

RB-273

Cuba is celebrating International Womens Day in a big way - with parties and presents for the women in shops, farms and schools. But Fidel Castro has raised some ~~questionable~~ criticisms about the lack of equality in some spheres. here is the story.

Cuba Celebrates International Women's Day and President Castro Says Women Have Made Great Progress but Still Not Enough Equality

The Cuban president said that women have doubtlessly made great progress in Cuba since the victory of the revolution in 1959. He pointed out that more women than ever are working -- ~~and they~~ they make up almost 40 percent of the work force and that <sup>and</sup> more than 50 percent of the technical <sup>and</sup> professional jobs in Cuba are in the hands of women. He said that in general women were better students than men and that in order to protect men's equality, the government has fixed a <sup>48%</sup> quota for male medical school students ~~at 48%~~ since if students were chosen on the basis of their academic record, there would be far fewer male doctors.

But then Castro raised ~~an important~~ a criticism.

castro...

is saying

Fidel Castro ~~was saying~~ that if it is evident that women

are as smart or smarter than men, why are there not more women in leadership positions in the government, the party and the mass organisations.

~~Cuba women say that~~

There is an ~~unequal~~ equal rights for women clause in the cuban constitution and despite the big stride for women's equality - Cuban women will tell you that machismo - male supremecy - is still deeply rooted ~~in Cuba~~ here

for cbc ~~radio~~ newsthis is lionel martin in havana

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