

# Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records

1939-1964, undated



## Title Statement

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation  
A Guide to the Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation  
Records MG 54

**Author:** Jan Halecki

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MG 54

**Unit ID**

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**Unit Date**

1939-1964, undated

**Unit Date**

Date acquired: 07/19/1982

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Founded in 1945 as an interracial organization designed to address concerns with education, health, and housing among the Afro-American community in Norfolk. Predecessor to the Norfolk Human Relations Council. Includes correspondence, newspapers clippings, minutes, reports, pamphlets, and membership lists. Bulk of the organization's records are in the archives at Norfolk State University.

**Creator**

Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation (Norfolk, Va.)

**Extent**

0.60 Linear Feet

**Extent**

1 Hollinger document case boxes

**Repository**

ODU Community Collections

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

Open to researchers without restrictions.

**Conditions Governing Use**

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**Source of Acquisition**

Mrs. H. M. Silverman

**Method of Acquisition**

Gift of Mrs. H.M. Silverman, president of the organization from 1955 to 1957. Accession #A82-13

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

## Biographical or Historical Information

On April 17, 1945, eight black and eleven white women met in the vestry room of Ohef Sholom Temple in Norfolk. Mrs. Vivian Carter Mason had invited these women in order to consider forming an interracial committee. All the women present were active in civic organizations, and came from different religious backgrounds.

At that first meeting it was decided that such an interracial group could indeed be beneficial to Norfolk. Furthermore, they decided that their organization should be autonomous - not affiliated with any other organization, but working in cooperation with them.

Mrs. Mason was appointed temporary chairman and the group held meetings in May, June, and September. The first two meetings were devoted to establishing a constitution and coming up with a name. By December, there were 86 members.

Early in 1946, the WCIC was becoming active in the public school system, and worked with the public libraries and the Boy Scouts to notify the public of their humanitarian goals. These goals were: to improve city facilities for education, recreation, employment, and health; improve interracial attitudes; to seek equality of opportunity for everyone; and to work towards full citizenship privileges for all

The WCIC implemented these goals by calling attention to the need for more blacks in civic occupations; worked with health organizations in providing testing for diseases and public health information; held public meetings and other activities with nationally known speakers to advance the ideas of integration; and met with city officials concerning proper housing for the poor. For the first two years the group met in different churches and kept their files and printed materials in the homes of its officers and chairmen. Finally the WCIC was able to get space for an office and meetings at the YWCA. This lasted for several years.

As stress in Norfolk over the desegregation of public schools reached a climax, the WCIC found itself pitted against many opponents of desegregation. It became more difficult to find meeting places open to such a group. Also, when they did find a place, they often could not advertise their meeting because of criticism and possible censure it would draw towards those who allowed such a meeting to take place at their establishment. Consequently, for a period of time, the WCIC worked more "behind the scenes" than in the public eye. However the effectiveness of the group endured and through their studies and reports of other cities with integrated school systems, the group helped Norfolk overcome the crisis in 1958 when the public high schools were shut down.

Note written by Jan Halecki

## Scope and Contents

The Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation (WCIC) was an organization of white and black women devoted to fostering racial harmony. The records include the organization's constitution, minutes of meetings, correspondence, speeches, annual reports, member lists, booklets, pamphlets, programs, invitations, newspaper clippings and published articles. Of interest is a transcribed panel report titled, "How Norfolk Opened Her Schools," dated February 2, 1959, and Susan Slaughter's personal account of the "First Fifteen Years of WCIC." In addition, there is material relating to the inception and early history of the Human Relations Council, which superseded the WCIC.

## Related Materials

Vivian Carter Mason Interviews (MG 53)

Edith R. White Papers (MG 109)

## Keywords

Women--Virginia--Social conditions  
School integration--Virginia--Norfolk--History--20th century  
School integration--Massive resistance movement  
African Americans--Civil rights  
Norfolk (Va.)--History--20th century  
Norfolk (Va.)--Politics and government--20th century  
Virginia--Politics and government  
Race relations--History--20th century  
Virginia--Politics and government--1865-1950  
Racism--Prevention  
Human Relations Council (Norfolk, Va.)  
Mason, Vivian Carter (1900-1982)  
Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation (Norfolk, Va.)

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Box 1

**Unit ID** Box 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62584

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

### Folder 1: Annual Reports Constitution Rules Etc.

**Unit ID** Folder 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62586

**Unit Date** 1945-1959

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 1, Annual Reports Constitution Rules Etc., 1945-1959, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 2: Annual Reports Commission on Community Relations**

**Unit ID** Folder 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62587

**Unit Date** 1963 September 4-1964 June 22

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 2, Annual Reports Commission on Community Relations, 1963 September 4-1964 June 22, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 3: Board Members and Other Lists**

**Unit ID** Folder 3

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62591

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 3, Board Members and Other Lists, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 4: Booklets and Pamphlets WCIC and Virginia Council**

**Unit ID** Folder 4

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62592

**Unit Date** 1963-1964

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 4, Booklets and Pamphlets WCIC and Virginia Council, 1963-1964, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 5: Board Minutes**

**Unit ID** Folder 5

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62593

**Unit Date** 1960 September 14-1964 April 19

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 5, Board Minutes, 1960 September 14-1964 April 19, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 6: Correspondence Clippings to Dwight D. Eisenhower****Unit ID** Folder 6**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62594**Unit Date** 1964 March 14**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 6, Correspondence Clippings to Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1964 March 14, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 7: Correspondence to and from Sen. Hubert Humphrey****Unit ID** Folder 7**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62599**Unit Date** 1964 June 1**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 7, Correspondence to and from Sen. Hubert Humphrey, 1964 June 1, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 8: Correspondence Concerning Printed Materials****Unit ID** Folder 8**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62602**Unit Date** 1962 February 15**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 8, Correspondence Concerning Printed Materials, 1962 February 15, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 9: Correspondence and Potential Speakers****Unit ID** Folder 9**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62603**Unit Date** 1951-1952**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 9, Correspondence and Potential Speakers, 1951-1952, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 10: Correspondence and Potential Speakers****Unit ID** Folder 10**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62604**Unit Date** 1952-1955**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 10, Correspondence and Potential Speakers, 1952-1955, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 11: Miscellaneous Correspondence**

**Unit ID** Folder 11

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62605

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 11, Miscellaneous Correspondence, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 12: Innovations**

**Unit ID** Folder 12

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62606

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 12, Innovations, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 13: Magazine Articles**

**Unit ID** Folder 13

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62607

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 13, Magazine Articles, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 14: Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** Folder 14

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62608

**Unit Date** 1954 December-1958 November

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 14, Newspaper Clippings, 1954 December-1958 November, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 15: Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** Folder 15

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62609

**Unit Date** 1959 January 1-20

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 15, Newspaper Clippings, 1959 January 1-20, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** Folder 16

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62610

**Unit Date** 1959 January 2-30

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 16, Newspaper Clippings, 1959 January 2-30, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Box 2**

**Unit ID** Box 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62585

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** Folder 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62588

**Unit Date** 1959 January 30-1959 February 21

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 1, Newspaper Clippings, 1959 January 30-1959 February 21, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** Folder 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62589

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 2, Newspaper Clippings, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 3: Norfolk Human Relations Council**

**Unit ID** Folder 3

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62590

**Unit Date** 1964 September

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 3, Norfolk Human Relations Council, 1964 September, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 4: Norfolk Story: "How Norfolk Opened Her Schools"**

**Unit ID** Folder 4

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62595

**Unit Date** 1954 February 2

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 4, Norfolk Story: "How Norfolk Opened Her Schools", 1954 February 2, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 5: Photographs**

**Unit ID** Folder 5

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62596

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 5, Photographs, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 6: Programs and Miscellaneous Events**

**Unit ID** Folder 6

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62597

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 6, Programs and Miscellaneous Events, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 7: American Red Cross Certificate**

**Unit ID** Folder 7

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62598

**Unit Date** 1939 March

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 7, American Red Cross Certificate, 1939 March, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 8: Speeches****Unit ID** Folder 8**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62600**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 8, Speeches, undated, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 9: YWCA Material****Unit ID** Folder 9**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/62601**Unit Date** 1961 July 7**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 9, YWCA Material, 1961 July 7, Women's Council for Interracial Cooperation Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.