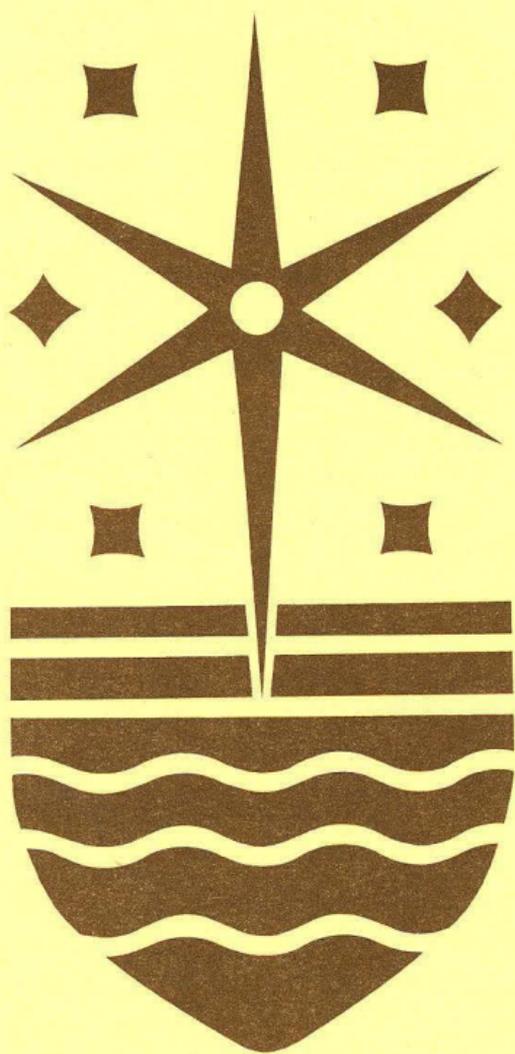


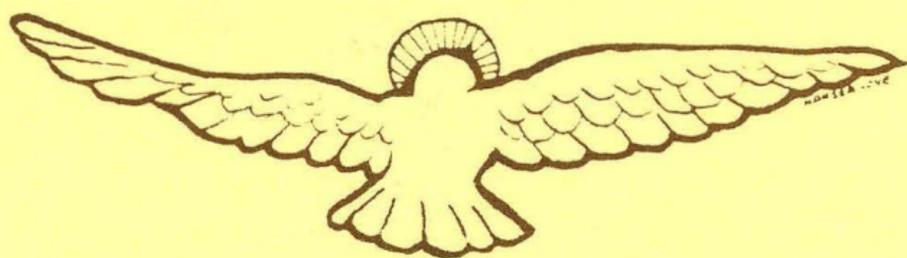
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Northern California Ecumenical Council
942 Market Street, Room 709
San Francisco, California 94102

The star has been used by religious communities as a symbol of the presence of God. Light emanates in every direction from a single point. Around the star are points of light symbolizing the human community. The horizontal lines represent the earth; the wavy lines, the waters. Our logo thus depicts the created world being transformed by the illuminating presence of God.

The concept of Human Rights has evolved throughout history—in religious traditions, in philosophic thought, and intuitively as people have struggled to learn what it is to co-exist and live in community with others. Just as our view of community has grown to encompass all nations and peoples, it has become clear that recognition of a broad spectrum of rights is essential in a world yearning for peace, social justice and the removal of obstacles to full human development.



The religious community's concern for the rights of others is grounded in God's compassion for ALL humanity. The teachings of Jesus are deeply rooted in the notion of respect for human dignity and worth, which encompasses social and economic justice. This heritage teaches us that securing human rights means not only must our rights be observed, but we must respect and struggle for the rights of others. The more voiceless people are, because their fundamental rights have been denied, the more those of us with voices need to speak on their behalf—until their voices have been heard.

The Spirit is upon me, because God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of God's favor.

Luke 4:18-19

The Northern California Ecumenical Council seeks to implement this vision through its Department of Human Rights. This Department was established to help the religious community more fully understand the issues at stake and the ways in which Christians could faithfully respond. The Department focuses on areas of the world where our own country's influence and impact are significant. Participants are committed to creating an international climate where the dignity and sacredness of each person is respected and the human rights of all are firmly guaranteed.

The Department of Human Rights brings together five organizations working in the religious community:

- Bay Area Ecumenical Committee of Concern for Chile
- Nicaragua Interfaith Committee for Action
- Northern California American Indian Ministry
- Philippine Education Support Committee
- Stop Banking on Apartheid

Through these groups the Department provides a wide range of resources concerning mission and global justice education for congregations, women's circles, mission conferences, and ecumenical events. People-to-people contacts are emphasized through projects which raise material aid, itinerate visiting speakers, and provide channels for response to critical situations in targeted areas. Common concerns include hunger, land usage, and redress for women, indigenous peoples and trade unionists.

The Department of Human Rights offers information, skills and ideas to help translate your concerns into action. Please contact us soon so that together we may witness a world community where each human life is indeed sacred; and the human rights of all are firmly protected.

Please return to: Department of Human Rights, Northern California Ecumenical Council, 942 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102

_____ I would like more information.

_____ I would like specific information on: _____

_____ Our church would like to sponsor a program focusing on: _____

_____ I would like to volunteer. Please contact me with more information.

_____ Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to support the Department of Human Rights. (Your contribution is tax-deductible when made out to the NCEC - Department of Human Rights.)

Name _____ Denomination affiliation _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Human Rights is an issue around which almost all people can join forces. In 1948 the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly. In so doing, this community of nations—mindful of the horror of World War II—attempted to create an international legal framework for the affirmation and protection of basic rights for all peoples.

Today we are still challenged to be dissatisfied. Let us be dissatisfied until all people can have good and material necessities for their bodies, culture and education for their minds, freedom and human dignity for their spirit.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Securing human rights has become even more urgent since basic needs as well as the survival of humanity are involved: the right to have our natural resources used for the common good, rather than for the comfort of the few; the right to live peacefully with other peoples of the world without the everpresent threat of war and nuclear destruction. Accepting human rights as a universal standard means guaranteeing the right to maintain one's traditions, family and culture. It means a steadfast support for basic civil, political and spiritual freedoms. It means supporting the right of self-determination. It means challenging economic policies and institutions so that profit and privilege are not used to exclude people from access to shelter, health care, education and the benefits of scientific progress.

People of conscience everywhere see attainment of these rights as the key to a larger vision of justice and peace, to new, nondiscriminatory forms of structuring our shared existence.

The Spirit God has given is no cowardly spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving and wise.

2 Timothy 1:7

The Department of Human Rights' headquarters is located in downtown San Francisco. Our address is 942 Market Street, Room 709, San Francisco, CA 94102. Phone numbers are:

BAECCC, (415) 433-6055
NICA, (415) 433-6057
NCAIM, (916) 371-5256
PESCOM, (415) 433-3953
\$BOA, (415) 433-6056

The Northern California Ecumenical Council is composed of 15 Protestant denomination bodies. Its ministry of peace and justice is carried out through 35 affiliated agencies. *Sequoia*, NCEC's bi-monthly newspaper, describes their work. The NCEC can be reached at 942 Market Street, Room 702, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 434-0670. Its Judicatory Members are:

American Baptist Churches of the West
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),
Northern California-Nevada
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church,
Ninth Episcopal District
Church of the Brethren,
Pacific Southwest Conference
The Episcopal Church
Diocese of California
Diocese of El Camino Real
Diocese of Northern California
Lutheran Church in America,
Pacific Southwest Synod
Reformed Church in America,
Classis of Central California
Religious Society of Friends,
College Park Quarterly Meeting
Salvation Army,
Northern California and Nevada
Divisional Headquarters
United Church of Christ,
Northern California Conference
United Methodist Church,
California-Nevada Conference
United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.,
Synod of the Pacific
Golden Gate Mission Area
Sierra Mission Area
Church Women United,
Northern California-Nevada