

# ***OUR WORK IN 2022***

Asian American Quality of Life  
Commission

01/17/2023



# WHO ARE WE?



Serving the Austin  
community for over 30  
years - since 1987



Originally known as the  
Political Asylum Project of  
Austin (PAPA)



501(C)(3) non-profit



Providing immigration  
legal services, advocacy,  
and education

# OUR LEGAL SERVICES...



## **Legal Representation**

- Survivors of crime & family violence
- Asylum
- DACA
- Family-based Immigration
- Deportation defense



## **Pro Se representation**

- Translations
- Legal orientation at detention centers & Immigration Court
- Coordination of pro bono representation



## **Outreach**

- Legal clinics & workshops
- Community education for immigrant community & service providers

In 2022, our staff provided full representation to over 1300 individuals.

Mr. K is originally from South Korea and is deaf. He came to the U.S. to attend an international school that was focused on educating individuals who were deaf. During this time, he became a victim of a crime. Mr. K cooperated with authorities in reporting and investigating the incident. However, because of the trauma he suffered, Mr. K was not able to continue his education.

We represented Mr. K in applying for a U-visa to obtain legal status to remain in the U.S. After many years of waiting, Mr. K's U-Visa application was finally approved. Mr. K now has legal status to remain in the U.S. and he is now focused on working and hopes to attend school in the future.



Amadou and Aissatou, a married couple from the West African nation of Guinea, fled the country in 2017 to escape death threats for Amadou's role in the opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea. Two months before he left Guinea, Amadou said he was attacked by armed soldiers who beat him and threatened to kill him. When he went to the police, he was turned away and told no one would protect him. He and his wife fled to find safety. American Gateways represented both in their asylum claim. After 5 years, they were finally granted asylum in the US.



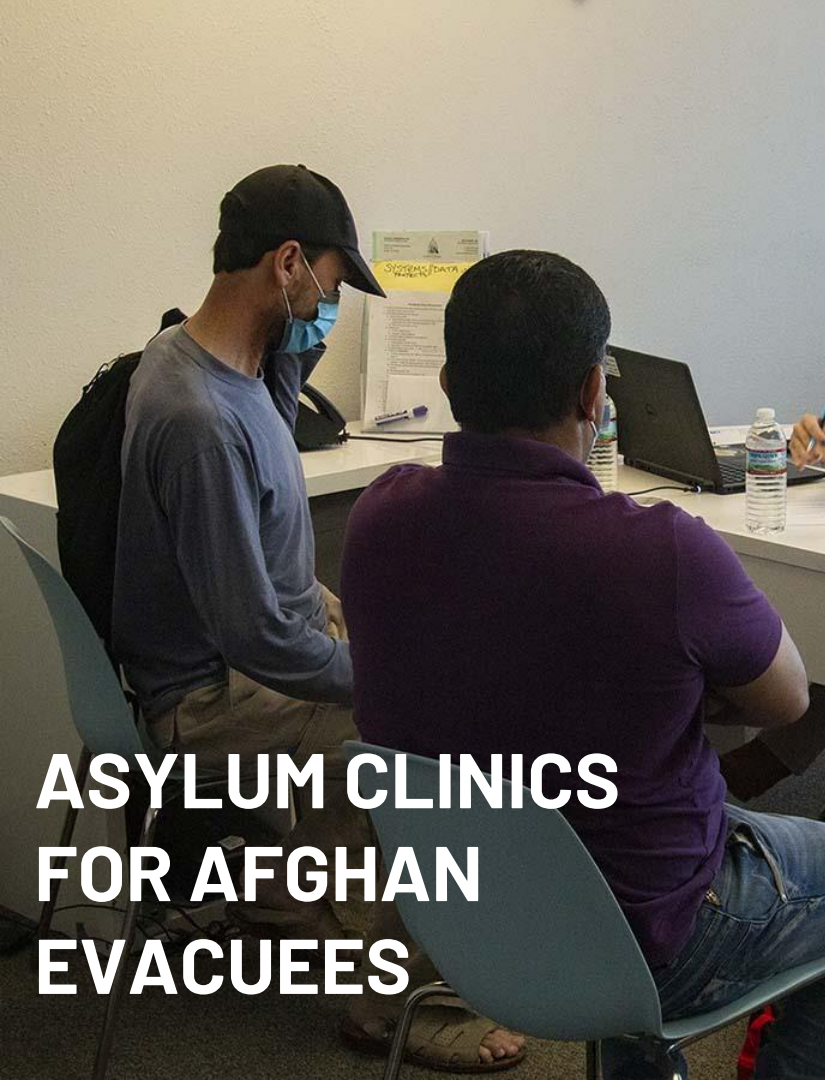


**15,000+**

We empowered over 15,000 individuals with legal information and services in 2022 - in 23 counties and four federal detention centers

**\$600,000+**

Over \$600,000 worth of volunteer and pro bono attorney hours leveraged to assist our clients



# ASYLUM CLINICS FOR AFGHAN EVACUEES

- Central Texas welcomed thousands of Afghan evacuees in 2022, many whom needed legal support filing for asylum.
- We offered asylum legal clinics for Afghan evacuees and will continue to offer asylum representation and services in 2023 through our staff and with the help of our pro bono volunteers.

Afghan asylum clinic on 2/19/22



Siawash worked providing IT services to US forces in Afghanistan. He was evacuated in August of 2022 and resettled here in Austin. We assisted him in applying for asylum through one of our legal clinics and he is now awaiting a decision on his case.

His story can be read here -

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2023-01-06/one-afghan-familys-journey-to-safety-in-texas/>



# OUTREACH TO AUSTIN COMMUNITY

In 2022

American Gateways



Empowered  
**15,000 +**  
individuals



with legal information in detention  
centers, Immigration Court and in our  
communities



Provided training to 1,000 +  
members of the community  
and service providers



## **DURING OUR 2022 CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN...**

- ❑ 45 new individuals received legal representation, including 27 in removal proceedings, most of whom are asylum-seekers
- ❑ We continued legal representation for 175 individuals, including 118 in removal proceedings

# EXAMPLES OF SUCSESSES IN 2022

- ❑ Green card granted to Mexican national who is raising five children alone and had been abused by her U.S.-citizen husband
- ❑ Asylum granted to Anglophone Cameroonian who was tortured by security forces after peacefully protesting the government
- ❑ Temporary Protected Status plus work and travel authorization granted to Ukrainian national who was in the U.S. on a tourist visa when her country was invaded
- ❑ Temporary Protected Status granted to Venezuelan and Haitian nationals who are both in removal proceedings and therefore vulnerable to deportation
- ❑ Legal permanent residency granted to a crime victim from China

***Thank you for your partnership!***