

**LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE  
ON  
CIVIL RIGHTS**



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**THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS:  
WHAT IT IS AND DOES**

It Speaks For Millions

In the last 17 years the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has become a unique spokesman: the voice for 112 national organizations when they join together to urge new civil rights laws upon Congress and when they press for strong enforcement of existing laws.

The Conference is a coalition of major civil rights, labor, religious, civic and fraternal groups whose strength lies in its unity. When the Conference comes out in support of a pending bill or urges a course of action upon the government, it speaks on behalf of millions of Americans of all races, creeds, religions, and ethnic groups and from all walks of life.

Its Purpose

In its statement of purpose, the Conference declares itself as "a voluntary, nonpartisan association of autonomous national organizations seeking to advance

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.  
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.  
AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA  
AMALGAMATED MEAT CUTTERS & BUTCHER WORKMEN  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR — CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE COUNTY & MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE  
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS  
AMERICAN NEWSPAPER GUILD  
AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE  
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION  
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH  
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH INSTITUTE  
BISHOP'S COMMITTEE FOR THE SPANISH SPEAKING  
B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN  
BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS  
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN - BRETHREN SERVICE COMMISSION  
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
CITIZENS LOBBY FOR FREEDOM & FAIR PLAY  
COLLEGE YCS NATIONAL STAFF  
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH — DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP  
EPISCOPAL SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL AND RACIAL UNITY  
FRANCISCAN JURISDICTION OF THE THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS  
FRONTIERS INTERNATIONAL  
HADASSAH  
HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES AND BARTENDERS INTERNATIONAL UNION  
IMPROVED BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD  
INDUSTRIAL UNION DEPARTMENT — AFL-CIO  
INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS' UNION OF AMERICA  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS  
IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE  
JEWISH WAR VETERANS  
LABOR ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA  
LEAGUE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA — BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY  
MEDICAL COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF POSTAL & FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE WOMEN  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS, INC.  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS  
NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, U. S. A.  
NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL BEAUTY CULTURISTS' LEAGUE, INC.  
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE FOR INTERRACIAL JUSTICE  
NATIONAL CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION CONFERENCE  
NATIONAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC MEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES — COMMISSION ON RELIGION & RACE  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PUERTO RICAN VOLUNTEERS, INC.  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.  
NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGE STUDENTS  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SETTLEMENTS & NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS  
NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD  
NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL NEWMAN STUDENT FEDERATION  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MEXICAN-AMERICAN SERVICES  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN  
NATIONAL SHARECROPPERS FUND  
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE  
NEGRO AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL  
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.  
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.  
PHI DELTA KAPPA SORORITY  
PIONEER WOMEN, AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
PRESBYTERIAN INTERRACIAL COUNCIL  
RETAIL WHOLESALE & DEPARTMENT STORE UNION  
SOUTHERN BEAUTY CONGRESS, INC.  
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
TEXTILE WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA  
TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA  
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION — COMMISSION ON RELIGION & RACE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS OF AMERICA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — COMMITTEE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE NOW  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION  
UNITED HEBREW TRADES  
UNITED PACKINGHOUSE, FOOD & ALLIED WORKERS  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — COMMISSION ON RELIGION & RACE  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — OFFICE OF CHURCH & SOCIETY  
UNITED RUBBER WORKERS  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
UNITED STATES YOUTH COUNCIL  
UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA  
UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA  
UNITED TRANSPORT SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT  
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM  
WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE  
WORKMEN'S CIRCLE  
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE USA  
ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

civil rights for all Americans through government action at the national level. By civil rights we mean not only the establishment and enforcement of rights in law, but also the realization of social and economic conditions in which alone the fulfillment of these rights is possible."

#### How the Conference Began

The Leadership Conference was formed in 1950 by national organizations whose leaders felt that while they often spoke and acted separately, there were many occasions when they could make a greater impact upon official Washington and the general public if they joined together in support of specific issues.

The Conference merged two existing groups: the National Council for a Permanent FEPC, headed by A. Philip Randolph, and the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization headed by Roy Wilkins and Arnold Aronson. All three men continue to play important roles in the Conference: Mr. Wilkins is Chairman, Mr. Randolph is a member of the Executive Committee, and Mr. Aronson is Secretary.

#### How the Conference Grew

From the first, the Conference undertook to

unite its groups behind specific civil rights bills. As it grew in numbers it grew in influence. The Conference has coordinated all the national campaigns for major civil rights bills. Its greatest successes were the series of civil rights laws passed by Congress since 1957. The most notable laws in this group were the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

But the Conference does not work just to add laws to statute books. Its organizations know laws are worth little unless they are adequately enforced. It campaigns untiringly for adequate funds to keep existing programs going and for adequate enforcement.

#### How the Conference Operates

The Conference functions through three main Committees: the Executive Committee which sets policy for the organization; the Legislative Committee, under the Chairmanship of Clarence Mitchell, which plans strategy for pending bills; and the Committee on Compliance and Enforcement, under James Hamilton of the National Council of Churches, which works to see that the laws are administered strongly and effectively.

#### How the Conference Keeps Its Groups Informed

The Conference tries to keep in constant touch

with its organizations. It sends them regular MEMOs that set forth the immediate legislative situation and suggest what groups can do to help mobilize support for a bill or a course of action. It publishes analyses of bills, pamphlets, papers on what still needs to be done to achieve full equality.

#### Not Civil Rights Alone

Over the years the Conference has broadened its concerns. It realizes that the fight for full equality and the War on Poverty are interconnected. In addition to campaigning for civil rights bills it has also worked for passage of an adequate minimum wage law; for reapportioned state legislatures so that they represent more truly all the people in a state; for broad educational opportunity; for adequate food distribution to the country's poor; for home rule for the District of Columbia; for school desegregation.

These are only a few of its campaigns. The Conference remains today firm in its belief that progress in civil rights is the concern of every American, not the interest of any one group. It believes, in Roy

Wilkins' words, that "we are all tied together" and that the future for America must be an integrated future; a nation in which all men and women share equally in its burdens and its benefits. Its motto is still:

"Cooperation in the Common Cause of Civil Rights for All"