



GAIN

GEORGIA ASYLUM AND
IMMIGRATION NETWORK

IMPACT REPORT

2020

Safeguarding the Dignity of Those We Serve

During a year of tremendous uncertainty, GAIN remained a steady presence in our community. In 2020, we transitioned to a fully virtual model of legal service provision, created new opportunities for volunteers, and invested in the necessary, ongoing work of building a more inclusive workplace for our staff and a more client-informed lens for our storytelling.

We are, and will continue to be, one of Georgia's leading providers of pro bono immigration support, guiding volunteer attorneys through meaningful legal work that can help shape the trajectory of our clients' lives. At GAIN, we also believe our work should transcend basic legal services to account for the comprehensive needs of our clients and the everyday struggles that often prevent families from achieving safety and stability.

Our clients faced incredible obstacles with dignity and resilience — against the backdrop of painful incidents of violence and racial injustice as well as a pandemic that disproportionately impacted families who were already struggling. In response, we pivoted in ways that were essential to keep our clients and their needs at the center of our work, as we connected our clients with over \$200,000 in emergency relief to pay for rent, groceries, utilities, and other essentials. We also began taking steps towards a new strategic plan that will transform GAIN's work to allow for broader impact and a more comprehensive and empowering vision of client care.

Together—with the trust of our clients, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the guidance of our board and advisory board, and the confidence of our partners, donors, and supporters—we will continue to protect and empower immigrant survivors in the coming year and beyond. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

With gratitude,



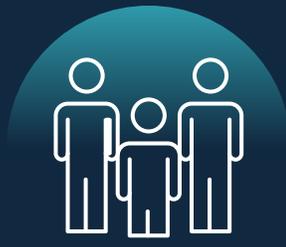
A handwritten signature in black ink.

Alpa Amin
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Radha S. Manthe
GAIN Board of Directors
Chairperson, 2020-2021



573

CLIENTS SERVED IN 2020

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

MEXICO, VENEZUELA,
HONDURAS, GUATEMALA,
NIGERIA

415

LEGAL MATTERS IN 2020



472

CLIENTS SERVED
THROUGH SOCIAL
SERVICES

TOP 5 LANGUAGES SPOKEN



SPANISH
ENGLISH
ARABIC
PORTUGUESE
HINDI

\$213,079

CLIENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

GAIN provides free immigration legal services to victims of crime and persecution.

1,676

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED





“

With the help from GAIN, we are so blessed. Thank you for everything you guys do for all people in need. I am a fighter and survivor. I won't give up. No mountain is too high for me to climb. One day, I will give back the blessings you have given me.

- Survivor of domestic violence and GAIN client

”

Since the onset of the pandemic, GAIN has connected our clients with over \$200,000 in emergency relief.

In spring 2020, mandated stay-at-home orders interrupted our traditional in-person model of client assistance and legal training. As a result, GAIN's staff pivoted to provide our programs online. Our full services are now available in the virtual space, a move which allowed us to expand access to our services in rural areas and address our clients' language, tech, and cultural barriers in order to offer relief.



Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, GAIN clients have overwhelmingly suffered from income loss and housing insecurity, and they have largely been left out of the federal stimulus relief that is available to others. GAIN responded by retooling our Client Empowerment Fund to provide immediate financial relief for clients in crisis. Our social service navigators went to work identifying needs and providing a surge of direct relief for hundreds of our clients. By the end of 2020, GAIN had connected our clients with over \$200,000 in emergency relief.



HOUSING SECURITY

Rent/mortgage for **58** families (many of them for three months or more)

Thanks in large part to our partners at New Story's the Neighborhood initiative, which provided rent relief funding for over 40 GAIN families.



UTILITY PAYMENTS

Utility payments for over **30** families



TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

37 donated laptops to enable children's online learning



FOOD SECURITY

\$15,000 in grocery store gift cards



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Over **\$3,300** in legal assistance, including filing fees and related expenses

** Data represents relief provided during the calendar year ending December 31, 2020.*

Asylum is particularly difficult to access in Georgia, and without an attorney, asylum-seekers are significantly less likely to win their case.

123

TOTAL ACTIVE
ASYLUM PROGRAM
CASES

GAIN Asylum Program

Like refugees, asylum-seekers are searching for protection from past persecution in their home country, or a well-founded fear of persecution, based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Asylum is particularly difficult to access in Georgia, and without an attorney, asylum-seekers are significantly less likely to win their case. Through several tumultuous years of immigration law and policy changes which targeted asylum-seekers, GAIN has helped our clients and our volunteer attorneys navigate the immigration system.

44

DIRECT
REPRESENTATION

THE 5 PROTECTED GROUNDS FOR ASYLUM

- race
- religion
- nationality
- political opinion
- membership in a particular social group



71

PLACED WITH
VOLUNTEER
ATTORNEYS

Backlogs and processing times for asylum cases grew substantially throughout 2020, causing delays in adjudication. The national immigration court backlog — which had grown to over 1 million cases by the end of the year — also negatively affected asylum-seekers' ability to apply for employment authorizations, which make a critical difference in the lives of our clients.

GAIN's Asylum program assists immigrants fleeing harm and persecution abroad.

8

PENDING

(Awaiting placement as
of 12/31/2020)

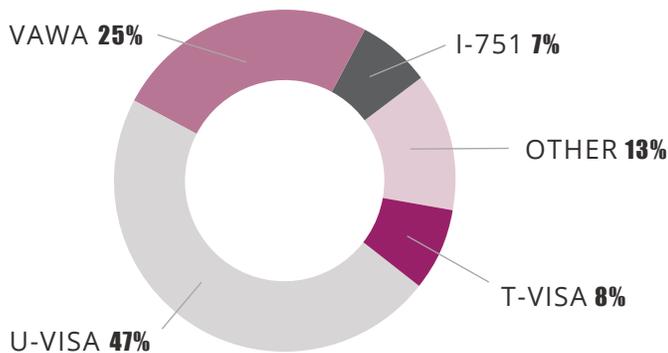
* This data reflects any case that was open at any time during 2020, including cases that were already open and were closed during 2020.

In 2020, the United Nations deemed global violence against women and girls during COVID-19 as a “Shadow Pandemic.”

GAIN Victims of Violence Program

GAIN’s Victims of Violence program ensures that immigrant survivors and victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes have access to quality legal representation for their immigration matters. Without immigration status, survivors are at risk of re-victimization, and GAIN’s work is crucial to our clients’ ability to remain safe and free from exploitation. By screening cases, placing them with trained volunteer attorneys, and providing advice and mentorship, we assist a number of Victims of Violence clients each year — providing critical access to otherwise unobtainable legal representation.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CASES IN 2020



Like many organizations working with survivors, GAIN saw a sharp decline in reporting for domestic violence during the first months of the pandemic as our clients’ fear of coming forward reached a peak. Yet, several national reports showed an alarming increase in domestic violence cases which were

going unreported as stay-at-home orders made it difficult for victims to escape their abusers. In 2020, while the United Nations deemed global violence against women and girls during COVID-19 as a “Shadow Pandemic,” GAIN worked with over 137 survivors of intimate partner violence in our Victims of Violence program.

114

TOTAL ACTIVE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CASES

56

DIRECT REPRESENTATION

45

PLACED WITH VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

10

PENDING

(Awaiting placement as of 12/31/2020)

*This data reflects any case that was open at any time during 2020, including cases that were already open and were closed during 2020.

PARTNERS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Alianza Terapéutica Latina
American Immigration Lawyers Association,
Georgia-Alabama Chapter (AILA)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta
Atlanta Bar Association
Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Bethany Christian Services
Caminar Latino
Catholic Charities Atlanta
Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS)
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)
Chai Pani
Cherokee Family Violence Center
CHRIS 180
Day League
El Refugio
Financial Planning Association of Georgia
Friends of Refugees
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Inc. (GAPABA)
Georgia Human Rights Clinic, Emory University
School of Medicine
Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP)
The GreenHouse Child Advocacy & Sexual Assault Center
Helping Mamas
House of Globalization
Housing Plus, Inc.
Innovation Law Lab
Inspiritus
The International Rescue Committee (IRC) Atlanta
International Women's House
Jewish Family & Career Services
The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.
Karibu Community Legacy
Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)
Latin American Association (LAA)
Latino Community Fund Georgia
Latino Linq
liveSAFE Resources, Inc.
Los Vecinos de Buford Hwy
Lost-n-Found Youth
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs — Welcoming Atlanta
Mosaic Georgia
New American Pathways
New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta
New Story
Noor Family Services Corporation
Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV)
Raksha Inc.
Refugee Women's Network
The Rho Zeta Omega Chapter
of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Ser Familia, Inc.
Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy Center
South Asian Bar Association (SABA-GA)
Southern Poverty Law Center
Tahirih Justice Center, Inc.
Tapestri, Inc.
View Point Health, formerly known as CEPTA
Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence
Working Films
youthSpark



2020 LABOR TRAFFICKING REPORT

Labor trafficking accounts for the largest form of human trafficking worldwide, and in 2016, it impacted nearly 24.9 million people around the world. GAIN partnered with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force for the groundbreaking 2020 Labor Trafficking Roundtable Report, which was released in the fall. The report includes recommendations and action steps to both combat labor trafficking and support survivors in Georgia, and it has already led to new initiatives in the state.

PARTNERS

2020 GRANT FUNDERS

Anonymous
AEC Trust
Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Fund
Getz Mitchell Family Foundation
Henry and Constance Short Fund
The Kinship With All Beings Fund
The Zera Allen Fund
The Pennera Charitable Fund
Georgia Bar Foundation
Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund
National Association of Asian Americans Professionals (NAAAP) Atlanta
New Story
Ray Solem Foundation
United Way of Greater Atlanta
UPS Foundation

COALITIONS

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



HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS

In 2020, GAIN made strides to strengthen our relationships with our local medical community. GAIN deepened its partnership with the Georgia Human Rights Clinic (GHRC) at Emory School of Medicine. GHRC provides free physical and psychological evaluations for GAIN asylum-seekers and victims of crime. These evaluations help identify mental health needs, draw correlations between diagnoses and past trauma, and identify gaps in memory. Most importantly, medical evaluations lend credibility to a client's voice and lived experience. Evaluations can be the first step in identifying the need for ongoing mental health services and providing clients with culturally appropriate/responsive referrals to these services.

GAIN also partnered with the Center for Victims of Torture to present about the issues immigrants face at the annual meeting of the Georgia Psychological Association, and worked with the Emory School of Public Health for a Rapid Community Health Needs Assessment. Last fall, the School of Public Health developed a screening tool to better equip our staff in detecting mental health needs for our clients.

Since 2005, GAIN and our volunteer attorneys have provided millions of dollars in free legal services.

At GAIN, our work has always been built on partnership and service. From our founding as a volunteer project to today, we depend on our partnerships to power our work. In 2020, over 200 volunteer attorneys held active cases with the immigrant survivors we serve. These dedicated attorneys become a part of their clients' lives, often going above and beyond in service of the clients they represent. We like to say that we are *inspired by our clients and powered by pro bono* because with our volunteer attorneys, we have been able to exponentially increase our impact across the state.



HOW DOES GAIN PROVIDE IMMIGRATION RELIEF?

FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS

- Affirmative asylum
- Defensive Asylum
- Board of Immigration Appeals and 11th Circuit Appeals

FOR SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- T-Visa

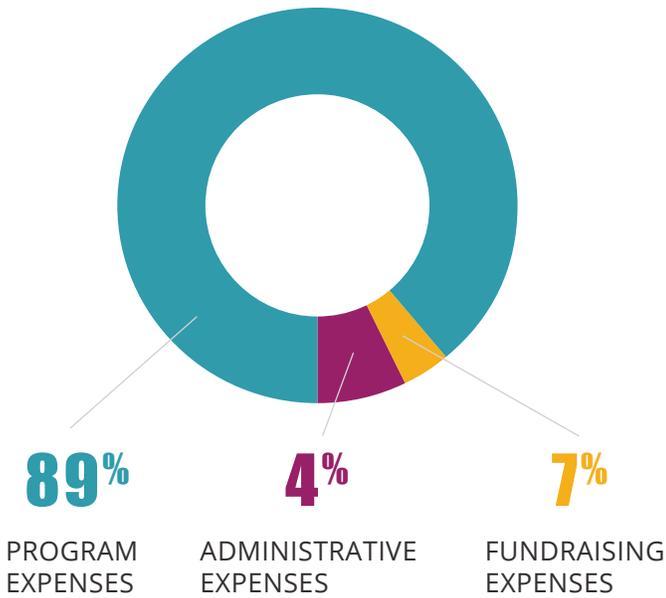
FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE

- U-visa
- VAWA self-petition
- Battered spouse waiver

SUPPORTING SERVICES

- Applications for employment authorization
- Consular processing
- Interpretation and translation
- Legal research and writing
- Expert testimony
- Forensic evaluations
- Social service needs assessments and referrals
- Emergency financial assistance during COVID-19 pandemic

FINANCIALS



Including the estimated equivalent of **\$462,500** in donated pro bono services, GAIN's 2020 expense and revenue are as follows:

\$1,616,851

*TOTAL EXPENSE

\$1,674,649

*TOTAL REVENUE

**Unaudited financial numbers*

At GAIN, we have always leveraged partnerships to create a big impact with limited resources. In 2020, our total cash expenses totaled \$1,154,351. We added direct financial relief to our work in order to meet a surge of need from our communities; 18% of our expenses went directly to our clients through our Client Empowerment Fund. This feat was made possible because of our partnerships with local and national nonprofit and funding organizations, whose generosity enabled us to send \$213,079 to our clients in the form of grocery gift cards, rent payments directly to their landlords, and other emergency relief. With a people-powered model like ours, GAIN keeps our operating expenses low to focus on the staff positions that make our work possible. 56% of GAIN's 2020 expenses funded personnel costs, which is down slightly from our average of 65-75% due to our increased expenses for client assistance.



Thanks to our donors and supporting organizations, our total cash revenue totaled \$1,212,149 in 2020. We enhanced our services for victims of crime through \$508,010 in federal funding. After the pandemic forced us to cancel our 2020 Go Formal for Freedom Gala, our generous donors and sponsors made it possible to retain almost all of our raised funds and save on expenses through our first-ever virtual Un-Gala. We were also proud to have the support of our corporate and law firm community, whose contributions totaled \$212,070 through event sponsorships and outright donations.

GAIN LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Casey | Chairperson
UPS

Darcy White | Vice-Chairperson
Jones Day

Alex Drummond | Secretary
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Darragh Wright | Treasurer
Sharecare

Radha Manthe | Immediate Past Chair
King & Spalding LLP

Liza Akins
ARCO Design/Build

Keith J. Barnett
Troutman Pepper

Christina Buensuceso
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP

Jeremy Burnette
Akerman, LLP

Amanda Hiffa Dondero
Availity

Pedro Dorado
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP

Jeffrey H. Fisher
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton

Joseph Hellrung
NCR

Dana Hudson
The Home Depot

Cassie Johnson
Alston & Bird

Kristie Klein
Southern Company

Kim Kleinhans
Comcast

Kurt E. Lentz
Truist

Emily Torstveit Ngara
Georgia State University College of Law

Garland Reid
Delta Air Lines

Nadia Sarangi
InterContinental Hotels Group

Anu Seam
AT&T

Amy Zeidan, MD
Emory University School of Medicine

ADVISORY BOARD

Cheryl Naja | Co-Chair
Alston & Bird

Elizabeth Finn Johnson | Co-Chair
The Coca-Cola Company (retired)

Susan Coppedge
Krevolin & Horst

Jeff Dutson
King & Spalding

Heather Fenton
The Fenton Group (retired)

Sarah Hawk
Barnes & Thornburg

William E. Hoffmann, Jr.
King & Spalding (retired)

Soon Mee Kim
Omnicom Public Relations Group

Byron Kirkpatrick
Troutman Pepper

Kip Kirkpatrick
Alston & Bird (retired)

Tracie Klinke
Klinke Immigration

Charlie Lester
Eversheds Sutherland (retired)

Mark Newman
Troutman Pepper (retired)

Linda Parrish
King & Spalding (retired)

Tom Rawls
AT&T (retired)

Rebecca Reynolds
Jones Day

Debbie Segal
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton (Of Counsel)

Jane Thorpe
Alston & Bird (retired)

Michael Weiss
Caroll & Weiss

Note: Board listings reflect the membership at the time of report publication.



georgiaasylum.org
info@georgiaasylum.org
678-335-6040

