

## WOMEN AGAINST IMPERIALISM COLLECTION

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**Historical Note:** Women Against Imperialism was a grassroots, feminist, anti-imperialist solidarity organization formed in San Francisco in 1981. The group's founders comprised the women's caucus of the Bay Area chapter of the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee. A small, local organization whose members also worked with a range of other anti-prison, feminist, international solidarity, LGBT, and anti-war organizations, Women Against Imperialism's work primarily consisted of direct action organizing, political education activities, and internal political study. Primary areas of focus included support for women political prisoners; sex trade and trafficking; international solidarity (Central America; Palestine; Philippines; Puerto Rico; South Africa); militarism; and reproductive justice. One of the group's most consistent projects was co-organizing an annual International Women's Day march in San Francisco (1983-1996).

**Content Description:** The Women Against Imperialism collection documents the group's activities in the 1980s and early 1990s. The collection also contains newsletters, event fliers, and other representational material from a variety of local, regional, and national anti-prison, international solidarity, anti-militarism, feminist, and LGBT groups. Records include fliers, brochures, newsletters, periodicals, press releases, articles, information packets, and photographs.

Organized into five series:

1. Organizational Records;
2. Actions and Special Projects;
3. Photographs;
4. Cultural Resistance;
5. Political Organizations and Subject Files.

Collection and finding aid prepared by Brendan McHugh and Emily Thuma.

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<b>Series 1. Women Against Imperialism – Organizational Records</b>
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Contents: Contains drafts of group's mission statement and principles of unity; contact information for members and allies; copies of organization's newsletter; endorsement information for various actions and events; and materials for internal political study.

**DOC 005 (1 of 1)**

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
005.1	Political statement; principles of unity; newsletter
005.2	Contacts and endorsements
005.3	Internal political study materials (Imperialism, Capitalism and History)
005.4	Internal political study materials (Abortion/Reproductive Rights)
005.5	Internal political study materials (Third World Women)
005.6	Internal political study materials (El Salvador; Puerto Rico)
005.7	Internal political study materials (Gay/Lesbian/Gender)
005.8	Internal political study materials (Issues in Feminism)
005.9	Internal political study materials (Zionism and Palestine)

<b>Series 2. Women Against Imperialism Actions &amp; Special Projects</b>
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Contents: Contains fliers, leaflets, informational materials, and correspondence related to direct actions, political education programs, fundraisers, or other special projects organized or sponsored by the organization.

Keywords: Lesbianism; Lesbian and Gay Liberation; Philippines; Gabriella Network; Puerto Rican Prisoners of War; Lexington Control Unit; Linda Evans; Laura Whitehorn; Susan Rosenberg; Women's Committee Against Genocide; Self-defense; Women Against Police Terror; Violence against women; Prairie Fire Organizing Committee; Reproductive Rights; Furious Funeral From Hell; ACT UP; HIV/AIDS; Abortion; Deadly Connections Conference; Gulf War; Wall of Women Against the War; El Salvador; Nicaragua; International Women's Day; Feminism and militarism; Zionism; Palestine; Sparks Fly; Take Back the Night; Pablo Marcano; Nydia Ester Cuevas; National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War; Silvia Baraldini; Lucy Rodriguez; Stop Rape Week; Women's Health Action & Mobilization (WHAM); ACT UP/SF Women; reproductive freedom; abortion; El Salvador; Women Against U.S. Military Intervention; El Salvador Solidarity and Information Office; Association of Salvadoran Women; Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front; Palestinian Political Prisoners; Red Lightning Women Affinity Group; Boomerang Affinity Group; Amazon Sewing Circle Affinity Group; Jewish Women for a Secular Middle East; Palestinian women prisoners; Pleasanton Federal Prison; 500 Years of Resistance; Chicano Moratorium; Mujerio's International Committee; International Indian Treaty Council; Muimbras (Brazilian Immigrant Women); Sistah Boom; Women's Action Coalition; Women's Choice Clinic; Jewelle Gomez; Dorothy Allison; Chrystos; Melanie DeMore.

**DOC 006 (1 of 2)**

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
006.10	Internal Political Study (Anti-racisms; Armed Struggle)
006.11	Internal Political Study (Miscellaneous)
006.12	Lesbians of Women Against Imperialism
006.13	Lexington Control Unit
006.14	Women's Committee Against Genocide
006.15	Women's Self-Defense Project
006.16	Women Against Police Terror
006.17	Anti-Klan Organizing
006.18	Furious Funeral From Hell
006.19	Deadly Connections Conference
006.20	San Francisco Military Recruiters' Office Action
006.21	Wall of Women Against the War
006.22	International Day to Stop Violence Against Women
006.23	Oakland Military Recruiters' Office Action
006.24	El Salvador and Nicaragua
006.25	Palestine
006.26	International Women's Day 1983
006.27	International Women's Day 1985
006.28	International Women's Day 1986 & 1987
006.29	International Women's Day 1988 & 1989

**DOC 007 (2 of 2)**

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
007.30	International Women's Day 1990
007.31	International Women's Day 1991
007.32	International Women's Day 1992
007.33	International Women's Day 1993 & 1994
007.34	International Women's Day 1996
007.35	Press Clippings – Demonstrations & Events
007.36	Women's Emergency Response Project
007.37	Democratic National Convention (San Francisco)1984
007.38	Coalition Against the Moral Majority 1984
007.39	HIV/AIDS Activism
007.40	Sparks Fly
007.41	Take Back the Night
007.42	Philippines – Women's Delegation
007.43	Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

<b>Series 3.</b>	<b>Women Against Imperialism – Photographs</b>
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Contents: A collection of photographs from major actions and special projects of Women Against Imperialism. Also contains three scrapbooks compiled by former WAI member, Lisa Rudman.

**DOC 008 (1 of 2)**

Photos, loose.

**DOC 009 (2 of 2)**

Two books.

Additional: One oversized book.

<b>Series 4.</b>	<b>Women Against Imperialism - Cultural Resistance</b>
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Contents: Contains multiple copies of *Songs of Struggle*, a 120-page songbook compiled by WAI members; ephemera; chant sheets and street theater scripts for demonstrations; books of poetry, also compiled by WAI members. This series also includes a set of catalogs and advertisements for documentary and narrative films, and informational brochures and fliers for independent film festivals, concerts, and individual artists. These educational and cultural materials (primarily released or took place in the 1980s) relate either directly or indirectly to the work of WAI.

**DOC 010**

See content description.

Additional: Three copies of *Songs of Struggle*

<b>Series 5. Women Against Imperialism - Political Organizations; Subject Files</b>
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Contents: Contains newsletters, event fliers, and other publicity materials from a range of San Francisco Bay Area and national organizations whose work overlapped directly or loosely with Women Against Imperialism (note: the majority of these files consist of a single item per organization). Also contains miscellaneous subject files.

**DOC 020**

Organizations:

Ad-Hoc Committee in Solidarity with Black August  
AIDS Action Pledge  
Anarchist Coffeehouse  
Arab Gay Men  
Arm the Spirit (newsletter)  
Artists and Writers Out Load (AWOL)  
Bay Area Pledge of Resistance  
Bay Area Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network  
Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights (BACORR)  
Bay Area Resistance Conspiracy Defense Committee  
Black Panther Newspaper Committee  
Black Women's Health Project  
Center for Third World Organizing  
Committee for Health Rights in Central America  
Dykes and Gay Guys Everywhere Resisting (DAGGER)  
Dynamics of Color Conference  
Entre Nous (newsletter)  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Food Not Bombs  
Foundation Center  
Foundation for a Compassionate Society  
Freedom Socialist  
Global Exchange  
Golden Threads  
Graduate Students of African Descent-UC Berkeley  
Green Letter  
Haiti Action Coalition  
Han-Gyuh-Reh Movement of Northern California (One Korea, One People)  
Healing Hearts  
Indigenous Women's Network  
International Committee for Peace and Reunification of Korea  
International Wages for Housework Campaign  
John Brown Anti-Klan Committee  
Lesbian Agenda for Action  
Lesbian Uprising  
Life on the Water  
Madre  
Malcolm X Center for Black Survival  
Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA)

Mujeres Unidas Y Activas  
National Chicano Human Rights Council  
National Chicano Moratorium Committee  
North American Congress on Latin America  
Paramedics for Public Education  
People's Weekly World  
Political Ecology Group  
Prairie Fire Organizing Committee  
RESIST!  
Roots of War (RAW)  
San Francisco Women Against Rape (SFWAR)  
Seeds for Peace  
Sojourner-The Women's Forum (newsletter)  
Sonoma County Rainbow Coalition  
Therapists for Peace  
UCSF Rape Prevention Education Program  
UCSF Women's Resource Center  
Unified Against Genocide  
Wise Fool Puppet Intervention  
Women's Alliance  
Women's Building  
Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP)  
Women Organized for a San Approach to Drug Abuse  
Women's Resource Center

Subject Files:

Reproductive Rights  
Gendered Violence  
Prostitution/Sex Work  
Newspaper clippings (misc.)