

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tues., June 13, 2017  
  
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**CUBAN FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS ASK IVANKA TRUMP FOR SUPPORT**

*~ Following* [*reports*](http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-fg-trump-cuba-20170611-story.html) *that POTUS will roll back Cuba policy this Friday, Cuban women business leaders urge Ivanka Trump to support U.S. policies that have helped Cuban women in the island's private sector ~*

Havana, Cuba - Today, 55 Cuban female entrepreneurs [sent a letter](http://engagecuba.org/s/Cuentapropista-Letter-Trump.pdf) to Ivanka Trump seeking her support for U.S. policies that have empowered Cuban women and their families across the island. As a successful businesswoman and champion of female entrepreneurship around the globe, the women invite Ms. Trump to visit the island to see first hand how U.S. policies that expanded travel to and trade with Cuba have empowered Cuban women and strengthened Cuba's growing private sector.  
  
The letter serves as a plea to Ivanka following reports that President Trump is set to roll back Cuba policies. *"A setback in the relationship would bring with it the fall of many of our businesses and with this, the suffering of all those families that depend on them,"* **the women wrote to Ms. Trump.**  
  
*"There are hundreds of thousands of Cuban women working in the private sector. Today we are owners of boutique hotels, BnBs, restaurants and shops. We are designers, photographers and computer programmers, and much more. On behalf of Cuba’s female entrepreneurs, we ask for your support,"* **they added.**

"If President Trump really cares about helping the Cuban people, these are the voices he should be listening to. These women's businesses, their lives, and their families will be affected by this policy," **said President of Engage Cuba, James Williams**.

“Our U.S. opening to Cuba has significantly benefited female entrepreneurs and their families,” **said Collin Laverty, President of Cuba Educational Travel.** “Cutting off travel and trade would be cutting off their economic lifeline, and causing real harm to their families.”  
  
A recent [survey](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55806c54e4b0651373f7968a/t/58f1055cbe6594f0ff6bb44e/1492190556666/CET+Travel+Survey.pdf) conducted by Public Opinion Strategies found that over 75% of U.S. travelers stay in privately-owned bed and breakfasts, eat at private restaurants and purchase goods from private artisans and artists.

Airbnb recently released a [report](https://2sqy5r1jf93u30kwzc1smfqt-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Airbnb_CubaReport_2017.pdf) citing that Cuban individuals have earned $40 million over the last two years sharing their homes on Airbnb. The report also highlighted that 58% of Airbnb hosts in Cuba are women.

More information on Cuba's growing private sector is available [here](https://www.engagecuba.org/cubas-private-sector/).

**The text of the letter is available** [**here**](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55806c54e4b0651373f7968a/t/593eecb9cd0f683cb1f08d3b/1497296057661/Cuentapropista+Letter+Trump.pdf) **and below:**  
  
*June 13, 2017   
  
Dear Ivanka Trump,  
  
Your passion to help female entrepreneurship around the world has been very inspiring for Cuban entrepreneurs. As women entrepreneurs in Cuba, it is a great honor to send you this message. We are reaching out to introduce you to our reality and to strengthen the relationship between our countries. We also write to you with great concern that U.S. policy toward Cuba might be headed backward, in turn threatening our economic livelihoods and the overall wellbeing of Cubans on and off the island.  
  
For many years, entrepreneurship, small businesses, and the private sector were almost nonexistent in Cuba. However, over the last several years they have begun to flourish. Still incipient, we can see accelerated development and growth of small businesses in the country. Millions of Cubans have benefited from this private sector growth, including higher wages, better quality products and services, innovation, and the ability to dream about the future.  
  
Undoubtedly, the restoration of relations between Cuba and the United States has been key to the success of the private sector. Many businesses have been directly influenced by increased U.S. visits, improved telecommunications, and the introduction of new U.S. products and services. Other businesses have also been stimulated indirectly by the resuscitation of the domestic economy in general. A setback in the relationship would bring with it the fall of many of our businesses and with this, the suffering of all those families that depend on them.  
  
Much of the growth has been led by Cuban women. There are hundreds of thousands of Cuban women working in the private sector. Today we are owners of boutique hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, and shops. We are designers, photographers, and computer programmers, and much more. On behalf of Cuba’s female entrepreneurs, we ask for your support.  
  
We hope you, as a successful businesswoman, understand the valuable contribution that the exchange of trade, people, and ideas represents for our businesses. An alliance between women would not only contribute to the stability of the private sector, but would also open a new chapter in relations between our countries.  
  
We would like you to accept our sincere and warm invitation. Come to Cuba and get to know our companies, which we have built with our own efforts and that make us prouder by the day. Please support travel, trade, and exchanges between our two countries.  
  
Thank you for your interest and dedication to women. Thank you for building bridges worldwide. We really appreciate your help in shaping a better future for our daughters.  
  
  
Sincerely,*

Maida Rodríguez  
Adorgraf  
  
Claudia González Muñoz  
Artprint  
  
Laura Amelia González Triana  
Artprint  
  
Laura González Muñoz  
Artprint  
  
Niuris Higueras  
Atelier  
  
Gisela Vilaboy  
Bambú  
  
Gabriela Ogando Madruga  
BnB Altamira’s  
  
Julia de la Rosa  
BnB La Rosa de Ortega  
  
Malinalli Cortes  
BnB Malinalli  
  
Patricia Godinez Alonso  
La Caja de Luz  
  
Dayana Fajardo  
Lisandra Muñoz  
Club Salseando Chévere  
  
Celia Mendoza  
Amanda Castenado  
Concierge Habana  
  
Ilse Garcia Menendez  
Confecciones MERCIL         
  
Caridad Limonta  
Confecciones PROCLE  
  
Sandra Aldama  
D'brujas

Yamina Vicente  
Decorazón  
  
Amanda Miguel Reyes  
D'Marie  
  
Ileana Sanchez  
D'Marie  
  
Maricel Ponvert Iser  
D'Marie  
  
Irina García  
Deus Expertos Contables  
  
Johanna Estrella Ruiz  
Deus Expertos Contables  
  
Marta Deus  
Deus Expertos Contables  
  
Mandao Express  
Negolution  
  
Mevelyn Alonso  
Deus Expertos Contables  
  
Zaylhi Linares  
D’Eventos       
  
Diana Hernandez Herrera  
DiDi, Velas y Regalos  
  
Elena Sanchez  
Donde Dorian  
  
Yuneisi Fonseca  
Donde Dorian  
  
Elizabeta Castro  
ELITEC  
  
Marcia Roque  
English Tutor  
  
Yamilet González  
Gimnasio Charlotte  
  
Marla Recio  
Havana Reverie  
  
Yosleidy Miranda  
Hostal Muy Way  
MIRANDA Tours  
Tienda Colecciones Freixas  
   
Amarilys Fernández  
Isladentro  
  
Ana Dunay Porras  
Isladentro  
  
Laura Brito  
Isladentro  
  
Gilda Flores  
Lombao Estudios  
Mabel Poblet Pujol  
Mabel Poblet, Artista  
   
Yasym Ruiz  
Mandao Express  
   
Nidialys Acosta  
Nostalgicar  
  
Marlene Sánchez  
Odalys Suárez   
PAPELART  
  
Clara Camalleri  
Perfumes Clara  
  
Patricia Santa Coloma  
Producciones Almendares  
  
Wendy Betancourt  
QueBolaHavana  
  
Reyna Hernández - La Reyna  
La Reyna y La Real  
  
Yadira Pintado - La Real  
La Reyna y La Real  
  
Marianela Pérez  
Restaurante Pizzanella  
  
Yordanka Fleitas  
Restaurante Salsa Suarez  
  
Sandra Borges  
S Borges, Joyería Cubana  
  
Lieng-Sut Joo Lledo  
SUTPRINT  
  
Ailette Hernandez  
Tin Marin  
  
Gretel de la Rosa  
Tin Marin  
  
Yanelis Pavón  
TostoneT