



## **ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) CRIME VICTIMS & EDUCATION FUND** **FAQs**

### ***Executive Summary***

- The AAPI Crime Victims & Education Fund is a fundraising initiative (1) to assist AAPI crime victims, and (2) to support educational & awareness programs aimed at reducing violence targeted towards the AAPI community such as:
  - Creation and dissemination of in-language materials on bias and hate crimes.
  - Bystander intervention training.
  - Educational and outreach programs to facilitate trust with law enforcement, raise awareness of AAPI stereotypes, and establish points of contact with the AAPI community.
  - Emergency funds for AAPI crime victims.
- The first national fundraising effort focused on crime directed towards the AAPI community.
- Contributions are 100% tax-deductible.
- Launched by volunteer lawyers and AAPI bar associations.
- More information at [gapaba.org/donate](https://gapaba.org/donate).

### **WHAT IS THE AAPI CRIME VICTIMS & EDUCATION FUND (“FUND”)?**

It is a fundraising initiative started by several AAPI lawyers and bar associations in Georgia, including the [Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association](https://gapaba.org) (“GAPABA”), the [GAPABA Law Foundation](https://gapaba.org) (“GLF”), and the [Korean-American Bar Association of Georgia](https://kaba-ga.org) (“KABA-GA”).

### **WHY WAS THE FUND STARTED?**

It was launched after the tragic mass shootings in Atlanta on March 16, 2021, when eight people were killed, six of whom were AAPIs. Leaders in the Atlanta legal and business

community saw a need not just for community support in wake of the increasing incidents against AAPIs, but also for funds to promote anti-hate educational and awareness programs, as well as invest into greater resilience and crisis response resources, for the AAPI community.

A recent report by [Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy \(AAPIP\)](#) found that only 0.2% (or 20 cents for every \$100) of grantmaking is designated for the AAPI community, even as the AAPI population has doubled in the US. AAPIP also found instability in the support for AAPI communities, as funding was heavily concentrated among only five foundations.



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Fundraising and giving is underdeveloped in and to the AAPI community. The Fund's founders desire to assist the community in reducing bias and hate crimes against the AAPI community. The best way to make meaningful change is to raise money. We challenge each other to give individually and corporations to support us. After all, all existing and future programs and activities require funding to exist.



### **WHAT WILL THE FUND BE USED FOR?**

The Fund will (1) assist AAPI crime victims, and (2) support educational & awareness programs aimed at reducing violence targeted towards the AAPI community. The executive committee has identified the following programs and activities to support with Fund proceeds:

- **Creation and dissemination of in-language materials on bias and hate crimes.**
  - Development and dissemination of “know your rights” programs for the AAPI community to raise awareness about housing, employment, crime victim, and civil rights.
  - Language access (interpreters) for AAPIs victims of crime, hatred, or bigotry to facilitate interaction and communication with law enforcement or government officials.
  - Programs and resources that support training of K-12 teachers and administrators to identify, track, and prevent bullying based on AAPI stereotypes or hate.
- **Bystander intervention training.**
  - Creation of hate crime toolkits and materials that summarize what constitutes a hate crime, how to report such incidents, available resources, and what to do as a bystander or supporting community group.

- **Educational and outreach programs that facilitate relationships between local law enforcement and establish points of contact with the AAPI community.**
  - Programs that raise awareness of AAPI stereotypes and establish points of contact with law enforcement with and among the AAPI community.
  - Continuing education programs on effective dealing with the AAPI community for law enforcement.
  - Education and promotion of accurate and culturally-sensitive media coverage of the AAPI community.
  - Development, travel, and promotion of a speaker's bureau who can speak to stakeholders, community leaders, and law enforcement about racism and stereotypes, including how to combat them, and to encourage prosecution of hate crimes based on AAPI stereotypes.
- **Emergency funds for AAPI crime victims.**
  - Emergency grants for AAPI crime victims who have no other immediate liquid resources or assistance.
  - Outreach activities to connect victims of anti-AAPI crime, hatred, and bigotry with pro bono legal services.

### **HOW IS THE FUND DIFFERENT FROM OTHER FUNDRAISING EFFORTS?**

It is the first national fund specifically aimed at supporting AAPI victims of crime, bigotry, or hatred, and supporting educational and awareness programs aimed at reducing violence.



We take a broad view of assisting crime victims in recognition that unique barriers prevent some AAPIs from reporting incidents in the first place.

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**62% of AAPIs worry about being attacked, according to an April 2021 study by AAPI Data.**

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The policy and research group [AAPI Data](#) found that AAPIs have experienced hate incidents at a significantly higher percentage than the general population. At the same time, they are the least likely to be “very comfortable” reporting such incidents to authorities.



The group [StopAAPIHate](#) received 3,795 reports of anti-Asian harassment incidents ranging from name-calling to assaults between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021. AAPI Data estimates that upwards of 2 million Asian-American adults have experienced anti-Asian hate since the onset of the pandemic.

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Although the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act (1990) requires the FBI and DOJ to publish an annual report on hate crime statistics, even President Biden in his March 30, 2021 AAPI executive order tacitly recognized what we know to be true—such data is incomplete and inconsistent. Local and state agencies are not required to report statistics to the federal government, and even then, some agencies do not recognize what constitutes a hate crime or aggregate AAPI data.

In Atlanta, we have learned from the March 16, 2021 events and our experience as lawyers and prosecutors that more must be done to raise the visibility of bias crimes, educate the community and public, and support crime victims in their efforts to report incidents and to recover, as first steps towards reducing violence and bias.

### **DOES GAPABA LAW FOUNDATION (“GLF”) HAVE ORGANIZATIONS OR ALLOCATIONS IN MIND FOR FUND PROCEEDS?**

The executive committee has outlined the above programs and activities to support financially, and is guided by a clear purpose and rationale. Historically, GLF has granted over \$250,000 to Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS), Raksha, Inc., Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN), and others in an annual grant cycle.

The broader AAPI community has already organized in new ways consistent with the present needs. We are confident there will be salient and promising initiatives to fund.

Some of the funds will be allocated to future crime victims. We know that hate crimes and bigotry will not always occupy the public attention it has today, but occurrence will not wane with less exposure. Even then, for cultural reasons, some AAPI victims are uncomfortable and unwilling to seek public assistance or conduct their own fundraisers despite desperate need.

### **WHO WILL ADMINISTER THE FUND?**

GLF is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Board of GLF, esteemed lawyers in the community, has previously administered over \$250,000 in grants to nonprofits on a volunteer basis. If the amount of funds raised here creates a need for an administrator, then the executive committee and GLF will search for and select one.

### **WHO ARE TYPICAL DONORS AND IN WHAT AMOUNTS?**

To date, the Fund has been a mix of individual and corporate donations. Any amount is welcome. All contributions are 100% tax deductible.

## **WHO IS INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT?**

The effort is led by a six-person volunteer executive committee, along with other volunteer lawyers and leaders. The primary organizations involved at this time are the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA), Korean American Bar Association of Georgia (KABA-GA), and the GAPABA Law Foundation (GLF).

The executive committee will form an Advisory Board to expand fundraising efforts and visibility.

### Executive Committee



### Communications

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