Our Mission

The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) sees a future where the United States welcomes individuals fleeing violence. We work alongside our members — thousands of asylum seekers — to make this vision a reality.
Dear friends,

ASAP was born out of a belief in the power of connecting asylum seekers remotely, no matter where they live. This past year, our remote model allowed us to continue serving and connecting thousands of asylum seekers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we led trainings for hundreds of advocates shifting to remote service models for the first time.

Through our private online communities, we shared resources with over 5,000 asylum seekers grappling with the effects of the pandemic. We answered ASAP members’ urgent questions and shared information on a wide range of topics — including the CARES Act, local food pantries, unemployment benefits, and more.

We continued to advocate on behalf of families who were separated at the border, including by reuniting ASAP member-leader Leticia Peren with her son. And we secured legal representation for over 270 asylum seekers seeking monetary damages from the U.S. government for family separation and other abuses at the border.

We are so grateful for your support, and especially during such a challenging time for us all.

Sincerely,

Conchita Cruz            Swapna Reddy
“I feel very happy that my dream has come true—not only for me but for my son.”

Leticia, who ASAP helped to reunite with her son after they were separated for over 2 years.
ASAP has successfully resolved 1,750+ legal emergencies for members across the U.S.
"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to know that I am not alone."

Naomi, ASAP member from Honduras
For asylum seekers like Katherine, COVID-19 has made our immigration system even harder to navigate. ASAP member Katherine was pregnant with twins when she realized that her upcoming hearing was on the same day as her due date. Meanwhile, immigration courts across the country began to close in response to the pandemic.

But information about court closures was not easy to find. And courts shared updates exclusively in English, making critical information inaccessible to many asylum seekers. Moreover, in many cases, information online said that courts were closed, while an automated phone line continued to tell asylum seekers they had upcoming hearings.

Without clear information, Katherine wasn’t sure what to do. She faced dual fears. On one hand, if she did attend her hearing, she risked contracting the virus. On the other hand, if her twins arrived on their due date, she wouldn’t be able to attend her hearing — and if she didn’t attend her hearing, she might face deportation.

Katherine reached out to ASAP through one of our online communities, and we quickly began looking into her case. We learned that the court had postponed her hearing and we notified her right away. With ASAP’s help, Katherine was able to focus instead on the arrival of her twins.

“I want to thank ASAP for their huge help,” Katherine shared. “I asked for help in the group and ASAP willingly helped me with all the next steps. Don’t be afraid to ask, don’t stop going to court because you are scared or because you don’t have an attorney.”
Through ASAP, I have found a lot of strength. I feel encouraged hearing other members’ stories. It is a group that pushes us to keep fighting and to build a better future for our children.

Mirna, ASAP member from El Salvador
ASAP is thankful to the following publications for featuring our work this year:

- CBS NEWS
- Courthouse News Service
- DAILY BEAST
- Common Dreams
- Forbes
- gothamist
- HOUSTON CHRONICLE
- LAW 360
- Miami Herald
- Reuters
- SLATE
- Examiner
- Santa Cruz Sentinel
- The Washington Post
- WCBI
“My parents were undocumented for a long time, and their experience gave me just a small view of the struggles many immigrants face in this country. I’m committed to working with asylum-seeking families to protect their rights.”

Dennise Moreno, ASAP Litigation Counsel
Staff and Board

ASAP is a woman-of-color led organization whose staff and Board of Directors are majority people of color, and majority first- or second-generation immigrants.

For a current list of ASAP’s staff, please visit:
https://asylumadvocacy.org/our-staff/

For a current list of ASAP’s Board of Directors, please visit:
https://asylumadvocacy.org/our-board/

Financials

ASAP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, whose EIN number is 83-3011862. Our 990 for this fiscal year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) will be available upon request at info@asylumadvocacy.org. All donations made to ASAP are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

To give to ASAP and support thousands of asylum-seeking families, please visit:
https://asylumadvocacy.org/donate/