

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

To Participants in the President's Conference on Civil Rights

Dear Friend:

As we look back to Tuesday, July 9 we are almost overwhelmed by the significance of the experience we have shared. Meeting as we did midway between the anniversaries of two great symbols of the fight for human freedom - the July 4 Declaration of Independence and the July 14 Bastille Day - places us clearly in the continuing movement for human dignity.

On July 10, the President honored the group's request for a Co-Chairman by appointing Patricia Roberts Harris of Howard University. We are working to secure a Steering Committee which will provide us all with the wise guidance we need to move effectively to the task ahead.

We must now look forward to providing the help the President so eloquently requested. The breadth of interest, concerns, and organizational form, which is our strength, also means that we must be sure that each of us, as individuals and as organizations, can find a way to share in a meaningful way in the movement the President is leading.

In the meantime, it seems to us that we might all begin to work now on one thing on which we can all agree, meeting the request of the President that we halt school drop-outs. Could each of us, even before the Steering Committee is formed, start to act on this matter?

We suggest the following action:

1. Consult your Board of Education and concerned social groups and agencies about the nature of the drop-out problem in your city.
2. Convene a meeting of all interested groups and individuals in your community, including as many racial and economic groups as are concerned, to discuss ways to solve the problem.
3. Enlist the support of your community newspapers, radio and television stations, and other news media, in urging parents to keep their children in school.
4. Report to us what you have found and what you are doing on this matter.

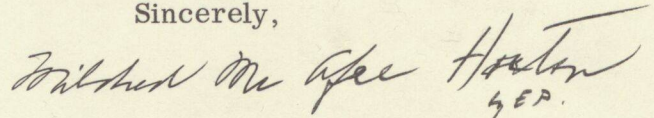
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Your concern and your enthusiasm stand as our spur to move forward to make the impact our numbers imply in the solution of this problem.

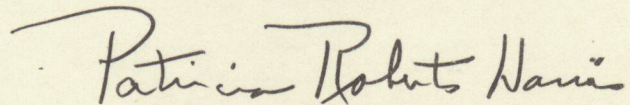
We have enclosed a brief digest of our meetings on July 9 which we hope will be useful to you.

We thank you, we wish you well, and we look forward to a fruitful association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Douglas Horton". Below the signature, the initials "D.H." are written.

Mrs. Douglas Horton

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William Beasley Harris".

Mrs. William Beasley Harris

CO-CHAIRMEN

Enclosure

Temporary address:

c/o Mrs. Esther Peterson
Assistant Secretary of Labor
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington 25, D. C.

July 12, 1963