



GEORGIA ASYLUM AND
IMMIGRATION NETWORK

Impact Report

2021

**Caring for our communities
through our biggest year yet.**



Collaboration + Innovation for Immigrant Survivors

The path to refuge in the United States is long and arduous. Our clients wait years for a decision on their case, and yet GAIN must respond swiftly and adapt to the emerging needs of our communities. Through a year of tremendous change, GAIN has emerged stronger and better prepared to provide the community response our clients deserve.

This year, GAIN mapped out a new strategic plan designed to invest more fully in our clients' needs, through and beyond their legal cases. We updated our mission statement to include the words *protect* and *empower* and shift the language we use to describe our clients from victims to *survivors*. With lessons learned from two years of virtual service delivery, we found new ways to work with our clients, volunteers, and supporters. We also expanded our programmatic reach from our Asylum and Victims of Violence programs to include short-term pro bono efforts, which provided Temporary Protected Status to 50 clients and humanitarian parole to over 200 displaced Afghans seeking refuge in the U.S.

GAIN has built new inroads through every step of this journey to reach additional clients and volunteers. In particular, our efforts for Afghan families through Project Ally would not have been possible without a more expansive volunteer service model. This service model allows us to rely upon the expertise of culturally-specific nonprofit partners, the guidance and support of our private immigration bar, and the dedication of our pro bono network and student volunteers from law schools across the nation.

As we reflect on 2021, we cannot ignore one remarkable result — every innovation, referral partnership, and responsive program that GAIN built in this unprecedented year led to an equally unprecedented number of clients served with holistic legal support.

Thank you
for bringing
us this far.



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Current as of the time
of publication

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

1,922

* CLIENTS + FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED IN 2021

678

INDIVIDUALS SERVED
THROUGH TRAINING + OUTREACH

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Afghanistan, Mexico, Venezuela,
Guatemala, Honduras

TOP 5 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Spanish, Dari, English, Arabic, French

LANGUAGE ACCESS

More than 75% of clients do not speak
English as their primary language.

SOCIAL SERVICE INTERVENTIONS



NEEDS
ASSESSMENTS



CRISIS
MANAGEMENT



CONFIDENTIAL
REFERRALS



GROCERY
ASSISTANCE



TRANSPORTATION
ASSISTANCE



BENEFITS
ASSISTANCE




LEGAL
NAVIGATION



MENTAL + MEDICAL
HEALTH ASSISTANCE

**Clients and family members are defined as the unduplicated individuals served by GAIN in 2021, including clients with legal matters, their family members, and inquiries/referrals. GAIN has recently improved our data collection methods and can now show our impact through family members and inquiries, which were not represented in our 2020 report data.*



GAIN clients are immigrant survivors of crime and persecution. "Farhad," filed for affirmative asylum in the U.S. because his religion prevented him from safely returning to his home country of Iran. Like him, many of our clients find it difficult to build safety and stability in the U.S. without secure immigration status. However, after working with GAIN, Farhad and his young daughter have new hope for the future.

For the privacy of our clients, photos have been changed.

“GAIN is a priceless gift, greater than anything I can imagine. If it weren't for your help, I am not sure what I would do. I do not have the words to tell you how truly fortunate I feel to have you in my life. Thank you for supporting us.”

Project Ally

In August 2021, in response to the crisis in Afghanistan, GAIN launched Project Ally, an emergency immigration relief effort for Afghan families in Georgia and beyond.

As a part of a coordinated community response, GAIN partnered with the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Georgia-Alabama Chapter and the Refugee Women's Network, to launch a local "hotline" to assess and assist the needs of Afghan families in Georgia. Calls quickly began to come in from across the world. To power our response, GAIN recruited additional assistance from local pro bono leaders and, through a partnership with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), volunteer student assistance from several of the country's top law schools. After just five months, Project Ally had filed over 200 humanitarian parole applications.

With our community by our side, GAIN has grown from our founding in 2005 as a volunteer project into a leading force in Georgia's humanitarian immigration landscape.

Short-term projects like this one are necessary innovations, born of the rising needs of immigrants in Georgia who might otherwise fall through the cracks of our legal system. Project Ally has become a shining example of GAIN's collaborative efforts with our partners to meet community needs, and our shared dedication to GAIN's vision of safety, freedom, and opportunity for all.

PROJECT ALLY PARTNERS



PROJECT ALLY RESPONSE

398 LEGAL SCREENINGS

219 HUMANITARIAN PAROLE APPLICATIONS FILED

164 FAMILIES ASSISTED

70 VOLUNTEERS

44% OF HUMANITARIAN PAROLE APPLICATIONS WERE FILED WITH PRO BONO SUPPORT

Asylum Program

GAIN was founded in 2005 as the Atlanta Asylum Bar Project to provide quality pro bono representation to asylum-seekers seeking refuge in the U.S. Today, our Asylum program continues to be a flagship effort for GAIN, serving hundreds of people every year who have been forced to flee their home countries due to harm and/or persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

167

TOTAL ACTIVE
ASYLUM CASES
IN 2021

Despite the effects of the ongoing pandemic, there remains significant community need for asylum services, and GAIN has stepped up to answer the call. In 2021, GAIN's Asylum program provided service for over 150 asylum cases. GAIN's team also provided expert technical assistance and guidance to our volunteer attorneys and our partners in the community, with guidance that covers case filings, court appearances, updates to Prosecutorial Discretion and Temporary Protected Status, and more.

130

DIRECT
REPRESENTATION

25

PLACED WITH
VOLUNTEER
ATTORNEYS

12

PENDING
(AWAITING PLACEMENT)



TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS PRO BONO PROJECT

When needed, GAIN's Asylum team creates short-term projects to address the emergent needs of our client communities. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a temporary form of relief for foreign nationals who are prevented from safely returning to certain countries. Our new TPS project created limited-scope pro bono opportunities to provide this relief to GAIN clients — many of whom are waiting for years to receive a decision on their asylum case. **GAIN prepared TPS filings in 2021 for 53 clients from Venezuela, Syria, and Burma (Myanmar).**

* This data reflects any case that was open at any time during 2021, including cases that were already open and were closed during 2021.

Victims of Violence Program

Founded in 2010, GAIN's Victims of Violence program provides access to quality immigration legal representation for survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other crimes.

Women, who comprise the vast majority of clients in the Victims of Violence program, are disproportionately affected by intimate partner abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking. GAIN's extensive experience with immigrant survivors in Georgia has shown that the impacts of trauma and continuous traumatic stress on immigrant women are often compounded by further experiences of abuse and isolation in the U.S. Despite being uniquely vulnerable to revictimization as well as income, food, and housing insecurity, immigrant survivors often hesitate to come forward due to fear of deportation, limited English proficiency, cultural barriers, and lack of access to resources. GAIN seeks to address these barriers by providing accessible, compassionate, trauma-informed service. In 2021, GAIN's Victims of Violence program provided service for over 120 cases, including filings for T-visa, U-visa, VAWA Self-Petitions, I-751 waivers, employment authorization, and more — all while providing expert technical assistance to our pro bono volunteers.

125

TOTAL ACTIVE
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE
CASES IN 2021

114

DIRECT
REPRESENTATION

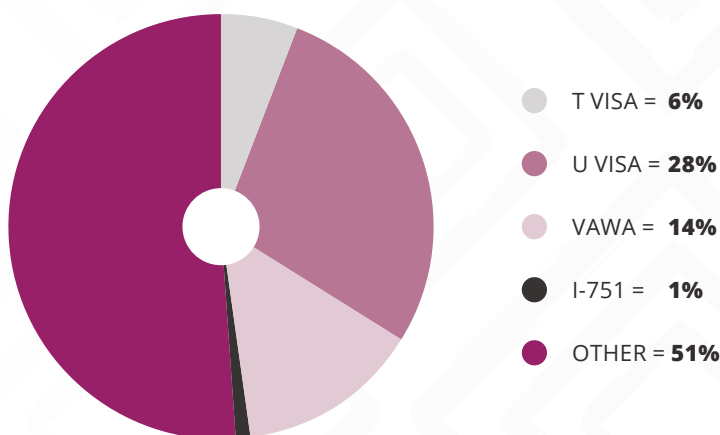
5

PLACED WITH
VOLUNTEER
ATTORNEYS

6

PENDING
(AWAITING PLACEMENT)

NEW VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CASES OPENED IN 2021



Did you know that in addition to our primary forms of relief, the Victims of Violence program assists our clients with adjustment of status, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) filings, employment authorization, and family reunification through consular processing?

**This data reflects any case that was open at any time during 2021, including cases that were already open and were closed during 2021.*

Community Partnerships

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Georgia-Alabama Chapter
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta (AAAJ)
Atlanta Bar Association
Atlanta Legal Aid Society (ALAS)
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF)
Caminar Latino
Catholic Charities Atlanta
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)
Cherokee Family Violence Center
CHRIS180
El Refugio
Georgia Human Rights Clinic, Emory University School of Medicine
Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP)
Grady Hospital
Helping Mamas
Housing Plus, Inc.
Innovation Law Lab
Inspiritus
The International Rescue Committee (IRC) Atlanta
J. McLaughlin
Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)
Latin American Association (LAA)
liveSAFE Resources
Los Vecinos de Buford Hwy
Lost-n-Found Youth
Mosaic Georgia
New American Pathways
New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta
Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV)
Raksha, Inc.
Refugee Women's Network
Rumi's Kitchen
Ser Familia
SisterLove
Tahirih Justice Center, Inc.
Tapestri
View Point Health, formerly known as CETPA

Coalitions

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV)
Georgia Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking
Georgia Immigration Collaborative
Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force
Mano a Mano
Victim Legal Assistance Network (VLAN)

GAIN + AILA

In 2021, we were so grateful to deepen our partnership with American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Georgia-Alabama Chapter. GAIN and AILA have been long standing partners in our efforts to address the needs of Georgia's immigrants. After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, AILA stepped up once again as a partner for our Project Ally relief effort, providing guidance, volunteer support, and funding to the project.



Photo credit: Levi Clancy, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons



2021 Grant Funders

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 Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA) Law Foundation
 Georgia Bar Foundation
 The Home Depot Foundation
 Homestead Foundation
 The Imlay Foundation
 Mark and Evelyn Trammell Foundation, Inc.
 UPS Foundation
 David, Helen and Marian Woodward Fund - Atlanta
 Women's Giving Circle Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation



GAIN'S Guardian Circle 2021

Guardian Circle is GAIN's first-ever giving society, launched in 2021 to recognize the generosity of individual donors who give at least \$1,000 to GAIN each year. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our GAIN Guardians!

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Powered by Pro Bono

Since our founding as a volunteer project in 2005, free legal services and pro bono support have been the cornerstones of our work at GAIN.

Pro bono service from volunteer attorneys allows us to multiply our impact and provide meaningful pro bono experience to attorneys across Georgia every year. GAIN is proud to lead the way with high quality training and technical assistance, building Georgia's capacity to provide culturally responsive legal service to immigrant survivors.

2,385 	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DONATED PRO BONO HOURS IN 2021
\$596,250	ESTIMATED FINANCIAL EQUIVALENT OF DONATED PRO BONO SERVICES IN 2021

Despite the difficulty of their filings, applicants for humanitarian immigration relief are not provided an attorney to assist them in their cases. As a nonprofit organization, GAIN provides civil legal aid to immigrant survivors, filling this gap and providing access to otherwise unobtainable representation for our clients. Immigration status is a stabilizing force in the lives of GAIN clients. Without it, many face additional barriers to their safety and stability, but the support GAIN provides can be as vital to our clients as their legal representation. From our short-term legal projects to our navigator model of support, GAIN strives to meet the needs of our clients through and beyond their legal case, while building new and innovative ways to serve our ever-evolving immigrant communities.

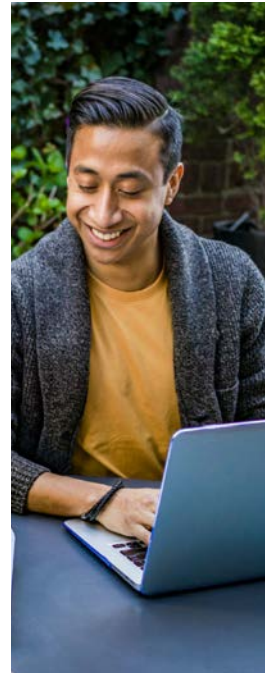
CLIENT SERVICES:

- Advice and counsel
- Crisis intervention
- Grocery assistance
- Employment authorization
- Immigration filings
- Language access services
- Needs assessment and community referrals for protective orders, housing, health assessments, and more

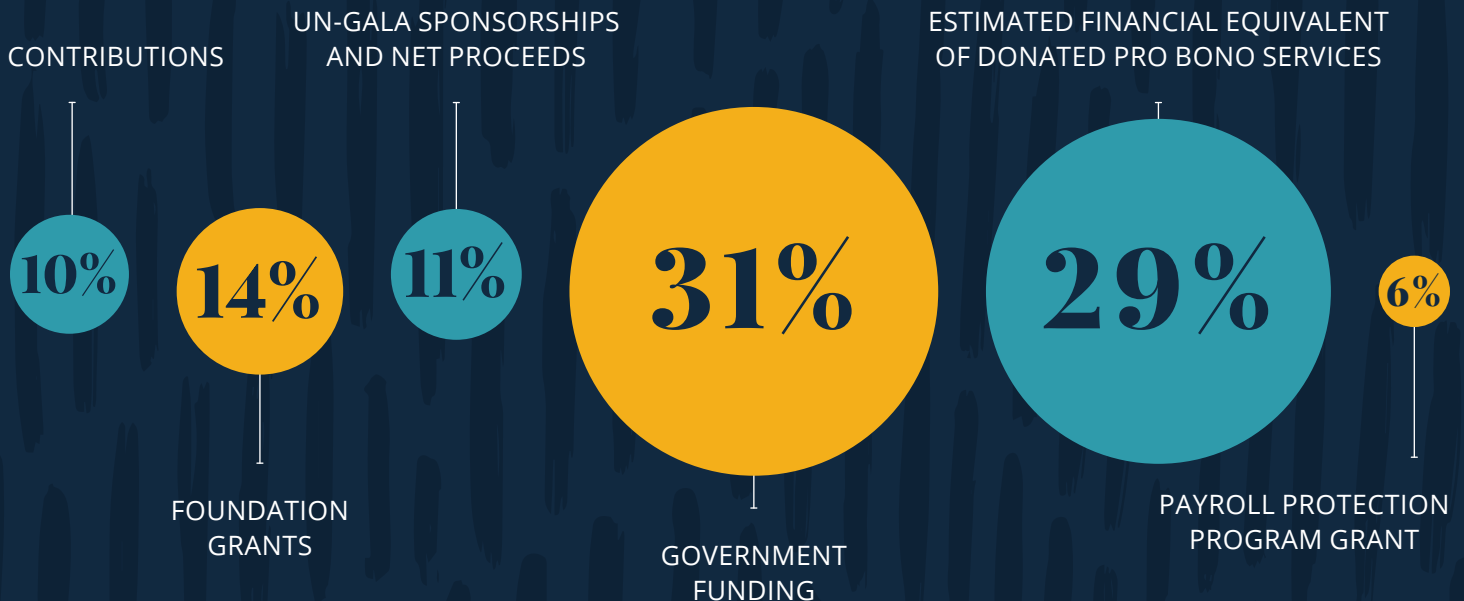
TYPES OF IMMIGRATION RELIEF

- **Affirmative Asylum and Defensive Asylum:**
 - Each provides support for survivors fleeing harm and persecution abroad
- **T-visa** for survivors of trafficking
- **U-visa** for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes
- **VAWA and I-751** for survivors of intimate partner violence perpetrated by U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents
- **Temporary Protected Status** for clients from countries experiencing armed conflict or natural disaster
- **Humanitarian Parole** for displaced Afghans seeking refuge in Georgia

Civil legal aid is the promise of our legal system to provide free legal assistance to low-and middle-income people, helping them access basic necessities such as health care, housing, government benefits, employment, and educational services. As President Barack Obama said, civil legal aid is “central to our nation of equal justice under the law.”



\$2,070,251 **TOTAL REVENUE** *(Includes \$596,250 in the estimated financial equivalent of donated pro bono services)*



\$1,696,540

TOTAL EXPENSE

(Includes \$596,250 in the estimated financial equivalent of donated pro bono services)



\$250	275
AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL GIFT	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD DONORS

Thank you to everyone who gave to GAIN and powered our work in 2021 — you helped make this our biggest year yet!

In 2021, GAIN saw another record-breaking year for our fundraising efforts, as our corporate, foundation, government, and individual funders invested in GAIN's work to provide access to justice for immigrant survivors. In particular, our 2021 virtual event, the Un-Gala, raised over \$200,000 for GAIN, largely through law firm and corporate sponsorships. We continued to maintain our pre-pandemic staffing levels while serving more clients than ever before. Our hybrid work model allowed us to meet clients across the state of Georgia while keeping costs streamlined. Additionally in 2021, GAIN invested in a move to our new office space, which provides a more cohesive working environment for our hybrid staff with less overall square footage than our previous offices.

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GAIN's mission is to protect and empower immigrant survivors of crime and persecution.