

Meetings/Events

4th December 2016 Meeting was held with select members of Executive Committee and Board of Jathedars in going through the selection process of appointments for Office Bearers and Assistant roles within Sikh Council UK for the 4th Administration. Meeting took place at Leamington SCUUK Offices.

10th December 2016 Executive Committee Meeting took place at Guru Nanak Sikh Temple Wednesfield.

7th December 2016 Representative of Sikh Council UK attended the RAF Cosford to the Sikh Familiarisation visit to the Royal Air Force station Cosford. Led by Wg Cdr Jones, invite by our colleague Mandeep Kaur -Sikh Chaplain to the British Armed Forces

Sad News

Sikh Council UK along with members' of the wider Sikh community were shocked and saddened to hear of the sad loss of a highly respected member of the Board of Jathedars Bhai Rajinder Singh Panesar Halifax, he is truly missed as a pillar of strength for the Sikh community

Casework

Sikh Council UK responded to a query from several parents with children at a school in Dudley. The school who had written to a all Sikh parents to state that they need to prove that the wearing of a Kara by Sikhs was for religious reasons and that it was not a piece of jewellery. Clarification on the importance and significance of a Kara was submitted to the school as well as details on the legislation protecting Sikh Rights to wear articles of faith. (work in progress)

8th November 2016 Department of Communities and Local Government approached Sikh Council UK for consultation on early stages of a possible new DCLG project, **of how** community projects can promote the role faith plays in building stronger communities, with a focus on inter faith work.

Sikh Council UK responded to a number of requests for the disability access guidance developed by the council for Gurdwaras

Media/Press Releases

Sikh Council UK issued a press release condemning the offensive distortion of the Sikh Ardas at an event hosted by Punjab State Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) candidate in the forthcoming State elections Mr Sikhandar Singh Maluka.

The issue arose during an event which was reportedly held to celebrate the inauguration of campaign offices for Mr Maluka on 26th December 2016. At the event a reading of the Hindu religious scriptures, Ramayan, took place followed by an Ardas prayer which was a clear distortion of the established Sikh Ardas through replacing of names of the Sikh Gurus and selected phrases with those of Hindu deities and phrases.

The Ardas is a longstanding supplicatory Sikh prayer established under the Sikh RehitMaryada (Sikh code of conduct) and Sikh Council UK expressed its extreme disappointment that a Punjab State Minister of the Shiromani Akali Dal party would host an event promoting its distortion and cause offence to the global Sikh community.

Significant Publication

December 2016 The final version of the Casey Review report was published. (in July 2015 Dame Louise Casey DCLG was commissioned by the then Prime Minister to conduct a review to consider how we can boost opportunity and integration in our country) As part of the consultations leading up to the release of the review representatives of Sikh Council UK attended meetings with the review director in exploring thoughts about integration in the UK, including what factors aid integration and community cohesion, any barriers that work against this, and what Government or others could do to improve integration in future.

Sikh Council UK publicly congratulated the Sikh Recipients of New Years Honours 2017 which included:

CBEs' to

Hardip Singh BEGOL- Director, Independent Education, Safeguarding in Schools and Counter Extremism, Department for Education.

Professor Kamaldeep Singh BHUI - Professor of Cultural Psychiatry and Epidemiology, Queen Mary University of London.

Ms Neena GILL- Member of the European Parliament for the West Midlands.

OBEs' to

Dr Brinder Singh MAHON- Chief Executive Officer, Nishkam School Trust.

Avtar Singh PUREWAL - Regional Head of Learning and Skills, HM Prison Service Yorkshire.

Jasvir SINGH - Founding Chair, City Sikhs.

MBEs' to

Surjit Singh CHOWDHARY- Vice-President, Central Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Glasgow.

Parkash Singh DHAMI- President, Telford Gurdwara.

Sharan, Mrs GHUMAN - Higher Officer, Outbound Detection Heathrow, Border Force.



Uzma, Mrs JOHAL- Festival Director, Frequency Festival and Co- founder and Director, Threshold Studios.

Sarbjit, Mrs KAUR - Detective Sergeant, Merseyside Police.

Massa Singh NANDRA - For services to charity and the community in South London.

Tony SINGH-Chef Director, Food and Drink Industry and charity.

Professor Sital SINGH SITARA - For services to Sikh Heritage and Culture.

Jaitinder VERMA - Co-founder, Tara Arts, Diversity in the Arts.

BEMs' to

Prithipal Singh KANG - Fire and Rescue Awareness and Community Cohesion

Ms Davinder KAUR - Chief Executive Officer, SWEDA and Chair, Sandwell Consortium.

Sewa Singh NANDHRA - For services to the community in Woolwich, London.

Baljinder Singh RANA - Chairman, Guru Nanak Football Club.

Membership

Sikh Council UK welcomed Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Nottingham in renewing their membership with SCUK.