

Tracie Lai

Traveling with the US Women & Cuba Collaboration was an extraordinary, moving experience. Besides visiting significant revolutionary cultural sites, we also met with Cuban women to plan ongoing exchanges and dialogue about policies and educational outreach regarding gender identities and issues. In the realm of healthcare and work, Cuba is much further along in supporting women's full participation in society. Despite the wealth and resources of the US, women are still highly unequal whether we consider education, income or political power. At the same time, the history of slavery and racism haunt both countries and while racism manifests differently in Cuba, "color" can still limit one's access or achievement in society. I am saddened that the US embargo against Cuba remains such an obstacle to Cuban progress. I hope that through people-to-people exchanges like these, we can break down such barriers to greater stability and peace in the world.