



Thanks to You, a Salvadoran Family Is Safe in San Francisco Fear of Gangs Can Be a Basis for Asylum

Gina (not her real name), a loving mother and devout churchgoer, was viciously attacked and gang raped in El Salvador. The gang targeted Gina and her family because they and their church publicly criticized the group's activities. They had already brutally murdered Gina's father, uncle, and brother when they came after her.

Gang members waited for Gina outside a shop and forced her to take them to her church. There they raped and stabbed her again and again, carved gang marks onto her body, and left her to die.



Salvadoran Church Interior

Gina defied her attackers by surviving. But she spent the next eight years moving from place to place. Finally, she fled to the U.S. with her two young children and sought asylum.

Gina's Immigration Court Ordeal



But Gina faced an immigration judge who thought that her ordeal was not religious or family persecution--she was merely an unfortunate victim of everyday gang violence. Attorney [Chad Stegeman](#), pictured at left and then with [Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld](#), took Gina's case pro bono. He contacted us at the [Center for Gender & Refugee Studies](#).

CGRS Expertise Saves the Day

With our knowledge of gang violence and asylum law, we helped to create a winning argument. CGRS also found an expert on Central American gangs who gave crucial court testimony.

The advocacy of CGRS and Chad Stegeman convinced the judge to grant asylum to Gina and her daughters.

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Please help more refugees like Gina by making a [tax-deductible donation](#) today.

WE CHALLENGE YOU—[THE MORIAH FUND](#) WILL MATCH EACH DOLLAR YOU GIVE CGRS!

Please make a [secure online donation](#) today.

Your gift truly makes a difference for women, children, and LGBT asylum seekers fleeing persecution! Thank you so much for your support!

We also thank our newest funder, the [Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation](#).

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of women and children around the globe!



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