Las Isabelas

Work - Think & Reflect and Learn
Live Life with Body and Soul
Defend Your Love

Space for Reflection

❖ When did we start?

At the end of 2002 – The need to share our common problems with each other and find solutions to them led to the meeting of various lesbian women.

In 2003, we asked for help and support from CENESEX. We became an officially recognized group December 18, 2003.

❖ Who was this group formed for?

Women who love other women.

Allies who respectfully give solidarity, friendship and want to work together with us to give their help, and share their experiences and opinions.

❖ Where did the group start? Why the name Isabelas?

In friends’ houses, Café Caro, Boulevard Park, and Café Isabelica – a meeting place for lesbians - a place without prejudices where we hung out (and hang out) to drink Santiago coffee and listen to traditional music – thus the name “Las Isabelas”.

What we do

Talk, think and reflect about things, share problems and how to solve them, goals and hopes. We attend workshop-conferences with specialists, do recreational activities, hold video showings with discussion and debate, share birthdays, participate in the march against homophobia, against stds/HIV-Aids.

❖ Objectives

1. Attend workshops and conferences that help the individual growth of the participants.
2. Defend sexual rights
3. Provide spaces for share information for people interested in these topics.
4. Hold educational activities directed to the lesbian community.
5. Collaborate with studies and investigations that are conducted specifically about lesbian women.
6. Contribute towards consciousness raising of the general population of Santiago de Cuba about sexuality of lesbians and queer women.
**Action Plan**

- Participate in classes, workshops and training that can help in the development of members.
- Brainstorm topics to come up with themes we are interested in, directed to specialists.
- Create a database of information – printed and electronic about the group’s interests and lesbian themes.
- Publicize the meetings of “Las Isabelas”
- Contact and create spaces in the FMC (Federacion de Mujeres Cubanos – the Federation of Cuban Women) and in the Casa de Orientacion a la Mujer.
- Connect nationally with other groups in Cuba like *(the lesbian groups)* Oremi (Havana) and Fenix (Cien Fuegos) and others that might come about.
- Create a library of films, videos, all pertaining to the lesbian theme
- Participate in activities such as the Day Against Homophobia, Day for Sexual Diversity, to give visibility to our group.

NO TO HOMOPHOBIA
TO LESBIAN PHOBIA
TO VIOLENCE

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**Most Common Violent Spaces**
- Domestic
- Institutional
- Family

Homosexuality is not a crime, homophobia is….

We want a word of peace and justice where human dignity is respected.

**WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU!!!**
Contact us at: Cabildo Teatral, the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Tuesday of every month, at 6pm.

*(Pamphlet in Spanish follows)*
EXPERIENCIAS POR TÍTIL

El tiempo en el que vivo es una vida de dolor y sufrimiento. En el grupo de personas a las que pertenecemos, encontramos una diversidad de situaciones familiares y laborales. En algunos casos, el trabajo es fuente de satisfacción, mientras que en otros, es causa de estrés y frustración. Por lo tanto, es necesario reflexionar sobre nuestras experiencias y buscar soluciones a los problemas que nos enfrentamos.

Plan de acción:

- Promover la igualdad de derechos y oportunidades.
- Fomentar la participación activa de las personas en las decisiones que afectan sus vidas.
- Implementar programas de capacitación y formación.
- Crear espacios de diálogo y debate.
- Fortalecer las redes de apoyo social.

Por lo tanto, es importante que nos unamos en la lucha por un futuro mejor para todos.