

Interview Outline: Relief Society President or Counselor

General Questions

1. Refer to the “General Questions” section in *Church History Guide: Oral Histories*.

Leading in Your Local Area

1. Describe your calling to serve in the Relief Society.
 - a. When were you called?
 - b. What was your reaction?
 - c. Describe your preparation to serve.
 - d. What training did you receive? (For example, manuals or information from missionaries, the mission president’s wife, previous Relief Society presidents, and so forth.)
2. What events in your life and Church experience best prepared you for this calling?
3. How did you select your counselors? Who are they?
4. What goals do you have as a Relief Society president (or counselor)?
 - a. What are you doing to accomplish these goals?
5. Describe your relationship with priesthood leaders.
 - a. Are you considered an equal when you work with the ward, stake, branch, or district leadership?
 - b. How much freedom do you have to run the Relief Society as you see fit?
 - c. Do you receive adequate funds?
 - d. How do you use the resources you receive?
6. Describe how visiting teaching works in your ward, branch, or stake.
 - a. What things make visiting teaching difficult to accomplish?
 - b. Is visiting teaching culturally appropriate in _____?
7. In your Relief Society, how do you support:
 - a. Single mothers?
 - b. Part member families in which the wife is LDS?
 - c. Young women transitioning into Relief Society?
 - d. Newly married women?
 - e. Women who have been married for a while who do not have children?
 - f. Elderly women?
 - g. Widows?
8. Do you have access to the latest lesson manuals, videos, handbooks, and magazines?
 - a. How culturally appropriate are these resources to the sisters in your Relief Society?
9. Do you have the full Relief Society program, including weeknight meetings?
 - a. If not, why not?

- b. Describe the weeknight activities you have.
10. What types of social activities do you have?
 - a. Do you celebrate March 17 (the date the Relief Society was organized)?
 11. Do you have access to the yearly women's meetings that are held at Church headquarters?
 - a. What do these conferences mean to you and your Relief Society members?

Women in Society

1. In general terms, how would you describe the role of women in society or in your culture?
 - a. How are women treated?
 - b. Is the treatment of women different in the city as opposed to in rural areas?
 - c. In what ways are women treated differently than men?
2. Is there ever a clash between how society understands women's roles and the way the Church defines women's roles? (Describe in detail any conflicts and how they are reconciled.)
3. Many influences in today's world seem to be pulling women away from family and home. Is this the case where you live?
 - a. How do these influences affect women where you live?
 - b. What role does Relief Society play in helping women understand their divinely appointed roles?
4. How prevalent is spouse abuse – emotional, mental, physical, and sexual – in society and among Church members?
 - a. What is being done to address spouse abuse, if it takes place?
5. How has the gospel influenced the way you view yourself?
 - a. Describe gospel influences in detail, giving examples from before and after your conversion.
 - b. How has the Church influenced your perspectives of gender roles (your roles and the roles of others)?
6. What percentage of the women in your Relief Society work outside the home?
 - a. Given the local economy, how essential is it for them to work outside the home?
 - b. What impact does this work have on the women in your Relief Society?
7. How have you used the "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" to teach the Church's stand on marriage, children, and gender roles?
8. What are the greatest challenges facing the LDS women where you live?
 - a. Are there any differences between LDS and non-LDS women and their challenges?
9. What marriage or cultural traditions affect the way young people court and marry? Please describe these traditions.
 - a. Are there enough marriageable LDS men for women to choose from?

Welfare Issues

1. What socioeconomic factors affect members of your ward or branch? (For instance, poverty or wealth, drug and alcohol abuse, child or spouse abuse, crime, class, access to education, and race.)
2. How does the Relief Society address these concerns?
3. What training have you received concerning welfare assistance?
4. What special programs are there in your area for education and or employment training?
5. What more could the Church do to assist its members?
6. If people do not receive help from the Church, can they get it from the government or elsewhere?
 - a. Describe in detail other resources that are available for people in your area.

General Questions

1. What contributions in the Church can LDS women make that are different from the contributions of men?
2. Describe the ethnic make-up of your Relief Society members.
 - a. Describe any challenges you may face regarding ethnic or racial differences.
 - b. How does the gospel of Jesus Christ help diminish or erase ethnic and racial barriers?
3. What blessings have come into your life as a result of service in the Relief Society?