

Collection title: Los Angeles Commission on Assault Against Women Collection

Collection ID: CAWW

Size: .42 Linear feet

Date: 1971-1993, [bulk 1987]

Abstract:

The Los Angeles Commission on Assault Against Women (LACAAW), now Peace Over Violence, was a non-profit, feminist, Los Angeles-community-based organization founded in 1971. LACAAW provided education, prevention, and intervention services including peer counseling, a crisis hotline, self-defense trainings, and referral services for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. The bulk of the collection is comprised of informational and training materials from a 1987 training related to sexual violence, prevention, and survivor care.

Accession information:

Unknown

Provenance:

Unknown

Restrictions:

There are no restrictions on the collection. The collection is open for research.

Copyright:

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Biographical sketch:

The Los Angeles Commission on Assault Against Women (LACAAW), now Peace Over Violence, was a Los Angeles feminist community-based non-profit organization founded in 1971. LACAAW's mission was the elimination of violence against women, youth, and children. LACAAW was founded by a group of six women, friends of a survivor, organizing grassroots anti-rape campaigns and staffing crisis phonelines at the Women's Center in Los Angeles. In response to the large number of hotline callers, the crisis line evolved to include educational programs, self-defense classes, and policy advocacy, oriented towards the empowerment of survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

For 35 years, LACAAW worked with volunteers to provide education, prevention, and intervention services including peer counseling, a crisis hotline, self-defense trainings, and referral services for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. In 2006 LACAAW was re-named “Peace Over Violence” positioning the agency as a leader in the field of family violence and representing an all-inclusive call to action to rally people behind a larger social movement. “Peace Over Violence” offers a constant reminder that building healthy relationships, families and communities free from sexual, domestic and interpersonal violence is achievable.¹

Scope and content:

The Los Angeles Commission on Assault Against Women Collection comprises documents relating to sexual violence, prevention, intervention, and survivor care. Materials range from 1971-1988. The bulk of the materials were compiled as part of a 1987 training held by the LACAAW. These materials consist of informational articles, fact sheets, and pamphlets on a range of topics related to sexual assault including domestic violence, child abuse, and rape. The materials also consist of informational and training documents on self-defense, LACAAW’s crisis line, peer counseling, medical care, legal defense strategies, and other resources for survivors in Los Angeles. Notes on training sessions are included in the materials. A catalog of Carolyn Gage’s theatrical productions is also included in the collection. The catalog is undated although it references productions as late as 1993.

Processing notes:

Vera Tykulska processed this collection in April-July, 2023 under a California State Grant. The processing archivist has arranged materials according to the original order in which they were donated. Each folder contains materials relating to a thematic unit of the training. Pamphlets have been rearranged from their original order to align with materials covering the same topic. The Theater catalog has also been moved from its original order and placed into a separate folder.

Arrangement:

Series I: LACAAW Training Materials

Series II: Theater Catalog

Related Collections

Carolyn Gage Collection

Box level contents list:

¹ “Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women,” Wiser Directory, accessed July 23, 2023, https://wiser_directory/organization/los-angeles-commission-on-assaults-against-women-lacaaw/; “About Us,” Peace Over Violence, accessed July 23, 2023, <https://www.peaceoverviolence.org/about-us>.

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Box 1

Series I: LACAAW Training Materials

Series II: Theater Catalog

Scope and content: Informational and training materials from the Los Angeles Commission on Assault Against Women (LACAAW). Materials include articles, fact sheets, and pamphlets covering a range of topics relating to sexual violence and assault as well as survivor care and self-defense. Materials also consist of training documents relating to LACAAW's peer counseling and hot line programs. Notes from training sessions are also included. Materials are organized thematically. A catalog of plays, musicals, one-acts, and monologues by Carolyn Gage is also included in the collection.

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Box 1, Folder 1	Introduction and overview materials
Box 1, Folder 2	Peer counseling
Box 1, Folder 3	Medical Care
Box 1, Folder 4	Rape, legal definitions and survivor care
Box 1, Folder 5	Domestic violence
Box 1, Folder 6	Crisis line
Box 1, Folder 7	Legal procedures relating to domestic violence
Box 1, Folder 8	Suicide risk and assessments
Box 1, Folder 9	Identity and sexual violence
Box 1, Folder 10	Child abuse
Box 1, Folder 11	Self defense
Box 1, Folder 12	Catalog of plays, musicals, one-acts, and monologues, [undated]