

# ACTIVITY : CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Students should read the following excerpts from the founding documents of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the Rome Council on Human Relations (RCHR). On the provided chart, students should mark which of the listed characteristics each of the groups meets. Using the completed chart, students should be able to determine the group in which each historical actor was a member.

### **From Constitution and By-Laws of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), [c 1957]**

Section 3. Purposes. The objects and purposes of said Corporation are to exist and function as an [charitable] organization, and more particularly to organize and maintain Christian guidance to aid in improving the Civic, Religious, Economic, and Cultural Conditions in the South and in the Nation. Said Corporation intends to strive towards greater understanding in all efforts toward interracial development and good will: to assist in developing Christian Leadership in the South and in the Nation; to work with National, State and Local Agencies in development of Christian fellowship; to work with such groups in the attainment of interracial unite harmony, understanding and opportunity; to secure, through research and action programs the practices of opportunity for all the people, irrespective of race; to educate and offer information concerning opportunities; to conduct public forums on the obligations of Citizenship; to promote registration and other Civic participation which fulfills the individual's obligations and promotes the general welfare. This organization hopes to achieve its purposes through non-violent direct action, lectures, dissemination of literature and other means of public instruction.

### **From Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Founding Statement, 1960**

We affirm the philosophical or religious ideal of nonviolence as the foundation of our purpose, the presupposition of our belief, and the manner of our action.

Nonviolence, as it grows from the Judeo-Christian tradition, seeks a social order of justice permeated by love. Integration of human endeavor represents the crucial first step towards such a society.

Through nonviolence, courage displaces fear. Love transcends hate. Acceptance dissipates prejudice; hope ends despair. Faith reconciles doubt. Peace dominates war. Mutual regards cancel enmity. Justice for all overthrows injustice. The redemptive community supersedes immoral social systems.

By appealing to conscience and standing on the moral nature of human existence, nonviolence nurtures the atmosphere in which reconciliation and justice become actual possibilities.

Although each local group in this movement must diligently work out the clear meaning of this statement of purpose, each act or phase of our corporate effort must reflect a genuine spirit of love and good-will.

### **From the Original Constitution and By-Laws of the Rome Council on Human Relations, 1961**

Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be:

(a) To devise, develop, publicize and execute techniques and programs which will promote good will and understanding and counteract prejudice and discrimination based on racial, national or ethnic group membership.

(b) To encourage other groups to become and remain active in the above objective.

Sources: Southern Christian Leadership Conference, *Constitution and By-Laws of Southern Christian Leadership Conference*, [c 1957] and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, "Founding Statement," April 1960, in Civil Rights Movement Archive, Tougaloo College, accessed on 18 November 2019, <https://www.crmvet.org/>; John R. and Annabel H. Bertrand, *Rome Council on Human Relations, 1962-1988: Historical Survey Based on Documentary Sources*, December 1988, Frances Freeborn Pauley Papers, 1919-1992, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

**ACTIVITY - CONTINUED (page 2)**

	SCLC	SNCC	RCHR
Embrace nonviolence			
End racial discrimination/ support integration			
Improve economic opportunities for all people			
Promote civic and political participation			
Promote good will and understanding between different racial and ethnic groups			
Uphold Christian and Judaeo-Christian values			
National Organization			

**Members of Civil Rights Organizations**

Ralph Abernathy, an African American minister who helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Likely a member of: \_\_\_\_\_.

C.W. Aycok, African American principal of Main High School in Rome, Georgia and a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Likely a member of: \_\_\_\_\_.

John Bertrand, white president of Berry College in Rome, Georgia, who integrated the college in 1964

Likely a member of: \_\_\_\_\_.

Franziska Boas, white dance instructor at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, who had previously operated an integrated dance studio in New York

Likely a member of: \_\_\_\_\_.

Julian Bond, African American student at Morehouse College who led student protests in Atlanta against segregation in public facilities

Likely a member of: \_\_\_\_\_.

Martin Luther King, Jr., an African American minister who helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Likely a member of: \_\_\_\_\_.

Diane Nash, an African American student at Fisk University and the leader of the nonviolent sit-in movement in Nashville

Likely a member of: \_\_\_\_\_.

# ANSWER KEY

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## Activity : Civil Rights Organizations

	SCLC	SNCC	RCHR
Embrace nonviolence	X	X	
End racial discrimination/ support integration	X	X	X
Improve economic opportunities for all people	X		
Promote civic and political participation	X		
Promote good will and understanding between different racial and ethnic groups	X	X	X
Uphold Christian and Judaeo-Christian values	X	X	
National Organization	X	X	

Ralph Abernathy - SCLC  
 C.W. Aycock - RCHR  
 John Bertrand - RCHR  
 Franziska Boas - RCHR  
 Julian Bond - SNCC  
 Martin Luther King, Jr. - SCLC  
 Diane Nash - SNCC

Further Information on the Civil Rights Movement in Rome, Georgia is available at:  
<https://sites.berry.edu/civilrights/>

