INTERRACIAL STATEMENT

of

Southern Region, National Student YWCA

(As passed by Regional Assembly meeting at Blue Ridge, N.C., June 9, 1960)

With the advent of a new decade, we as YWCA citizens of the world are confronted with the crucial issues that relate to the dignity of man all over the world.

Our faith as Christians compels us to respond to the universal surge for self-expression among the suppressed peoples of the world. In our own nation, amidst a confused and troubled atmosphere, we cannot evade our involvement in perpetuating the structures, traditions, and customs that make any people less than human. Thus we share in the responsibility for the suffering and sacrifices of individuals who are striving for recognition of their human rights and privileges. Participation in these structures binds both the suppressor and the suppressed.

We, as a nation, stand at the crossroads with a decision between creative fulfillment and degeneration. The stifling or limiting of individual human resources jeopardizes the nation. By the inequality of educational opportunities through socio-economic limitations and racial segregation, human resources are being wasted, thus greatly weakening the structure of our nation.

We stand in the historical position of the National Student YWCA:

"We have committed ourselves as a national body to uncompromising opposition to racial discrimination and segregation! and have said we were determined to work through the means of peaceful, non-violent efforts for a social order which provides every individual, regardless of race, opportunity to participate and share alike in all relationships of life. We seek to free ourselves from prejudice and discriminatory practices and shall assure to all individuals the respect due them as children of God!"*

We heartily commend the movement of citizens across the South to preserve public education on the basis of the Supreme Court decision of 1954.

We give full support to the students who are actively protesting inequalities and injustices in the spirit of non-violence.

The task which urgently faces us now is to extend further these commitments into every aspect of Association life and to bring our practices into closer relationship to our affirmations.

Recommendations for Campus Action

1. Every YWCA should provide an opportunity for dialogue between races.

2. Students should know problems in their areas; what has been done and what they can do.
3. Implementation in the most effective way for particular situations of the following NSCY recommendations:

   a. Provide more opportunities for interracial, face-to-face contact through such programs as leadership schools, work-study industrial seminars, citizenship seminars, international overseas projects, conferences, etc.

   b. Establish Human Relations committees to focus program on campus problems in this area; to cooperate with other agencies and make use of available resources; to encourage the development of human relations commissions as an arm of student government.

   c. Endorse the 1958-1959 National Student Assembly Resolution on racial and religious discrimination in fraternities and sororities in cooperation with other campus organizations.

   d. Initiate pilot projects in interracial housing on and off campus for students and faculty.

   e. Encourage student and faculty exchange between Negro and white colleges, such as speakers, deputation teams, program exchange, etc.

4. Refer to 1958-1959 NSAY resolutions (attached to this statement)

*NSAY Resolution; for reference, see INTERCOLLEGLAN, December, 1959, p.5.*