



Guide to the Michigan Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records UR001695

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Howe, Helen I.
Source:	Michigan Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights
Title:	Michigan Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records
ID:	UR001695
Date [inclusive]:	1969-1994
Physical Description:	0.75 Linear Feet (1 SB)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (RCAR) was founded in 1973 after the Supreme Court case decision Roe v. Wade. This group was created as an interfaith organization with a pro-choice outlook on abortions. The organization changed its name to Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in 1994. The Michigan branch of the RCAR was created in 1975 and worked to influence policy and legislation, as well as to inform members of ongoing changes in Michigan, and across the country, pertaining to abortions and reproductive choice.

Citation Style

"Michigan Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (RCAR) was founded in 1973 after the Supreme Court case decision Roe v. Wade. This group was created as an interfaith organization with a pro-choice outlook on abortions. The organization changed its name to Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in 1994.

In 1974 a small group of individuals began meeting in Michigan and out of these meetings grew a coalition of support for religious agencies supporting pro-choice legislation and ideology. The national RCAR hired Helen Howe on a part-time basis to help coordinate the group which became the Michigan branch of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights in 1975.

As stated on their website in 2011: "The Michigan Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, founded thirty years ago, brings the moral power of religious communities to ensure reproductive choice through education and advocacy. The Coalition seeks to give clear voice to the reproductive issues of people of color, those living in poverty, and other underserved populations.

The national RCRC was founded in 1973 to safeguard the newly won constitutional right to abortion. The Coalition founders were clergy and lay leaders from mainstream religions, many of whom had provided women with referrals to safe abortion services before the Supreme Court legalized abortion in *Roe v. Wade*.

While our member organizations are religiously and theologically diverse, they are unified in the commitment to preserve reproductive choice as a basic part of religious liberty.

We support access to sex education, family planning and contraception, affordable child care and health care, and adoption services as well as safe, legal, abortion services, regardless of income. We work for public policies that ensure the medical, economic, and educational resources necessary for healthy families and communities that are equipped to nurture children in peace and love."

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Scope and Content

This collection contains records of activity for the organization in the form of Director reports, meeting notes, newsletters, and mailings for events and issues. In addition to materials of the Michigan branch of RCAR, newsletters and publications of the national RCAR are also found in this collection. Also present are news clippings and literature on the abortion debate.

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Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

The Michigan Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records were donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library by Helen I. Howe on August 19, 1997.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Shae Rafferty on August 22, 2018.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

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Controlled Access Headings

- Abortion
- Abortion--Religious aspects
- Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. (U.S.)
- Michigan Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Michigan RCAR, 1975-1989	Box 1	Folder 1-3
MCAR mailings and brochures, 1975-1986	Box 1	Folder 4
MCAR newsletter, 1978-1993	Box 1	Folder 5
MCAR seminars, workshops, and events, 1983-1989	Box 1	Folder 6
Jim Blanchard's reversal on medicaid abortion, 1979-1985	Box 1	Folder 7
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Includes a signed photograph of Helen with Governor Blanchard</p>		
Helen Howe speeches, 1969-1987	Box 1	Folder 8
Miscellaneous 1970-1994	Box 1	Folder 9
News clippings - abortion, 1973-1988	Box 1	Folder 10
People's Campaign for Choice, 1987-1988	Box 1	Folder 11
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>MCAR was a member</p>		
Pre-Roe v. Wade, 1969-1976	Box 1	Folder 12
Press releases and radio commentary, 1979-1989	Box 1	Folder 13
Pro and con literature, 1973-1987	Box 1	Folder 14-15
Publications, 1973-1986	Box 1	Folder 16
RCAR newsletter, 1978	Box 1	Folder 17
RCAR publications, 1976-1990	Box 1	Folder 18
Religious views in anti-arguments, 1976, 1983-1987	Box 1	Folder 19