

SIKH COUNCIL UK

A UNITED VOICE



**SIKHS IN BRITAIN
PLAYING OUR PART**



The Sikh faith is clear on **Integration**

The Sikhs have a proud history of integrating, by interacting and fully participating in British society, whilst maintaining their core religious principles. This dates back to over 160 years ago when Maharaja Duleep Singh, the King of Panjab, came to the shores of Britain at the age of 9. The Sikhs are now into the 4th generation and have continued to live and work alongside all communities residing in Britain whilst retaining their own identity and reciprocating an approach of openness and fairness to all.

The Sikh faith is clear on **Contribution**

The Sikhs have made a significant, social, cultural and economic contribution to the British way of life. We have stood firm against injustice and tyranny, fighting for liberty, freedom and democracy alongside British soldiers, through the battle fields of both World War 1 and 2, with the highest proportion of Victoria Crosses awarded for valour. Sikhs are proud of their history, but come across as quiet and spiritual, staying true to their values in making a positive contribution to the society in which they live.

The Sikhs are a hard working and accommodating faith, making an honest living and working to make a difference. Today, the Sikhs are ranked second only after the Jewish community in wealth and are first when it comes to home ownership, at 82%.

Arnold Toynbee – 20th Century Historian:

“Although the future of religion is bleak but yet one hope is there in the form of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh Holy Scriptures) which teaches us all God’s message of love and gives direction to life.”





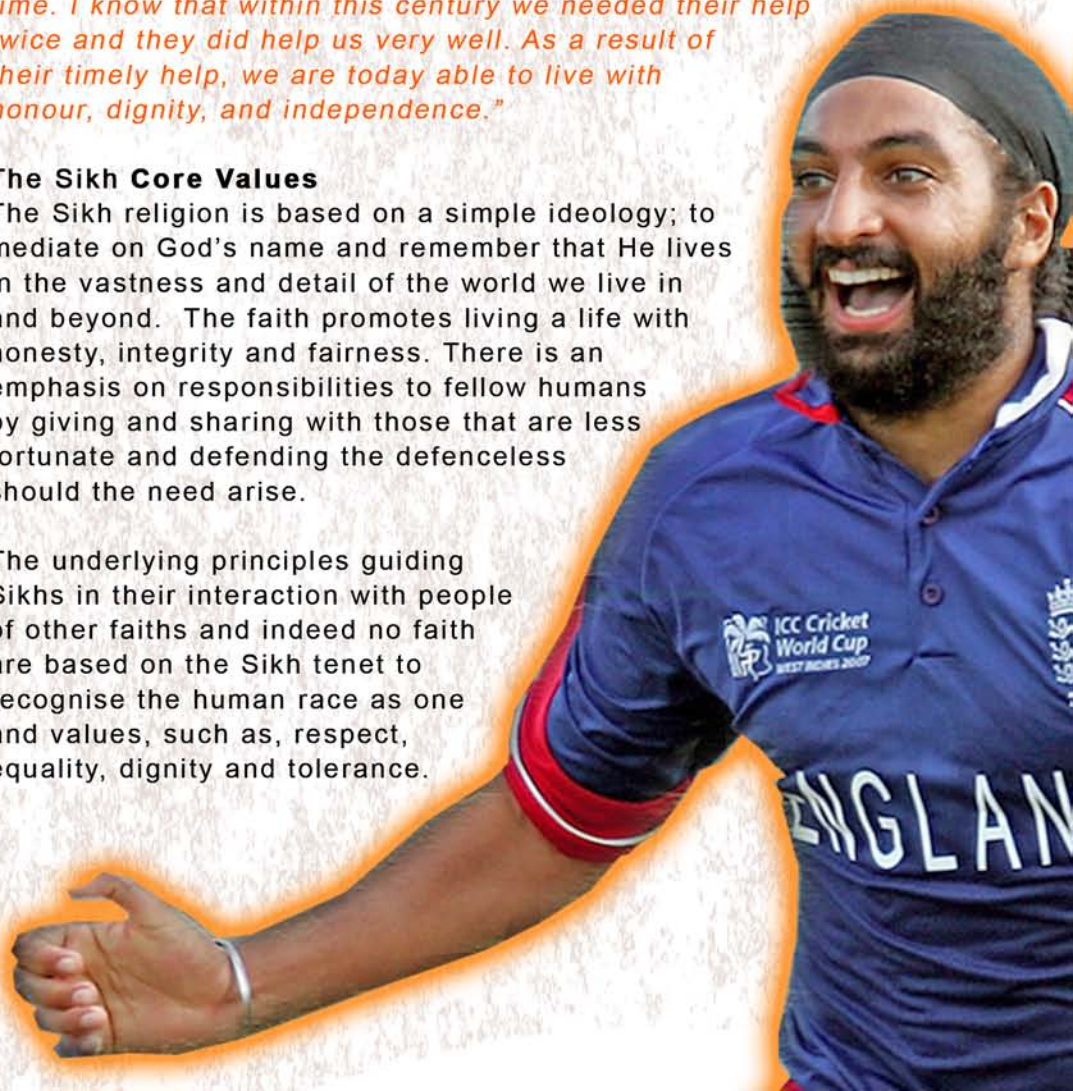
Winston Churchill on Sikhs:

"British people are highly indebted and obliged to Sikhs for a long time. I know that within this century we needed their help twice and they did help us very well. As a result of their timely help, we are today able to live with honour, dignity, and independence."

The Sikh Core Values

The Sikh religion is based on a simple ideology; to mediate on God's name and remember that He lives in the vastness and detail of the world we live in and beyond. The faith promotes living a life with honesty, integrity and fairness. There is an emphasis on responsibilities to fellow humans by giving and sharing with those that are less fortunate and defending the defenceless should the need arise.

The underlying principles guiding Sikhs in their interaction with people of other faiths and indeed no faith are based on the Sikh tenet to recognise the human race as one and values, such as, respect, equality, dignity and tolerance.





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For many years Sikhs have been working hard to ensure Sikh views are represented and the Government properly consults them. Sikhs have traditionally organised themselves through Gurdwaras and bespoke organisations, a new type of structure was needed to complement existing institutions that would take into account the diversity within the Sikh community, be inclusive and embrace as well as utilise the skills available, rather than relying on old style non elected community leaders to represent them.

In early 2010 the grass roots Sikh community expressed its wish for a democratically constituted national body to be set up. On 11 December 2010 the Sikh Council UK came into being.

The Sikh Council is an accord of UK based Gurdwaras, Sikh institutions and organisations and counts amongst its members all major Gurdwaras and leading Sikh organisations. The Council is designed for the 21st Century with a central ethos of accountability, transparency, professionalism and provides a framework for Sikhs to work collectively.

The leadership of the Council is elective, democratic and term based, comprising a team of 16 professionals, mainly UK born and University educated, that lead by example - men and women, Gurdwara representatives and those with public sector experience. The full 51-member Executive Committee is fully representative of the Gurdwaras, social and community groups, representing the grassroots of the community. They have come together in the Sikh Council with a singular purpose in the furtherance of Sikh community interests be they, educational, economical, social well being and to protect their heritage and the right of religious freedom, in the UK and mainland Europe.

The core strength of the Council is further enhanced by a range of sub committees with wide participation, on a volunteer basis, by highly skilled individuals drawn from the community who have a shared vision and represent a unified voice for the Sikhs in Britain.

Working sub committees include:

- Strategy, Policy & Legal Affairs
- European & International Affairs
- Education
- Sports
- Community Safety
- Indian Sub Continent Affairs

Key information relating to the Council and its work is available on the following:

Website: www.sikhcounciluk.org
Email: info@sikhcouncil.org

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