



CORE

Rules for

ACTION

CONGRESS **O**F **R**ACIAL **E**QUALITY

38 Park Row, New York 38, New York

CORE AND NONVIOLENCE

CORE, THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, is a national organization with affiliated local groups, committed to the goal of erasing the color line through methods of direct nonviolent action. All groups affiliated with national CORE agree to follow the nonviolent procedure in all action which they sponsor.

NONVIOLENCE HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE A POWERFUL SOCIAL FORCE.

A threefold type of power characterizes nonviolence: (1) the power of active goodwill and non-retaliation; (2) the power of public opinion against an injustice; (3) the power of refusing to be a party to injustice, as illustrated by the boycott and the strike.

SINCERE INDIVIDUALS ALL OVER THE WORLD have used this tactic to overcome seemingly overwhelming

odds. When used by a dedicated group trained to understanding and personal discipline, it can change the social order.

THE NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

APPROACH to problems of racial discrimination assumes that a lasting resolution of problems can best be obtained through a spirit of good will and understanding. This spirit must be combined with a determination to end discrimination through action programs directed to specific problems. The ultimate goal is an integrated society where each member is judged solely on the basis of his individual worth.

CORE URGES THAT MEMBERS

should not knowingly participate in any situation involving segregation unless there is no other choice or unless they are participating in action toward elimination of discrimination.

THESE
RULES
FOR ACTION

have been approved by the National Convention to provide a guide for the individual participating in CORE action projects and include basic guarantees of the individual to the group and the group to the individual.

GUARANTEES

OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO THE GROUP



1 A CORE member will investigate the facts carefully before determining whether or not racial injustice exists in a given situation.

2 A CORE member will seek at all times to understand both the attitude of the person responsible for a policy of racial discrimination, and the social situation which engendered the attitude. The CORE member will be flexible and creative, showing a willingness to participate in experiments which seem constructive, but being careful not to compromise CORE principles.

3 A CORE member will make a sincere effort to avoid malice and hatred toward any group or individual.

4 A CORE member will never use malicious slogans or labels to discredit any opponent.

5 A CORE member will be willing to admit mistakes.

6 He will meet the anger of any individual or group in the spirit of good will and creative reconciliation: he will submit to assault and will not retaliate in kind either by act or word.

7 A member will never engage in any action in the name of the group except when authorized by the group or one of its action units.

8 When in an action project a CORE member will obey the orders issued by the authorized leader or spokesman of the project, whether these orders please him or not. If he does not approve of such orders, he shall later refer the criticism back to the group or to the committee which was the source of the project plan.

9 No member, after once accepting the discipline of the group for a particular action project, shall have the right of withdrawing. However, should a participant feel that under further pressure he will no longer be able to adhere to the *Rules for Action*, he shall then withdraw from the project and leave the scene immediately after notifying the project leader.

10 Only a person who is a recognized member of the group or a participant accepted by the group leader in a particular project shall be permitted to take part in that group action.

**GUARANTEES
FROM THE
LOCAL GROUP
TO THE INDIVIDUAL**



11 Each member has the right to dissent from any group decision and, if dissenting, need not participate in the specific action planned.

12 Each member shall understand that all decisions on general policy shall be arrived at only through democratic group discussion.

13 A CORE member shall receive the uncompromising support of his CORE group as he faces any difficulties resulting from his authorized CORE activities.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AS OF APRIL 15, 1963)

Ralph Abernathy
James Baldwin
Roger N. Baldwin
Katrina M. Barnes
Algernon D. Black
James B. Carey
Allan Knight Chalmers
Grenville Clark
John Cogley
Earl B. Dickerson
Eugene E. Frazier
Harold Gibbons
Roland B. Gittelsohn
Sidney Hollander
George M. Houser
E. Stanley Jones
Bishop F. D. Jordan
Martin Luther King
Douglas Levin

David Livingston
Will Maslow
A. J. Muste
Dorothy Norman
A. Philip Randolph
Ira DeA. Reid
Walter P. Reuther
Hobson R. Reynolds
Jackie Robinson
Arnold M. Rose
Fred M. Shuttlesworth
Lillian Smith
C. K. Steele
Gardner Taylor
Howard Thurman
Bishop W. J. Walls
Goodwin Watson
Joseph Willen
Jerry Wurf

Charles S. Zimmerman

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