Guide to the Civic Disarmament Committee for Handgun Control Records 1968-1978
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.CIVDISARMCOMM
Title  Civic Disarmament Committee for Handgun Control. Records
Date  1968-1978
Size  2.75 linear feet (6 boxes)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
            University of Chicago Library
            1100 East 57th Street
            Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  The Civic Disarmament Committee for Handgun Control was founded in 1971 by Hyde Park activist and writer Laura Fermi. The group sought to reduce handgun violence through promotion of government legislation, public education campaigns, and enforcement of existing handgun laws. This collection includes the group's correspondence; administrative records; position statements and publicity material; and research on crime, handgun legislation and public attitudes towards handguns.

Information on Use
Access  Box 6 contains treasurer's reports and tax preparation materials. These materials are restricted for 50 years.

The remainder of the collection is open for research, with no restrictions.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Civic Disarmament Committee for Handgun Control. Records [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note  The Civic Disarmament Committee for Handgun Control was founded in Hyde Park in 1971. Usually known simply as the Civic Disarmament Committee, or CDC, the group sought to reduce handgun violence through promotion of government legislation, public education campaigns, and enforcement of existing handgun laws.
The writer and activist Laura Fermi (wife of physicist Enrico Fermi) founded the organization with the support of the several Illinois state legislators and the assistance of faculty members of the University of Chicago Law School. Other core members of the group included Lillian E. Kaplan, Camilla Fano, Ruth Grodzins and Goldie Sugarman.

The group's activities included lobbying for state and federal regulation of handgun ownership; educational programs for students and the general public; a court-visiting program; and collaborative projects with other local and national groups.

**Scope Note**

The records of the Civic Disarmament Committee for Handgun Control include the group's correspondence; administrative records; position statements and publicity material; and research on crime, handgun legislation and public attitudes towards handguns. Also included are publicity materials, statements reports, publications, and other documents from related organizations such as the National Council to Control Handguns.

Much of the CDC's correspondence is included in a chronological file spanning the years 1971-1977, including incoming and outgoing letters and memoranda. Additional correspondence is interfiled throughout the collection. Typical correspondents include representatives of city, state and federal government; community groups in Chicago; members of related organizations and news media.

The collection also includes survey data, findings and reports of a questionnaire study that sought to assess the attitudes of Hyde Park-area schoolchildren towards guns and gun violence.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Laura Fermi. Papers

**Subject Headings**

- Fermi, Laura
- Civic Disarmament Committee for Handgun Control
- National Council to Control Handguns
- Gun control

INVENTORY
Box 1
Folder 1-7
Correspondence file, 1971-1977
Box 1
Folder 8
Meeting minutes, 1971-1974
Box 2
Folder 1
Meeting minutes, 1974-1978
Box 2
Folder 2
Gun questionnaire project, survey data and selected findings, circa 1972
Box 2
Folder 3
Gun questionnaire project, preliminary reports, 1972
Box 2
Folder 4
Membership lists, correspondence and mailings, 1973-1977
Box 2
Folder 5
Crime statistics, 1933-1973
Box 2
Folder 6
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, reports and correspondence, 1976-1977
Box 2
Folder 7
Coalition of Concerned Women in the War on Crime, certificate honoring Laura Fermi, 1975
Box 2
Folder 8
Committee for Handgun Control, correspondence, statements and press releases, 1974-1977
Box 2
Folder 9-11
National Coalition to Control Handguns, correspondence, statements and publicity material, 1975-1976
Box 3
Folder 1
U.S. Conference of Mayors, mailings and bulletins, 1975-1976
Box 3
Folder 2
Gun control organizations outside of Illinois, correspondence and publicity material, 1974-1976
Box 3
Folder 3-4
Organizations supporting gun control, statements, endorsements, correspondence and publicity material, 1975-1977

Box 3
Folder 5
  International organizations, correspondence, statements and publicity material, 1968-1972

Box 3
Folder 6
  Legislative material, 1968

Box 3
Folder 7-8
  Correspondence, legislative material, publications and publicity material, 1972-1975

Box 4
Folder 1-8
  Correspondence, statements, legislative material, publications and publicity material, 1972-1977

Box 5
Folder 1
  Correspondence, reports and mailings, 1973-1978

Box 5
Folder 2
  Newsletters, 1974-1978

Box 5
Folder 3
  Correspondence, statements, legislative material and publicity material, 1975

Box 6
Folder 1
  Tax preparation materials, 1973-1975

Box 6
Folder 2
  Treasurer’s reports, 1975-1976