

**Cindy Domingo, Co-Leader 2012 Delegation**  
**Co-chair, U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration**

This year's U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration's women's delegation, organized by Marazul Charters, was composed of ten women, mainly from Seattle, Washington. These women, ranging from the ages of 30 to 70 years and representing a diverse range of activism and interests, travelled by bus from Havana to Santa Clara to Camaguey, to the Sierra Maestra and finally to Santiago in twelve days. The daily meetings and site visits reflected the theme of the 2012 trip, "Women Advancing Economic Justice and Human Rights."

For most, this was their first visit to Cuba and what they found was a dynamic society implementing the new reforms that were so vigorously debated throughout Cuban society last year during our 2011 women's delegation. Small private businesses (cuento propistas) were everywhere, and we engaged many about what the various reforms meant to their lives.

The spirit of the revolution is alive and evolving. It is an exciting time to visit Cuba and to see the creativity in which the Cubans are developing their society, economically and socially, in the midst of the world economic crisis. In particular, this delegation had the opportunity to meet with many important women and women's organizations to ferret out the role of women and the impact of these reforms on women.

We would like to especially thank the Federation of Cuban Women in Havana, Santiago, Santa Clara and Camaguey, Mirta Rodriguez, Elizabeth Palmeiro Casado and Irma Sehwert Milejan – the families of the Cuban Five, Professors Norma Vasallo and Norma Guillard, Leima Martinez and ICAP, Tatiana Rodriguez, Ezequiel Morales and Lazaro Garcia. A special shout out to Las Isabelas, who enthusiastically welcomed us to Santiago and showed us that the struggle against homophobia is alive and well and part of the revolutionary process in Cuba!