

Dear Editor:

The journal *ISLAS* has continually evolved in its persistence, quality, and as an irreplaceable resource for Cubans of all ages, as well as for scholars of the subject of the historical and cultural presence of Africans and their descendants [in Cuba].

For me, as a young high school student, the *ISLAS* project has introduced me to a broad array of ideas, foci, references and information regarding social and cultural history, as well as to the testimonies and experiences of people relating to the struggles for civil rights and equality [in Cuba]. Of course, all of this has been extremely important for me in my intellectual formation.

The journal's editorial focus and style is very important for young Cubans. We have grown up in a stifling intellectual environment governed by one, and only one line of thought that allows little or no room for freedom of thought and choice, objective analysis, and seeking and finding of comparative and multisourced information.

*ISLAS* has allowed us to approach subjects that are consistently left out of education programs and entirely missing in the media. The journal stands as a stimulating example of equanimity in its presentation of social problems. It is also an instructive example of the kind of intellectual and cultural interchange that is occurring amongst the collaborators, from varied geographic positions, who contribute to it.

It would be great to imagine and then implement new ways and mechanisms by which to create even more issues of the journal, as well as digital support for it, so that young Cubans could further increase their access to this window out of Cuba, which so significantly broadens our view of the world.

Eleanor Calvo Martínez  
La Habana, Cuba

Dear Editor:

It is with great satisfaction that we have received the much awaited thirteenth issue of the journal. It contains a commendable balance of quality and content. Receiving and having it in our hands allowed us to considerably quell the persistent demands of our organization's members, collaborators and readers in general, all of whom come to us anxious to gain continued access to this publication.

Within the limits of our possibilities, we have made this latest issue available to a considerable number of regular and new readers, the latter essentially from other Cuban provinces where access to *ISLAS* much more difficult.

Those readers who have shared their opinions with us have expressed their satisfaction with the journal's serious, profound, and balanced treatment of a topic this is still missing from the media in Cuba, and receives inadequate attention from the country's political and intellectual authorities.

Juan Antonio Madrazo Luna  
National Coordinator  
*Citizens' Committee for Racial Integration*