

# CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, 1963–1977

## Part 1: White House Files, Meetings, and Records of Task Forces Part 2: Subject Files

*The filming of this rich collection increases access to primary documents essential for research and analysis in Women Studies and Public Policy.*

**“...America will not be able to achieve its full economic potential unless every woman who wants to work can find a job that provides fair compensation and equal opportunity for advancement.”** This call to action by President Richard M. Nixon 10 years after the establishment of the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women, illuminated the continuing problems that women encountered in employment, sex discrimination, and constitutional equality.

The Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women (and its companion organization, the Interdepartmental Committee on the Status of Women) appeared at a crucial moment in the twentieth-century history of American women. Since World War II, women, and especially married mothers, had joined the labor force in increasing numbers. Public policy dealing with the employment of women had not kept pace with the influx of these new workers.

By the 1960s, several facts had become clear: women were in the labor force to stay; they were not competing for men's jobs; and the nation needed their services. The competition with the Soviet Union for global dominance meant that “womanpower” might supply not only nurses, teachers, and clerical workers, but even engineers and scientists, as they did in the USSR. Thus, policymakers could appropriately turn to the problem of how to make it possible for married mothers to acquit their responsibilities both to their families and to their nation.

The Kennedy Administration's President's Commission on the Status of Women, had in fulfillment of its responsibilities, submitted a report concerning steps that should be taken to further the effort to achieve the full participation of women in American life.

Enhancement of the quality of American life, as envisioned in the President's Commission on the Status

of Women's report, could only be accomplished through concerted action by both public and private groups, through coordinated action within the Federal Government, and through action by states, communities, educational institutions, voluntary organizations, employers, unions, and individual citizens.

In order to assure effective and continuing leadership in advancing the status of women, it was deemed appropriate to establish an interdepartmental committee and a citizens' advisory council on the status of women.

This new microform collection includes the records of the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women. It also includes the extant records of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Status of Women.

The documents in this collection illuminate the activities of the Council, including:

- Reviewing and evaluating progress of organizations in furthering the full participation of women in American life.
- Advising and assisting the Interdepartmental Committee in the evaluation of progress made and recommendations as necessary to accelerate such progress.
- Serving as a primary means for suggesting and stimulating action with private institutions, organizations, and individuals working for improvement of conditions of special concern to women.
- Encouraging research on factors affecting the status of women in the areas of education, home and community activities, employment, social insurance, taxes, civil and political rights, labor legislation, and related matters.

**Part 1: White House Files, Meetings, and Records of Task Forces**

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**Source Note:** RG 220: Records of Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Boards, Entry 35080: Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, 1963-1977 (commingled with the Records of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Status of Women).

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