



GAIN

GEORGIA ASYLUM AND
IMMIGRATION NETWORK



Impact
Report

2022

Every day, GAIN works toward an ambitious mission — to protect and empower immigrant survivors of crime and persecution. For the clients we serve, our immigration legal services can be the difference between exploitation and safety, or between peril and refuge. This annual impact report examines the ways that 2022 shaped our organization and our community.

Through a year of dedicated service, GAIN has innovated and strengthened our programs, building impact in a changing world. Our staff continues to reach new heights, expanding the number of clients served and building new inroads for pro bono volunteers, while positioning GAIN as a leader in compassionate, culturally-responsive, and trauma-informed legal service. In 2022, we shattered our record for clients served once again, finding new ways to serve the communities that need us. We continued to invest in our immigration relief effort for Afghan nationals, Project Ally, building new partnerships and programs. To do this, GAIN has built capacity in our volunteer networks and our community partners, providing extensive training and limited-scope pro bono programming, like our Saturday immigration clinic that served nearly 500 resettled Afghan nationals in 2022. And we also expanded the capacity and strength of our flagship Asylum and Victims of Violence programs, adding new legal staff and fostering collaboration with partners across the state to ensure that immigrant survivors have a place to turn for support.

Despite the profound need for our services, the legal landscape continues to shift beneath our clients' feet. Legal volunteering for long-term immigration cases continues to decline, and the law and policy landscape has seen change after change, particularly for asylum-seekers. GAIN is here to ensure that our clients have a resource and the expertise they need to advocate for themselves and their families. Thank you for being a part of our work and their journey towards safety, freedom, and opportunity.



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Executive Director



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GAIN Board of Directors

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Alpa Amin
Executive Director

Adriana Heffley
Director of Legal Services

Kate McNeely
Director of Development

William E. Hoffmann, Jr.
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Rafaela Alvarez
Operations Manager

Zuhra Aziz
Equal Justice Works Fellow

Amy Barber
Legal Fellow

Priscila Barravecchia
Project Coordinator

Kole Bowman
Paralegal

Liliana Castillo-Esquivel
Legal Assistant

Mariana Cruz
Navigator

Karla Diaz
Victims of Violence Attorney

Melinda Ellington
Program Coordinator

Serene Hawasli Kashlan
Managing Attorney

Manuel Lleras
Paralegal

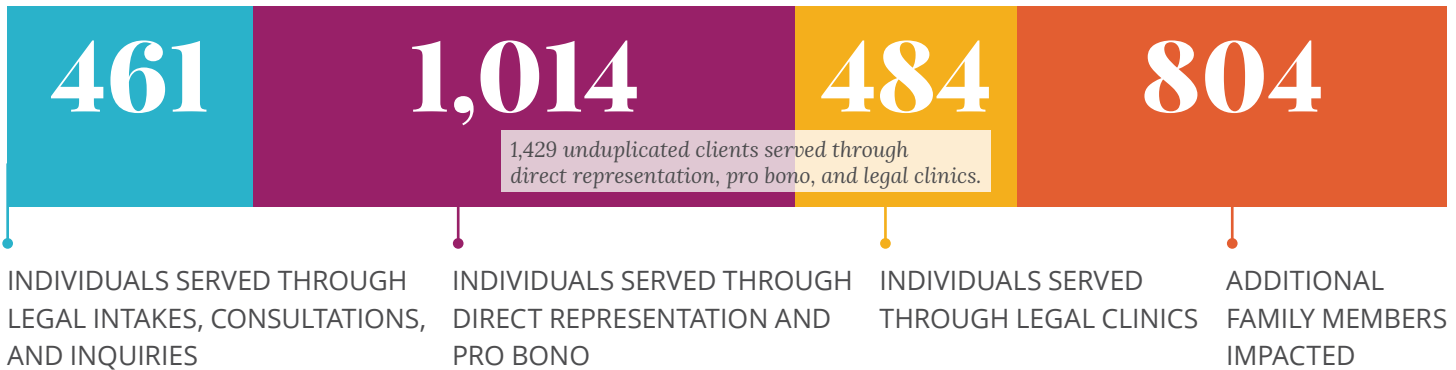
Iris Mahan
Grants Manager

Amir Naim
Staff Attorney

Adewunmi Oke
Development Manager

Our Total Impact

2,694 People Served



INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH LEGAL INTAKES, CONSULTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH DIRECT REPRESENTATION AND PRO BONO

INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH LEGAL CLINICS

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS IMPACTED

1,500

INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH TRAINING, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION



77

CLIENT COUNTRIES

9



PRO SE ASYLUM CLINICS CONDUCTED FOR AFGHAN NATIONALS

Top 5 Countries of Origin

Afghanistan, Mexico, Venezuela, Honduras, Guatemala

Top 5 Languages Spoken

Spanish, English, Dari, Pashto, Arabic

Language Access

Over half of GAIN's clients require an interpreter, and 81% do not speak English as their primary language.





“The approval of my visa was something that changed my life forever. I want to thank GAIN for all the help that you gave me. I am so grateful.”

- Victims of Violence client

Victims of Violence Program

Added in 2010, the Victims of Violence program enabled GAIN to become a powerful force for survivors in Georgia — especially women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by certain types of violent crimes.

The Victims of Violence program supports the needs of immigrants who have been victims of crime in the U.S., including survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other crimes. Now a flagship program for GAIN, Victims of Violence has sustained a remarkable success rate of over 95% in case decisions for more than ten years of operation. By providing immigrant victims access to otherwise unobtainable legal representation, GAIN and our volunteer attorneys help our clients to rebuild the foundation of their lives — empowering them to leave abusive/exploitative situations, reunite with loved ones, and access the tools they need for ongoing safety and stability.

In 2022, GAIN’s Victims of Violence program provided legal services for hundreds of crime survivors — all while providing expert technical assistance to our pro bono volunteers.

245

cases served through direct representation and pro bono placement

642

total legal matters

27

individuals granted a visa or other pathway to immigration status

7

families reunited through consular processing

63+*

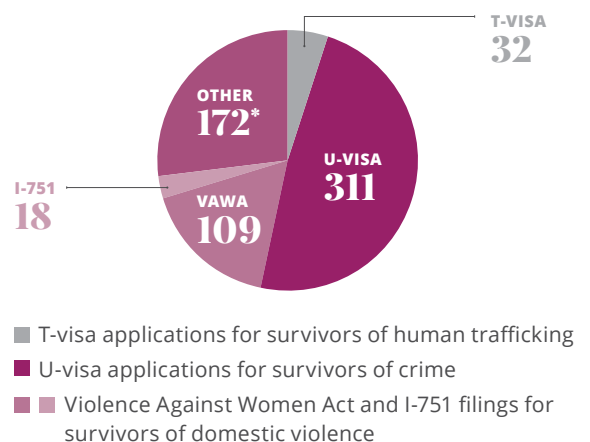
employment authorization document (EAD) filings

** Please note that some legal remedies provide automatic authorization for EADs.*

Beyond Immigration Relief

The immigration relief GAIN secures for our clients provides not only legal status, but also freedom from abuse and exploitation, serving as a critical building block for survivors as they create new lives in the United States. Through our legal services, GAIN is proud to be a part of each survivor’s story. As we work together, they can gain freedom from abusers, who may have used their immigration status, financial situation, or access to critical identification documents as a form of power and control against them. For example, T-visa approvals can ensure that survivors of labor trafficking can remain in the U.S., and they can also help clients who have faced exploitation to obtain work permits, allowing them the opportunity to build self-sufficiency in work and in life — something that may have been denied to them by abusers.

2022 Victims of Violence Case Types



** Includes adjustment of status, consular processing, employment authorization, etc.*

Project Ally Legal Clinics for Afghans

Since August 2021, Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN) has helped lead the way in responding to the crisis in Afghanistan through Project Ally, an emergency response project serving over 1,000 Afghan nationals.

As 2022 began, our team was finalizing the humanitarian parole filings we prepared for hundreds of Afghans after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. However, as the crisis evolved, we found that we needed to build a new mechanism to serve our community. **In 2022, GAIN partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Atlanta to host monthly legal clinics for Afghan nationals who were brought to Georgia through Operation Allies Welcome's humanitarian parole initiative.** These clinics provided pro se assistance with asylum applications to Afghans on one Saturday each month, helping them begin their asylum process by mapping out their declaration — an important first step in the process. With our Asylum team's expert guidance, GAIN created a replicable model which includes extensive training and project management resources for our partners, and ensures that our clinics are informed by the best practices in immigration law practice. The impact numbers below reflect work done in 2022; however, GAIN and IRC Atlanta have continued to serve this community in 2023 through Temporary Protected Status (TPS) clinics and additional support.

“While the last several years have presented historic challenges, GAIN and their compassionate and talented staff have stood alongside those most impacted. The IRC in Atlanta has been lucky to partner with GAIN to ensure that vulnerable community members understand their legal rights and are able to avail themselves of the protections offered by the US legal system. Partnering with GAIN has further validated my belief that adequately serving the community requires partnerships that allow organizations to leverage their collective expertise and resources, resulting in synergistic effects that truly change lives.”

- Justin Howell, Executive Director,
International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Atlanta

Project Ally Asylum Clinics by the numbers:

484

CLIENTS
SERVED

121

CLINIC
VOLUNTEERS

* Includes repeat volunteers

830+

LEGAL SCREENINGS
CONDUCTED BY GAIN
AND OUR PARTNERS



Asylum Program

The Asylum program was GAIN’s first project, started in 2005 in response to low representation rates in Georgia’s immigration courts, which are among the toughest in the nation.

Today, our staff works tirelessly to provide legal representation for immigrants fleeing harm and persecution abroad, such as political imprisonment, gender-based violence, and torture. Our clients, who have been forced to flee their home countries, now face an exceptionally complex asylum system in the U.S. Through collaboration on their case, GAIN helps our clients understand asylum law and empowers them to build a winning case for this vital form of protection. In addition to their ongoing casework, GAIN’s Asylum team helps build capacity in our community to address the effects of global crises. For example, they were instrumental in creating a clearinghouse of training materials for Project Ally, our Afghan relief effort, and have led the way across the state by providing technical assistance on asylum cases to our community partners.



In 2022, GAIN’s Asylum team provided immigration support and expertise to clients and organizations across the state. The team was instrumental in building GAIN’s Project Ally clinic program, while providing representation to our clients with:

158	34	45	985	175	142	17
in-house cases for affirmative or defensive asylum	affirmative or defensive asylum cases placed with pro bono attorneys	full asylum cases for Afghan nationals who participated in our Project Ally clinic program	total legal matters	employment authorization document (EAD) filings	TPS applications	individuals granted asylum in the U.S.

“I have been working with GAIN for the last six years on a long-running asylum representation, which we recently won. The GAIN staff is wonderful – from their paralegals and navigators, to staff attorneys and leadership, they are always responsive, thoughtful, and more than willing to jump in to share their expertise. The humanity the GAIN team shows and shares with these most vulnerable newcomers to America is something we could all emulate a little more. It is an absolute privilege to work and make a real impact alongside such an incredible organization.”

- Corey J. Goerd, Director of Pro Bono & Community Engagement, Fisher & Phillips LLP

Community Partners

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Georgia-Alabama Chapter
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta
Atlanta Bar Association
Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Caminar Latino
Catholic Charities Atlanta
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)
Chai Pani
Cherokee Family Violence Center
CHRIS 180
El Refugio
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
Georgia Human Rights Clinic, Emory University School of Medicine
Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP)
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama, ¡HICA!
House of Globalization
Inspiritus
The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Atlanta
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Coalitions

Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies (CRSA)
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV)
Georgia Immigration Collaborative
Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force
Mano a Mano
Welcome.US
Victim Legal Assistance Network (VLAN)

Latin American Association (LAA)
liveSAFE Resources
Los Vecinos de Buford Highway
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs - Welcoming Atlanta
Mosaic Georgia
New American Pathways
Noor Family Services Corporation
Raksha Inc.
Refugee Women's Network
Ser Familia
Southern Poverty Law Center
Sur Legal
Tahirih Justice Center, Inc.
Tapestri

Community Partner Highlight: Equal Justice Works Fellowship

In late 2021, GAIN applied for an Equal Justice Works fellowship with then-volunteer Zuhra Aziz. A recent graduate of Emory Law School and an Afghan-American woman, Zuhra was already helping to power GAIN's Afghan relief efforts through volunteer service, working after hours and on weekends to help as many people as she could. The fellowship, funded by State Farm, has allowed Zuhra and GAIN to expand the Project Ally program by conducting legal clinics with local resettlement agency partners and building collaboration with Afghan nationals in Atlanta to serve these clients — not only at GAIN, but across our communities.



Grant Funders

Atlanta Bar Foundation

Anonymous

Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation

Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA) Law Foundation

Georgia Bar Foundation

Georgia Power Foundation

Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust

The HBB Foundation

Homestead Foundation

The Herb Block Foundation

International Rescue Committee-Atlanta

Ray Solem Foundation

Trinity Presbyterian Church

The UPS Foundation

Welcome Fund, a program of Welcome.US

Guardian Circle

Guardian Circle is GAIN's giving society, launched in 2021 to recognize the generosity of individual donors who give at least \$1,000 to GAIN each year. Thank you, GAIN Guardians!



Liza & Jonathan Akins

Lori Anderson

Anonymous

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Christina Buensuceso & Stuart White

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Diana Sarju Kim & Moses Kim

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Sidney Simms

Andrea N. Smith

Ryan & Brittany Summers

Michael & Heather Turton

Darcy & Tom White

Darragh Wright

Amy & Ronnie Zeidan

Securing Access to Justice

Many survivors in Georgia face the immigration legal system alone, and often without the guidance they need to understand the challenges ahead or the remedies available to them. Together with our legal partners, GAIN continues to lead the way in pro bono immigration services across the state, ensuring that survivors are supported through every step of their legal journeys.

GAIN's work is complex because our clients have complex needs. For the volunteers who help power our work, GAIN's pro bono opportunities are designed to include full scope cases across multiple forms of immigration relief, as well as short and medium-term opportunities, all while working to reduce barriers to entry and ensure our volunteers feel confident in their work and abilities.

GAIN has created an innovative menu of opportunities with countless ways to get involved and serve our immigrant neighbors in Georgia. For example, GAIN's limited-scope pro se clinics provide an energizing introduction to our work that also brings immense value to immigrant participants. During our pro se clinics, volunteers forge meaningful connections with participants and witness first-hand the importance of their pro bono work to our clients. These short-term opportunities increase volunteers' investment in GAIN's work. Many clinic volunteers have gone on to take on full-scope representation of other GAIN cases.

But access to justice is more than access to representation. For GAIN, it means working with a culturally-responsive and trauma-informed lens, safeguarding the dignity of our clients, and considering the hurdles they face as they work with us. Language access, for example, can be one of the most important tools in GAIN's arsenal. Our staff is multilingual, and works hands-on with translators to: provide interpretation support; conduct intakes and phone calls; attend in-person consultations/interviews with our clients; translate personal documents and evidence; and help clients to understand their case and complete applications. There are no small victories at GAIN, and we celebrate every step forward our clients take as we work with them to rebuild their lives and create new futures.

Client Services:

- Immigration filings
- Employment authorization
- Language access services
- Advice and counsel
- Social service interventions

Types of Immigration Relief:

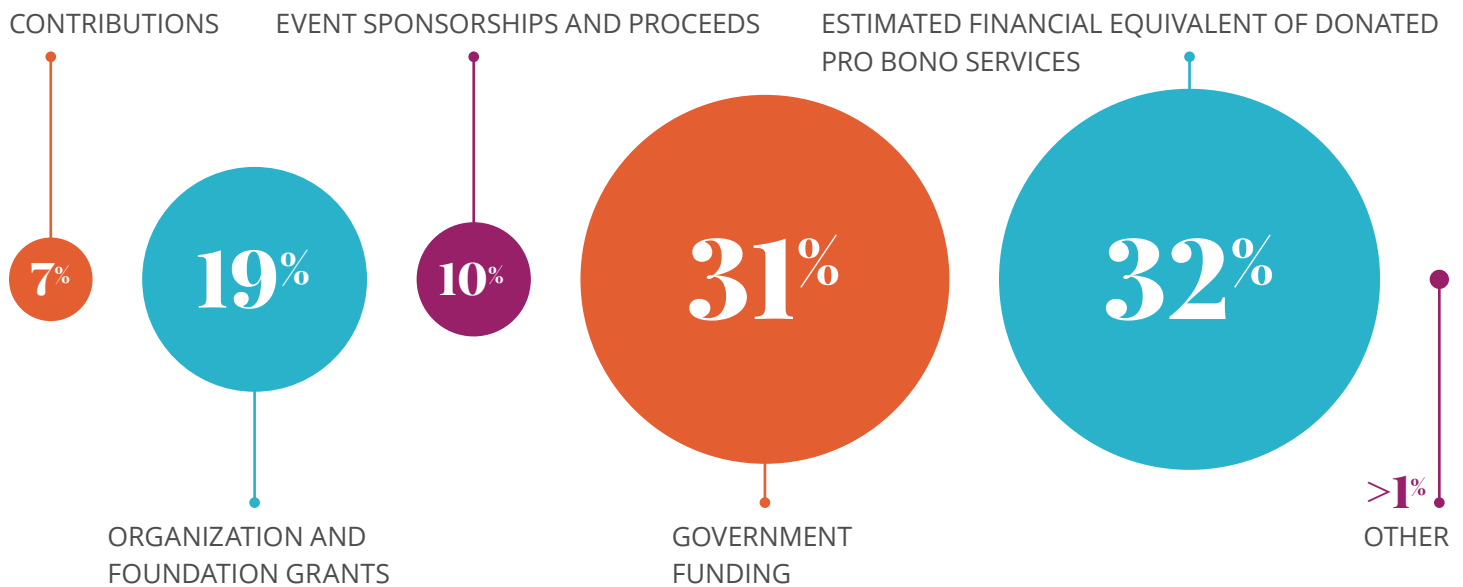
- **Defensive Asylum, Affirmative Asylum and Pro Se Asylum** support for survivors fleeing harm and persecution abroad
- **T-visa** for survivors of trafficking
- **U-visa** for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes
- **VAWA and I-751** for survivors of domestic violence perpetrated by U.S. 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

Social Service Interventions:

- Needs assessments
- Confidential referrals
- Legal navigation
- Medical and mental health assistance
- Crisis management
- Benefits assistance
- Emergency financial assistance

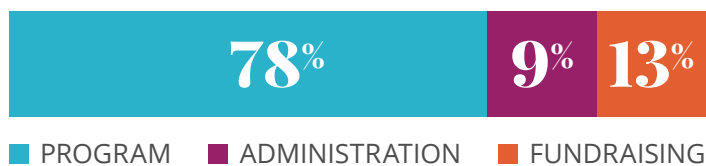
Total Revenue - \$2,187,839

* Includes \$710,448 in the estimated financial equivalent of donated pro bono services



Total Expense - \$2,024,980

* Includes \$710,448 in the estimated financial equivalent of donated pro bono services



Donors

\$300	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD GIFT
177	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD DONORS
3,243	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DONATED PRO BONO HOURS IN 2022
\$710,448	ESTIMATED FINANCIAL EQUIVALENT OF DONATED PRO BONO SERVICES IN 2022

Expanding Services through Revenue Growth

In 2022, GAIN invested in client service by adding critically-important new positions to our legal team. With these new staff positions in place, we were able to provide assistance to more clients than ever before. But growth must be sustained, so GAIN also added to our small fundraising team. Together, we were able to secure GAIN’s first-ever direct federal grant for our victim service work, as well as several additional grant partnerships to help power our shared community response. Additionally, GAIN was able to depend on our supporters to help us build capacity in 2022. We brought back our in-person annual fundraising event after two years of virtual events, and our corporate and law firm sponsorships rose to over \$215,000 for the first time ever. We also held our strongest individual giving campaign yet, including our top-producing Giving Tuesday effort ever, while our Guardian Circle members list increased in the giving society’s second year.

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Lists current as of May 2023

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Stockton *(Of Counsel)*

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