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Black Cuban Woman Facing the Transformations of The New Economy: Continuities, Inequalities, And Strategies for Social Participation in Havana, 2026

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Abstract

Cuba's ongoing economic transformations have generated new opportunities for private initiative, entrepreneurship, and labor diversification while simultaneously reshaping existing patterns of social inequality. Although these reforms have attracted growing scholarly attention, limited research has examined how they affect Black Cuban women through the interconnected dimensions of race, gender, and class. This study aims to analyze the ways in which Black Cuban women experience and negotiate these socioeconomic changes in Havana during 2026 by exploring the continuities and transformations that characterize their trajectories across multiple social arenas, including Afro-entrepreneurship, higher education, activism, and community life. Grounded in an intersectional perspective and informed by Black feminist thought and the sociology of inequality, the research adopts a qualitative design based on semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and documentary analysis. Rather than treating Black women as a homogeneous social group, the study emphasizes the diversity of their experiences and examines how structural barriers and individual and collective agency influence access to economic opportunities, professional recognition, leadership, and community engagement. By connecting historical processes with contemporary socioeconomic restructuring, this research seeks to contribute to broader debates on racialized and gendered inequalities in societies undergoing economic transformation. It also offers empirical evidence from the Cuban context to enrich comparative discussions on inclusion, mobility, and social change across the Global South, providing insights relevant to both academic scholarship and public policy.

Keywords: Inclusion; Mobility; Resilience; Socioeconomic Restructuring