

The Centro Martin Luther King

Weaving Utopias, Hopes, and Dreams

A CRLN delegation to Cuba from January 19, 2024 – January 29, 2024

On this delegation, we will take a deep dive into the work of the Centro Martin Luther King (CMLK) in Havana, our partner in Cuba. For 35 years the CMLK has worked with communities using popular education methodologies to build capacity for participation in projects as varied as home construction, senior wellness, and supporting the recent updating of Cuba's Family Code. They describe their work as accompanying the Cuban people as they weave utopias, hopes, and dreams for their future. This delegation will give us a deeper understanding of the vision, analysis, and activities of our partner the CMLK, and how we can work more closely together. We will be working closely with Witness for Peace staff at the CMLK to develop our custom program.

All CRLN's work is guided by our close relationships with our partners – the people who experience the effects of U.S. policies. Through our more than twenty-five years of working with the CMLK, we have been able to see the suffering caused by U.S. policies in Cuba. In addition, we have seen how U.S. policies interfere with Cubans' desires to build a future for themselves. We have taken what we learned to the offices of legislators at the federal, state, and city levels to change harmful U.S. policies.

This delegation is part of an **18-month-long experience** of study, deep listening, discussion, reflection, and participation in advocacy to change U.S. policies in Cuba. We will have Zoom prep sessions in the fall and winter and a final session in January. The first two sessions will be October 19 and November 2. Sessions will explore the anti-oppressive framework for the delegation, how to be an effective advocate, as well as Cuba's history and current reality.

Delegates will start engaging in advocacy and group fundraising work as we prepare for the delegation. Upon our return, each delegate will share their experiences on the delegation in presentations to their communities and engage others in advocacy work at least through the end of 2024.

Fundraising: We expect all delegates to help with group fundraising so the delegation can be as representative as possible. In addition, partial scholarships will be available and resources for delegates to use for personal fundraising will be shared.



Costs

- Delegation Fee: \$2,400 - \$3400 (sliding scale based on income). The delegation fee covers all meals, lodging, transportation, program interpretation, reading, and activist tools. Delegates will be responsible for incidentals such as gifts.
- Airfare: current round-trip airfare Chicago/Havana/Chicago is approximately \$700.00. We will work with delegates to find the best fares for the delegation.
- Visa: \$100.00

Total costs: Approximately \$3200-\$4200 (sliding scale)

Application: Please apply as soon as possible at <https://bit.ly/CRLNapplication>. The deadline for applications is October 23. This delegation is open to all, but applications from young people and People of Color will be prioritized. If you are accepted for the delegation, your non-refundable deposit of \$300 is due by October 27, and the balance by December 1.

Vaccination Policy: We require that all delegates be fully vaccinated, and we ask that you please get your booster shot. Read the Witness for Peace full vaccination policy at <https://bit.ly/WFPSCVaccination>

Please contact me with any questions and to get more information about scholarships. We hope you can join us in the experience!

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