Our Mission

The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) prevents wrongful deportations by providing community support and emergency legal aid to refugee families—no matter where they are located in the United States.
Dear friends,

It was a difficult year, to say the least. Under an administration that separated thousands of families and pushed immigration detention to record highs, asylum seekers faced huge barriers to safety. But the families we work with are incredibly resilient. With your support, ASAP has worked hard to provide asylum-seeking families with the legal resources they need to fight their cases, and we are excited to share highlights from our work this year.

We released a guide to representing asylum seekers at the border, based on our experience assisting hundreds of women and children in family detention centers. So when volunteers responded to the crisis at the border, they were able to use our guide to help families vindicate their rights.

Our online community for formerly detained mothers became a critical place to update asylum seekers about the administration’s rapidly changing policies. Through the online community, we helped thousands of asylum seekers to fight back. And we prevented hundreds of deportations by providing our members with emergency legal aid.

We were also touched by the overwhelming public support we received in the past year. ASAP was featured on national media platforms such as the Today Show, MSNBC, and The Chicago Tribune. From coffee shops to giving circles, supporters raised funds for ASAP in creative and powerful ways. We are grateful to each and every one of you for making our work possible.

At ASAP, we see a future where all asylum-seeking families have the tools and support they need to win their cases, no matter where they are located in the United States. There is so much left to do. The need is so large. But our commitment to meeting this need is what drew us to this work four years ago. And we are not giving up any time soon.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, donors, and supporters for joining us in this fight.

Sincerely,

Conchita Cruz
Swapna Reddy
Dorothy Tegeler
Elizabeth Willis
“ASAP has been a huge support for us, orienting us to the process of seeking asylum. Whenever we have needed information, for each step of the process, we have an answer.”

Dolores, Online Community Member
ASAP has assisted over 3000 asylum seekers in more than 40 states.
“When I found out about my deportation order, my friend told me to join an online community center to ask for help. I thought that I would just get an answer to my question, but I had no idea how much ASAP would fight for my case.”

Libia, Online Community Member and ASAP Client
After fleeing death threats and making the dangerous journey to bring her son to safety, Andrea continued to face hardships in the United States. She was sexually assaulted at the home of her sponsor, which led her to move across the country to get away from him. Unbeknownst to her, however, her first hearing in immigration court had been scheduled at a court close to her sponsor’s home. When Andrea missed her hearing, she received a deportation order for failing to appear in court. Luckily, Andrea connected with ASAP through our online community, and we stepped in to provide legal representation. With ASAP’s rapid-response legal aid, Andrea was able to file and win an emergency motion to reopen her case. And one year later, Andrea was able to win asylum for her family, giving them a pathway to citizenship and the chance to live free from harm.

“Every day, I go to the online community and look at the questions mothers are posting. Getting an answer from ASAP’s attorneys helps to orient mothers like me, and it makes us believe that there is hope.”

Andrea, Online Community Member and ASAP Client
In the Press

ASAP is thankful to the following publications for featuring our work this year:

“Coming from an undocumented community, I always aspired to assist, but I never truly knew how to do so. It was not until I found my internship that I felt as if I were truly helping my community.”

Cindy Zhunio, ASAP Intern
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Co-Executive Director, Make the Road New York

Michael Wishnie,
Clinical Professor of Law and Counselor to the Dean, Yale Law School

Financials

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