



Photo: Comer Archive of Chicago in the Year 2000. Photographer: Antonio Perez. 38198100123198\_17a

# TAKING A STAND in Chicago/Illinois History

Visit Special Collections & University Archives at the University of Illinois at Chicago for manuscript collections related to this year's National History Day theme.

Questions about the use of force by the city's police department are not new. In 1967, the police watchdog group Citizen's Alert was formed to assist victims of alleged police misconduct, monitor police activities, and seek reforms in the Chicago Police Department. This collection documents their strategies for change and their successes and failures.

- Citizen's Alert Records (1967-2012), 41.5 linear feet

During and after World War II, the world faced a refugee crisis as displaced people from the warring countries sought new homes. Immigration reformers in Chicago aided and advocated for refugees. The Immigrant's Protective League, founded in 1908 and social reformer Esther Loeb Kohn examined and took stands for the rights of refugees.

- Immigrants' Protective League Records (1919-1967), 20 linear feet
- Esther Loeb Kohn Papers (1896-1965), 14.5 linear feet

MoveOn.org and the Occupy movement are not the first protest movements in which young people have taken the lead. In the 1960s and 1970s, campuses across the country were home to a wide range of student-led protests and unrest. At the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, student groups took stands on issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment, the Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa, and ethnic studies programs.

- Chicago Circle Focus Newspaper, University Archives #059-07-00-02 (1968)
- Chancellor's Central Files, University Archives #003-01-02 (1946-1990)

In the 1960s, the Dean of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago organized a local branch of the Clergy Consultation service. Believing it was their pastoral responsibility and religious duty to aid women with problem pregnancies, the members gathered information about abortion providers, counseled women seeking abortion, and referred patients to physicians who practiced in the United States and other countries.

- Chicago Clergy Consultation Service Records (1965-1975), 4 linear feet

Founded in 1973, Women Employed fought sexual discrimination among Chicago's Loop office workers through challenges to federal agencies, innovative campaigning, job training, and advocating for affirmative action policies.

- Women Employed Records (1969-2000), 98.5 linear feet

In 1970, Steven Louis Bezich received a three-year prison sentence in 1970 for draft evasion. Bezich was only one of the many draftees who refused to serve during the Vietnam War. The Midwest Committee for Military Counseling offered counseling services to new draftees and represented draft resisters in the courts.

- [Midwest Committee for Military Counseling Collection \(1951-1985\)](#), 12 linear feet

The North Shore Summer Project was an attempt by a volunteer citizens' organization, associated with the American Friends Service Committee, to expose discriminatory real estate practices in suburban communities of Chicago, Illinois.

- [North Shore Summer Project Collection \(1965/1966\)](#), 0.25 linear foot

Anne Zimmerman was an important advocate for nurses' rights and nurses' economic and general welfare. During her long career she held positions in various nursing associations and was involved in numerous consulting projects, international delegations, and conferences on nursing and labor.

- [Anne Zimmerman Papers \(1942-2003\)](#), 16.5 linear feet

Activist Mary Alice Rankin believed that the death penalty was unfair, arbitrary, and immoral. In 1976, she and other activists founded the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, which fought to end capital punishment in the state of Illinois. This collection documents their more than forty-year effort.

- [Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Records \(1976-2011\)](#), 15.25 linear feet
- [Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Records—Oral History Collection \(2102\)](#), 0.25 linear feet

On October 22, 1963, 224,700 students in elementary and high school grades took a stand by staying out of school for the day in protest of segregated educational buildings and unequal resources in the Chicago Public Schools. Records in the Chicago Urban League and in the personal papers of Sylvia Cotton and Charles Armstrong document the issues and actions leading up to this momentous boycott.

- [Chicago Urban League Records \(1916-2000\)](#), 664 linear feet
- [Sylvia Cotton Papers \(1960-1971\)](#), 7 linear feet
- [Charles F. Armstrong Papers \(1959-1968\)](#), 2.25 linear feet

The Chicago chapter of the Women's Action Coalition used direct action tactics to call attention to issues affecting women's lives. The Coalition distributed free condoms to high school students, placed coffins bearing the stories of murdered women on street corners, and marched in Chicago's Pride Parade. Their records reveal their motivations, tactics for social change, and the many issues in which they were involved.

- [Women's Action Coalition – Chicago Records \(1992-1994\)](#), 2.5 linear feet

Standing up for their neighborhood was the goal of The Woodlawn Organization, an energetic community organization founded in 1960 and influenced by community organizer Saul Alinsky. Using protests and boycotts, T.W.O. fought the southward expansion of the University of Chicago, dishonest neighborhood store owners, school segregation, and slum housing. Evidence of their activities can be found in the Industrial Areas Foundation Records.

- [Industrial Areas Foundation Records \(1952-2004\)](#), 103.5 linear feet

In 1916, physician, anarchist, and self-proclaimed "hobo doctor" Ben Reitman served a six-month prison sentence for discussing contraception in public, the longest sentence ever served by a birth-control advocate in the United States. Reitman was also a life-long campaigner for the prevention of venereal disease and an advocate for the city's homeless. He was the founder and a frequent speaker at Chicago's Hobo College.

- [Ben Reitman Papers \(1907-1989\)](#), 48 linear feet

Activists have sought an amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing freedom from sexual discrimination for women since 1923. Although finally passed by Congress in 1972, the Equal Rights Amendment was never ratified by the states. The records of ERA Illinois document both the long struggle to enact the ERA and the strong opposition it provoked.

- [ERA Illinois Records \(1971-1990\)](#), 15 linear feet

## Special Collections & University Archives, University of Illinois at Chicago

Richard J. Daley Library  
801 S. Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60630  
(312) 996-2742

Library of the Health Sciences  
1750 W. Polk St., Chicago, IL 60612  
(312) 996-8977



<http://library.uic.edu/home/collections/special-collections-university-archives>