Collection of Brooklyn-Queens Chapter of NOW

Accession #2014-003

Dates

Extent
3.5 cu. ft. and 1 oversized box

Creator
Brooklyn-Queens Chapter of NOW

Access/Use
The collection is open for research.
Copyright retained by donor.
Materials can be accessed at the Brooklyn College Archives & Special Collections, Main floor, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210

Languages
English

Finding Aid
Guide is available in-house.

Acquisition/ Appraisal
Papers were donated by Rachelle Suissa in 2014.

Description Control
Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.
Processed by Mark Markov.

Preferred Citation
Item, folder title, box number, Brooklyn-Queens Chapter of NOW Collection, Brooklyn College Archives & Special Collections, Brooklyn College Library.

Subject Headings
Feminism
Women’s rights
National Organization for Women
Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) — History

Related Materials
#2008-008 The Shirley Chisholm '72 Collection
#2011-001 Young Women’s Christian Association of Brooklyn
#92-007 Women’s Studies Program
Historical Note

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966 to help pass the Equal Rights Amendment and to promote women’s rights in America as the “NAACP for women.” The Brooklyn chapter of NOW was founded in 1972. The chapter continued to lobby for the Equal Rights Amendment (despite sometimes lukewarm support from the national organization), as well as for reproductive rights, wage equality, worker’s rights, and homosexual rights.

The chapter also worked with institutions meant to help victims of domestic violence and sexual harassment. In Brooklyn College, Brooklyn NOW has supported the Brooklyn College Women’s Center, which nearly closed in the 1990s. In the late 1990s, Brooklyn NOW fought for the criminalization of female genital mutilation in New York State. In 2003, the Brooklyn and Queens chapters of NOW combined to form Brooklyn-Queens NOW.

The Brooklyn-Queens NOW collection contains documents collected by Sherry Rogers, who held many offices in the organization. Rogers was responsible for the Brooklyn NOW newsletters in the late 1990s and for that time period the records are most complete. In the early 2000s, Rogers was the Chair of NOW-New York State, and the collection thus includes minutes and correspondence from the statewide organization.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of materials dating from 1972 to 2013, with the bulk of the items dating from 1995-2003. It contains the papers of the Brooklyn (later Brooklyn-Queens) chapter of the National Organization for Women, some papers of NOW-New York State, the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition and collected documents. The collection contains primarily meeting minutes, newsletters, correspondence, as well as periodicals, newspaper clippings and collected posters and brochures.
Series Statements

Series 1. Brooklyn/Brooklyn-Queens NOW

Dates: Inclusive: 1972-2011


Extent: 3½ Boxes

The papers of the Brooklyn (later Brooklyn-Queens) chapter span the longest time period. This part of the collection is largely composed of minutes, newsletters, and correspondence and the papers of the Legislative and Political Committee/Political Action Committee within Brooklyn NOW.

Series 2. NOW National, NOW-NYS, and other NOW chapters


Bulk: 1998-2001

Extent: 1½ Box

This series contains documents from sections of NOW outside the Brooklyn-Queens chapter. The papers of National NOW contain correspondence and packets sent to Brooklyn NOW. The papers of NOW-New York State are largely from the late 1990s to the early 2000s and contain mostly correspondence, memos, and some minutes. There are also newsletters from other chapters of NOW.

Series 3. Related Organizations


Bulk: 1997-2001

Extent: ½ Box

This series contains papers related to the Equal Rights Amendment Advocacy, the Coalition Against the Promise Keepers and the Equal Pay Coalition NYC. The first is largely composed of correspondence and newsletters from the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition. The latter two are largely composed of background material and correspondence.
Series 4. Collected Documents

Dates: Inclusive: 1972-2013

Bulk: 1995-2003

Extent: 1½ Boxes

This series contains reference materials, collected posters/brochures/newsletters of other organizations (such as NYPRG, AFL-CIO), newspaper clippings (largely from Newsday and the New York Times) and miscellanea.
Container List

Box 1.

Series 1. Brooklyn/Brooklyn-Queens NOW

Folder 1. Brooklyn NOW. By-laws, minutes, reports. 1972-1978.

Box 2.

Box 3.


Folder 25. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Correspondence, notes from meetings, with candidates/politicians. 1991-2009. (A-F)

Folder 26. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Correspondence, notes from meetings, with candidates/politicians. 1991-2009. (G-L)

Folder 27. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Correspondence, notes from meetings, with candidates/politicians. 1991-2009. (M-P)

Folder 28. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Correspondence, notes from meetings with candidates/politicians. 1991-2009. (Q-Y)

Folder 29. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Phone tree. 1996-2005. (restricted for 20 years)


Folder 32. Background material on Female Genital Mutilation. 1995-1997.


Folder 34. Newspaper clippings on Female Genital Mutilation. 1993-1997. (oversized)
Box 4.


Folder 36. Brooklyn NOW Lectures and Talks. Same Sex Public Schools. 1996.

Folder 37. Newspaper clippings on Same Sex Public Schools. 1996. (oversized)


Folder 39. Brooklyn NOW. Feminist consciousness raising. undated. (restricted for 20 years)

Folder 40. Brooklyn NOW. Membership lists. 1979-2003. (restricted for 20 years)


Folder 42. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Other external correspondence. 1979-2008.

Folder 43. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Blank forms and stationery.

Folder 44. Brooklyn NOW/Brooklyn-Queens NOW. Miscellaneous.

Series 2. NOW National, NOW-NYS, and other NOW chapters


Folder 46. NOW National Reproductive Rights Kit.1982.

Folder 47. NOW National Reports. 1979-1985.

Box 5.


Folder 50. NOW National Conference in Miami. 2000. (2/3)

Folder 51. NOW National Conference in Miami. 2000. (3/3)

Folder 52. NOW National Conference in Miami. 2000. ERA sash (oversized)

Folder 53. NOW plastic folder. (oversized)
Folder 57. NOW-NYS. Reports, correspondence, flyers, brochures. 2000.
Folder 61. NOW-NYS. 1982 Legislative Action Program. (oversized)
Folder 65. NOW-NYC. NOW News. April 2002. (oversized)
Folder 66. NOW-NYC. what NOW. Summer 2007. (oversized)

Box 6.

Series 3. Related Organizations
Folder 70. Equal Rights Amendment Advocacy. undated.

Series 4. Collected Documents
Folder 74. Collected Materials on rightwing groups. 2001-2002. (original order) (1/2)
Folder 75. Collected Materials on rightwing groups. 2001-2002. (original order) (2/2)
Folder 76. Federal, state and municipal reports on women’s issues. 1979-2002.

Box 7.

Folder 81. Pamphlets, flyers, brochures of other organizations. 1983-2006. (A-C)
Folder 82. Pamphlets, flyers, brochures of other organizations. 1983-2006. (D-O)
Folder 83. Pamphlets, flyers, brochures of other organizations. 1983-2006. (P-W)
Folder 90. General news clippings. 1984-2013. (oversized)
Folder 92. Miscellaneous.
Folder 93. Miscellaneous. (oversized)

Box 8. (oversized)

Folder 34. Newspaper clippings on Female Genital Mutilation. 1993-1997. (oversized)

Folder 37. Newspaper clippings on Same Sex Public Schools. 1996. (oversized)

Folder 52. NOW National Conference in Miami. 2000. ERA sash (oversized)

Folder 53. NOW plastic folder. (oversized)

Folder 61. NOW-NYS. 1982 Legislative Action Program. (oversized)


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