard and the race issue.
- 6- African descendants in the emerging economy.
- 7- Racial diversity in the media.
- 8- Racism, language, and stereotypes.
- 9- The race issue and crime.
- 10- Marginality and the race issue.
- 11- The politics of racial integration.
- 12- Techniques and proposals for fighting racism.
- 13- The race issue and theater in Cuba.

This program is subject to any changes circumstances or potential participants in the **Forum** request. Likewise, the **CIR** will issue in September the first **Premio Tolerancia Plus** award specifically for service in the struggle against racism and for racial integration. It is already public knowledge that the **Premio** is sponsored by ten civil societies in Cuba that work on the **Ámbito Cívico** [Civil Ambit] project, among them the **CIR**.

Brief biographical summaries should accompany the presentations; they should include the presenter's name, personal address, telephone number, email address, and brief curriculum vitae. The deadline for submissions for sending materials to the Organizing Committee is July 30th, 2009.

Papers should be no longer than 15 pages and written in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1.5 line spacing. One month before the date of the **Forum**, please send a one-page abstract to cubainterracial.gl@gmail.com or to the following postal address:

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Questions should be addressed to Eleanor Calvo Martínez by email, or phone (53) 047 4 23263.

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