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## Society for Individual Rights Collection

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 01, 2023.

Finding aid is in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

[info@sfpl.org](mailto:info@sfpl.org)

URL: <http://sfpl.org/gaylesbian>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Society for Individual Rights
<b>Title:</b>	Society for Individual Rights Collection
<b>ID:</b>	GLC 80
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1960-1969
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.75 Cubic Feet (in 2 boxes)
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The collection is stored onsite.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Collection materials are in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Meeting minutes, flyers, bylaws, press releases, proposals, policy statements, articles, pamphlets, surveys, advertisements, clippings, event programs, constitution, and other material documenting the activities of the Society for Individual Rights (SIR), a homophile organization. Founded in San Francisco in 1964, SIR's goals included public affirmation of gay and lesbian identity, elimination of victimless crime laws, providing a range of social services (including legal aid) to "gays in difficulties," and promoting a sense of a gay and lesbian community.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Society for Individual Rights Collection (GLC 80), LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Founded in San Francisco in 1964, the Society for Individual Rights (SIR)'s goals included public affirmation of gay and lesbian identity, elimination of victimless crime laws, providing a range of social services (including legal aid) to "gays in difficulties," and promoting a sense of

a gay and lesbian community. SIR demanded equal rights and decried government-sanctioned discrimination.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection contains meeting minutes, flyers, bylaws, press releases, proposals, policy statements, articles, pamphlets, surveys, advertisements, clippings, event programs, constitution, and other material documenting the activities of the Society for Individual Rights (SIR). The publications include brochures and two editions of the S.I.R. Pocket Lawyer which contained instructions on one's rights if arrested. Also of note are: the SIRlebrity Capades programs from the mid-1960s with photos and short biographies of performers; and, early issues of Vanguard.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is not arranged.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://sfpl.org/gaylesbian>

## Access

The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours.

## Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

## Provenance

The collection combines 2 folders of SIR material that the library owned with two small accessions received from Lou Harrison and from Robert Berner before 1996. Harrison was a member of SIR and his donation did not contain any personal material. Berner was on the SIR Publications Committee and some of the material he donated relates to drafts of SIR-published materials. An invitation to "The Great S.I.R. Reunion" and a "S.I.R. Pocket Lawyer" (1971-revised edition) were donated by Paul Peder Steindal, July 14, 2011.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Gay organizations, centers, etc. -- California -- San Francisco.
- Society for Individual Rights -- Archives

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Brochures: "Vote Today", "Come On In", "Welcome Aboard" [membership], "We're Going Places, Come Along", and "If Arrested...Bail", November 2, 1965; [1967]	
Brochures (Non-SIR)	
"The S.I.R. Pocket Lawyer"; and, "In Case of Arrest: The S.I.R. Pocket Lawyer" (5 items), undated	
<i>The Armed Services &amp; Homosexuality</i> (Essays on Homosexuality, Essay no. 1), [196-]	
SIR's Statement of Policy, undated	

*Sirlebrity Capades of 1965* [2 copies], 1965

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*Sirlebrity Capades of 1966*, 1966

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Sticker: "Warning: Your Local Police Are Armed and Dangerous" , undated

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SIR Ability Bank questionnaire, undated

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Small Activities Interest sheet, undated

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Meeting minutes, Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws, Agenda, 1965-1968

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ARC (Association for Responsible Citizenship): a Homophile Organization. Program: "The Homosexual 1967" Sacramento, March 31, 1967

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ONE Confidential, Tangents, ONE Letter, ONE Incorporated, 1963-1969

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Slater, Don

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Tangents, Committee to Fight Exclusion of Homosexuals from the Armed Services brochure, 1966

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*A Brief of Injustices: an Indictment of Our Society in its Treatment of the Homosexual* (San Francisco, Calif.: the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, Inc.), 1965

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Confidentiality of Records of Public Health Venereal Disease Clinics, undated

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Founding of SIR 1964 (Correspondence) [Berner], 1964

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SIR 1965 [Berner], 1965

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Episcopal Diocese of California. Reprint and summation of report submitted to the Diocesan Council by the Joint Committee on Homosexuality [2 copies] [Harrison], [1966 or 1967]

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Legg, W. Dorr. Notes and Questions taken from Lectures and Discussions for "Introduction to Homophile studies" as given to ONE Institute resident students [Harrison], 1964-1965

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Cromey, Rev. R. W. "Ministry to the Homosexual" (Reprint of *The Living Church*) [Harrison], January 8, 1967

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Lucas, Donald S. [Report on the conference: "The Consultation on the Church, Society and the Homosexual" (London" August 9-11, 1966)] [Harrison], October 3, 1966

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Lucas, Donald S. "The Homosexuals Experience of the Churches" [Harrison]

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*Town Talk* (San Francisco, California: Tavern Guild), [v. 1], no. 4, October 1964

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*Town Talk* (San Francisco, California: Tavern Guild), v. 2, no. 3, October/November 1965

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Vanguard. V (San Francisco, California: Vanguard), v. 1, no. 1 [Statement of Purpose], [1966?]

**General note**

Some issues have subtitles: "The Magazine of the Tenderloin," "The Magazine of the San Francisco Tenderloin / Youth Movement Incorporated," and "San Francisco Youth Movement."

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Vanguard. V (San Francisco, California: Vanguard), v. 1, no. 2 (2 copies), October 1966

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Vanguard. V (San Francisco, California: Vanguard), v. 1, no. 4, February 1967

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Vanguard. V (San Francisco, California: Vanguard), v. 1, no. 5, [1967?]