

UNIFEM Chicago Records 1990-2001, undated

Creator: UNIFEM Chicago

Extent: 5 linear feet (8 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright of the UNIFEM Chicago records was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives upon the donation of the records.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, UNIFEM Chicago Records, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: UNIFEM Chicago Chapter donated this collection to the Women and Leadership Archives on March 20, 2001 (WLA2001.10). Later materials were contributed on June 15, 2004 (WLA2004.17) by Gretchen Leppke and on September 27, 2004 (WLA2004.43, WLA2004.44, WLA2004.49) by Susan Meyer. Additional materials received from Carolyn Farrell, BVM, on July 29, 2004.

Processor: Dorothy Hollahan, BVM, November 24, 2004. Updated by Elizabeth A. Myers, May 2007. Updated by Becca Smith, June 2011.

Processing Information: Addendum incorporated and finding aid updated by Laura Berfield, April 2025.

Separations: 0.25 linear feet of extraneous and duplicate material was removed.

Administrative History

The papers from the Greater Chicago Chapter of the U.S. Committee for UNIFEM (The United Nations Development Fund for Women) span from 1990 to 2001, when the chapter was dissolved. The Greater Chicago Chapter (called here the Chicago Chapter) began in 1989 as a volunteer organization that worked to support projects in developing nations of the world through affiliation with UNIFEM. The chapter mission statement explains that the chapter was formed to build awareness in the Chicago community of the key role women play in reaching development goals, to raise funds to support UNIFEM activities, to provide speakers to Chicago area organizations and schools, and to work with other local, national and international organizations which share our goals for women. The basic concern of the organization was to support and strive for the civil and political rights of women and recognition of women as equal partners in society.

UNIFEM was created in 1976 by the UN General Assembly as the Volunteer Fund for the UN Decade for Women. Renamed in 1985, it works in autonomous association with the UN Development Program. Based in New York, UNIFEM has regional programs in Asia and the Pacific, western Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. UNIFEM'S program areas focus on women's economic and political empowerment.

Members of the Chicago Chapter paid annual dues of which part was sent to UNIFEM-USA (operations within the United States). Office space was secured. The chapter issued periodic newsletters and invitations to a wide variety of programs, speakers and events throughout the years. Often the chapter sponsored special events such as the International Women's Day and programs such as AFWIC Umbrella Program—African Women in Crisis. Also, the chapter planned fund raising projects such as a 1992 cookbook project and a 1999 quilt project.

The Chicago Chapter membership numbers were usually about thirty to thirty-five and there was an active membership committee. In 2001 the chapter called a special meeting in February to discuss dissolving the chapter. As of March 31, 2001 the Chicago Chapter was officially dissolved. Nihal Hassan was president at the time.

The papers also contain material related to UNIFEM-USA in general. Reports indicate that it developed from the First Women's Conference in Mexico in 1975. In 1976 Pat Kutar is credited with the beginning of UNIFEM-USA. The UNIFEM-USA papers contain extensive correspondence from its president to the twenty chapters. Membership dues information and by-laws revision details are included. There are reports of annual meetings along with the 1994 UNIFEM-USA Handbook. Information on CEDAW is also included.

CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. It became an autonomous organization within the UN in 1985. There are files on CEDAW activities in the Chicago area and correspondence with Chicago Chapter members. In 1999 CEDAW members made an effort to have the city of Chicago adopt the Convention so that its provisions would set goals and standards of conduct for all in Chicago in promoting equality for women in all aspects of their lives. There is a copy of the Resolution prepared by CEDAW in the papers.

The papers include a document, "WOMEN and the UN 1945-1995," which presents a helpful overview of UNIFEM. There is also a fact sheet on the creation of UNIFEM and its place in the UN. UNIFEM's role of advocating for women in developing nations is basic to its activities. The desires of the Chicago Chapter were to always support and assist with funds and education to the major work of UNIFEM through UNIFEM-USA.

Scope & Content

The papers of the Greater Chicago Chapter of UNIFEM-USA consist of 8 linear feet (8 boxes) of materials that span the years 1990 to 2001 and document the organization and activities of the chapter. Included are annual statements of purpose and goals. In addition,

there is extensive material on UNIFEM-USA of which the Chicago Chapter was a dues-paying member. The Chicago Chapter papers contain organizational history, chapter brochures, the work of committees and extensive Board of Directors material. Also, there are reports on chapter activities and sponsored events. The UNIFEM-USA material contains correspondence, membership information, by-law revisions, and annual meeting reports.

Series 1: Administrative History, 1990-2001, undated, Boxes 1-2

This series contains Chicago chapter brochures, membership information, and agendas and minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings. There are also business and committee reports. This series also contains materials on the organization of UNIFEM-USA.

Series 2: Programs/Events, 1992-2000, undated, Box 3

This series contains information on the many programs, events, and conferences in which UNIFEM was involved. It also contains information on CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women). A display poster board (circa 1996) was deconstructed for preservation purposes. Items were previously attached to a folded, cardboard backing (28 x 52"). The board displayed six items about UNIFEM, including: A Life Free of Violence: It's Our Right, Time for a Change (poster), The Women's Dollar Campaign (poster), Women's Development Agenda for the 21st Century (poster), Women and the UN: 1945-1995 (timeline), The Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women (brochure), and Women Hold up Half the Sky (brochure). Ask the archivist to see a photo of the original display board.

Series 3: Audiovisual and 3D Objects, 1994-2001, undated, Boxes 4-6

This series contains photographs, 3.5" computer floppy disks, VHS tapes, and textile souvenirs from UNIFEM events and meetings.

Series 4: Addendum 1, 1992-2001, undated

This series contains Addendum 1, an accrual of materials that were processed but not incorporated with the series above. Similar and/or related materials listed above may also be found here.

Subseries 4.1: Administrative History, 1992-2000, undated, Boxes 7-8

Includes annual meeting reports, Board of Directors meeting reports, and extensive Treasurer reports and projects, materials from UNIFEM national office and UN, and UNICEF reports and brochures.

Subseries 4.2: Programs/Events, 1995-2001, undated, Box 8

Consists of materials and one 3.5" floppy disk related to fundraisers, CEDAW, Beijing Conference, and quilt project.

Subjects

International Women's Day

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

UNIFEM

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United Nations
UNIFEM Greater Chicago Chapter
United Nations
Quilts
Women's rights

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>UNIFEM Chicago Records, 1990-2001, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Administrative History, 1990-2001, undated	
1	1	Administrative history	1995, undated
1	2	Administration: UNIFEM logo	1998-99, undated
1	3	Administration: Letterhead/ Stationery	undated
1	4	Annual Meeting	1999
1	5	Annual Meeting	2000
1	6	Annual Meeting	2001
1	7	Articles of Incorporation	1990
1	8	Board of Directors: Nominations, Lists	1996-2000
1	9	Board of Directors: Meetings	1995-2000
1	10	Board of Directors: Meeting to dissolve Chicago chapter	2001
1	11	Budgets/ Financial Statements	1995-2001
1	12	Business/ Strategic Plan	1996-2004
1	13	By-Laws	1993-2000, undated
1	14	Committees: Fundraising	1995-2000, undated
1	15	Committees: Membership	1998-2000, undated
1	16	Committees: Program	1997-2000
1	15	Correspondence	1995-2000
1	16	Illinois Charitable Registration Reports	1993-2000
2	1	Membership Correspondence	1993-2001
2	2	Membership Directory	1996-2001
2	3	National Committee Guidelines	undated
2	4	New Chapter Handbook	1994, undated
2	5	Newspaper Clippings	1999-2000
2	6	Publications: Annual Reports	1994-1999
2	7	Publications: Brochures/ Mailings	undated

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2	8	Publications: Brochures/ Mailings from other associations	1997-1999, undated
2	9	Publications: Newsletters	1996-2000, undated
2	10	Publications: Newsletters from other UNIFEM chapters	1998-2000
2	11	Publications: "Working for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality"	undated
2	12	Publications: UNIFEM in Asia, Africa, and Latin America	undated
2	13	Sales Tax Exemption Forms	1990-1996
2	14	Secretary of State Annual Reports	1991-2001
2	15	Space Rental Contracts	1996-2000, undated
2	16	United Nations Association, Greater Chicago Chapter	undated
		Series 2: Programs/ Events, 1992-2000, undated	
3	1	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence	1998-2000
3	2	Annual Dinner/ Fundraiser	1996
3	3	Annual Dinner/ Fundraiser: Silent Auction, Donor List	1995-1996
3	4	Beijing Plus Five	1995, 1999-2000
3	5	CEDAW	undated
3	6	CEDAW: Correspondence	1998-1999
3	7	CEDAW: Women's Convention Coalition of Chicago	1998-1999
3	8	Cookbook Project	1992-1993, undated
FF	4	Display Poster Board [deconstructed: 6 items]	circa 1996
3	9	Hague Appeal for Peace Conference	1999
3	10	International Women's Day Conference	1999
3	11	International Women's Day Event	1995, 1999-2000
3	12	Iraq Anti-Sanction Event	1998
3	13	Midwest Celebration of Human Rights	1998
3	14	Peace Museum	1999-2000
3	15	Programs: miscellaneous	undated
3	16	Replies to Donor Requests	1995-1996
3	17	United Nations Inter-Agency Global Videoconference	1999
3	18	United Nations Day World Music Concert	1997
3	19	UNIFEM Quilt Project	1998
		Series 3: Audiovisual/3-D Objects, 1994-2001, undated	
4	1	Monograph: <i>Agenda 21: An Easy Reference to the Specific Recommendations on Women</i>	undated

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4	2	Monograph: <i>Families in Focus: New Perspectives on Mothers, Fathers, and Children</i>	1995
4	3	Monograph: <i>Women Inventors Organizations</i>	1994
4	4	Monograph: <i>Women on the Agenda: UNIFEM's Experience in Mainstreaming with Women 1985-1990</i>	1990
4	5	Photographs: International Women's Day Event	1999
4	6	Photographs: Iraq Anti-Sanction Event	1998
4	7	Photographs: UNIFEM members	2001
5	1	Computer Disk 1: Annual Meeting, Mailings [3.5" floppy disk]	1999, undated
5	2	Computer Disk 2: Agendas, Letters/Memos/Faxes, Mailings [3.5" floppy disk]	1998-1999, undated
5	3	Computer Disk 3: Mailings, misc. [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
5	4	Computer Disk 4: Agendas, Minutes [3.5" floppy disk]	1999-2001, undated
5	5	Computer Disk 5: Mailing list, Members and Non-members [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
5	6	Computer Disk 6: Financial Statements, Budgets [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
5	7	Computer Disk 7: UNIFEM Invite [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
5	8	Computer Disk 8: UNIFEM Fonts [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
5	9	UNIFEM Promotional Video [VHS tape]	1995
5	10	UNIFEM Promotional Video [VHS tape]	1999
5	11	UNIFEM Video: "A World of Violence Against Women" Videoconference [VHS tape]	1999
5	12	Video: "Dignity: African Women in Crisis" [VHS tape]	undated
6	1	UNIFEM flag	undated
6	2	UNIFEM Dollar Campaign Quilt remnants	undated
		Series 4: Addendum 1, 1992-2001, undated	
		Subseries 4.1: Administrative History, 1992-2000, undated	
7	1	Annual Meeting	1992
7	2	Annual Meeting	1993
7	3	Annual Meeting	1994
7	4	Annual Meeting	1995
7	5	Annual Meeting	1998
7	6	Annual Meeting	1999
7	7	Annual Meeting	2000
7	8	Board of Directors: Information/ Duties	undated
7	9	Board of Directors: Meetings	1993-1995
7	10	Board of Directors: Meetings	1996
7	11	Board of Directors: Meetings	1997-1998

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7	12	Board of Directors: Meetings	1999-2000
7	13	Budget/ Financial Statements	1993-1999
7	14	By-Laws	1992-2000, undated
7	15	Correspondence	1992-1998
7	16	Committees: Executive Committee Meetings	1994-1996
7	17	Membership Directory	1993-2000
7	18	Publications: Annual Report	1998
7	19	Publications: Brochures	1995-1997
7	20	Publications: Flyers	1994-1999
7	21	Publications: Mailings	1995-2000
8	1	Publications: Newsletters	1995-1998
8	2	UN/UNICEF: Brochures/ Information	1994, 1998, undated
		Subseries 4.2: Programs/Events, 1995-2001, undated	
8	3	Annual Dinner/Fundraiser	1996
8	4	Beijing Conference on Women/ Beyond Beijing/ Beijing Plus Five	1995-1999
8	5	CEDAW: "Bringing Equality Home"	1998
8	6	Hague Appeal for Peace	1999, undated
8	7	Open House	1999
8	8	Quilt Project/ Fundraiser	2001, undated
8	9	Quilt Project/ Fundraiser: Computer Disk 1 [3.5" floppy disk]	undated