



2020-2021 Annual Report





Our Mission

The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) sees a future where the United States welcomes individuals fleeing violence. We work alongside our members — more than 100,000 asylum seekers — to make this vision a reality.



Letter from Executive Directors

Dear friends,

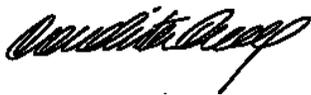
Here at ASAP, we find ourselves in a moment of tremendous promise. Since we last wrote to you, ASAP has grown to become the largest organized membership of asylum seekers in the United States. Today, over 100,000 asylum seekers from nearly every country in the world are connecting with vital services and fighting for their futures as members of ASAP.

This past year has proven that when we stand together, we win. After the Trump administration restricted asylum seekers' ability to work legally in the United States, ASAP's members filed a federal lawsuit that won those rights back.

Since then, over 70,000 asylum seekers have received their work permits and Social Security numbers because they are members of ASAP. And members like Leticia Peren are speaking out and leading nationwide movements to defend asylum seekers' rights.

ASAP is so proud to be supporting 100,000 asylum seekers on their journeys toward safety. We look to the future with great hope and excitement, and we remain so grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



Conchita Cruz



Swapna Reddy

“ Last year, I was not able to get a work permit. I did not know what to do. Then I was able to get my work permit because of ASAP, and I am slowly getting back on my feet. ”

A new ASAP member from **Turkey**. Over 70,000 asylum seekers have received work permits since joining ASAP this year.

ASAP's members are

100,000 asylum seekers

from **175** countries.



“ My own experiences navigating the complex and often cruel U.S. immigration system have been the guiding light of my career. ”

Leidy Perez-Davis, ASAP Policy Director. Leidy is an expert immigration attorney who came to the U.S. as an unaccompanied and undocumented minor.

Melinda's Story

For most asylum seekers, a work permit is a lifeline.

ASAP member Melinda, a single mother from Guatemala, knew this well. In June 2020, the Trump Administration blocked asylum seekers from getting work permits.

Melinda began to feel demoralized. How could she focus on her asylum case when she had to figure out how to pay for rent, groceries, and basic necessities for herself and her two children?



Rather than give up, Melinda worked alongside thousands of ASAP members to sue the federal government, demanding that asylum seekers get back their access to work permits.

Melinda's story was placed at the center of the complaint, and she spoke out in the national media about the fight.

In September, they won. The judge stopped the work permit restrictions from applying to ASAP members.

"I feel so happy," Melinda said, "because I know that this is greater than just me."

“ I won't be calm or quiet until those parents can smile with their children. ”

ASAP member Leticia Peren, in *The Washington Post*. ASAP helped reunite Leticia with her son after 2 years of separation. Since then, Leticia has become a leader in the fight for justice for separated families.

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



“ I hope to be a member of ASAP to join the voices defending asylum in the United States. ”

A new ASAP member from **Nigeria**. ASAP members now make up the largest community of asylum seekers in U.S. history.

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, 2020 to June 30, 2021) 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/>



ASAP