

SWAPNA REDDY

Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)

2017 Global Fellow



BIG BOLD IDEA

Eliminate the wrongful deportation of refugees from the United States by bringing rapid, remote legal aid to individuals who cannot be served by traditional means.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

ASAP employs a unique model for lawyering in a crisis, mobilizing short-term volunteers to provide rapid response legal services to refugees who cannot be served by traditional means. ASAP reimagines legal aid integrating technology, crowdsourcing volunteers, and partnering with community organizations to respond to moments of emergency, including mass deportations, detention, and raids. Through these efforts, ASAP aims to end the wrongful removal of refugees from the United States.

PERSONAL BIO

Co-Founder Swapna Reddy is Co-Executive Director of the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP). Since its founding, ASAP has prevented the imminent deportation of hundreds of asylum seekers and provided community education to thousands of asylum seekers online. Swapna's work has been featured in numerous publications, including the New York Times, The New Yorker, and TIME Magazine. She is currently an Ashoka Fellow and is the past recipient of an Echoing Green fellowship, Equal Justice Works fellowship, and the J.M.K. Innovation Prize.

Swapna earned her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she co-founded ASAP and participated in the Worker & Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic. She has experience providing civil rights and immigration legal services at Brooklyn Defender Services, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the National Immigrant Justice Center, and Ross Silverman LLP.

Prior to law school, Swapna conducted technical and empirical research for the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Indianapolis Colts, and TERC, an educational research nonprofit. Swapna graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in Computer Science and Mathematics and minor in Economics. A John Harvard Scholar, her thesis research was published in Artificial Intelligence.

Swapna is the daughter of Indian immigrants, and grew up outside of Nashville, Tennessee.

Issue area

Civil and Human Rights

Organization/Fellow Location

Chicago, United States

Impact Location

North America

United States

Organization Structure

Nonprofit

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

