

Bulletin 29

May 2013

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Meetings:

- 11th May Meeting of the General Assembly Sikh Council UK took place at Amrit Parchar Dharmik Deevan Gurdwara Sahib Oldbury
- 11th May Board of Jathedar Meeting took place at Amrit Parchar Dharmik Deevan Gurdwara Sahib Oldbury
- 8th May Sikh Council UK representatives met with Foreign Commonwealth Office- India Desk in relation to Professor Bhullar case and the death penalty issue in India
- 16th May Meeting with Mr David Lelliott who is the UK's Deputy High Commissioner in Chandigarh during his trip to London along with a representative of Foreign Commonwealth Office India Desk in taking up issues relating to Professor Bhullar case and the death penalty issue in India
- 29th May Sikh Council UK representatives met with Labour Party Staff to discuss a Labour Candidates Programme

Events:

- 19th May representatives of SCUK were invited to attend the launch of West Midlands Police Sikh Association at Walsall Gurdwara Sahib. SCUK took to opportunity to publicly welcome the initiative and offer SCUK assistance where required. Amongst the representative were Joga Singh Member of Board of Jathedars, Sukhvinder Singh Assistant Secretary, Parminder Singh Birdi Chair of Community Safety, Gursevak Singh Executive Member and Balvinder Kaur -Coordinator

Media:

- 2nd May Sikh Council UK, Parliamentary liaison Worker undertook an interview for a reporter from the Guardian paper doing an article on Parliament's decision to outlaw caste discrimination.

Political Engagement:

- The Conservative Party Candidates programme will take place on 6th June 2013 at Conservative Party headquarters and at the Houses of Parliament. It has drawn a high level of interest from people of all ages and both genders and includes students, professionals and existing Councillors.
- A similar candidates programme has now been agreed with the Labour Party with a date due to be confirmed shortly. The programme will then be publicised for recruitment.

Campaigns and Case Work:

- Draft v4 of Mixed Marriage guidance document for Gurdwara Sahibs was re-circulated to all members for comments by end of May to enable a final version to be developed
- Government agrees to outlaw 'Caste' and whilst addressing key concerns raised by Sikh Council UK

- Concerns raised by a daughter relating to the poor level of care received by her mother while in hospital in Manchester. Breakdown of communication leads to frustration and distress. Sikh Council wrote to the hospital authorities in raising the concerns with the (Outcome pending)
- The Sikh Council UK reminds the Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to honour it's pledge to build the Shaheedi Yadgaar as a memorial for all shaheeds of the June 1984 Ghalughara. The Council urges that the SGPC should not renege on their promise to include the names of these great shaheeds of the Khalsa Panth.
- Finland – A case of a Sikh bus driver banned from wearing his turban on the job sparked animated exchanges about the right to wear religious clothing on Yle's A-studio programme. Sikh Council UK has set about obtaining contacts from Finland to fully establish the facts of the case and make contact with the individuals affected.
- Sikh Council UK calls for action following tragic death of an 8 year old during a family trip to India. A number of concerns have been raised in terms of hospital practice and also the removal of vital organs from the body with consent or knowledge of parents
- Leicestershire Incident regular updates continue to be provided to members and on face-book as soon as these are received from Leicestershire Constabulary.
- Peterborough developed a local policy in allowing for Sikh wearing a Kirpan into their offices. This all came about when an individual wearing a Kirpan was stopped from entering the offices. He then took this matter up with Managers. The response has been positive in which the said person is requesting for the same policy to be adapted in Her Majesties Passport service offices across UK
- Query from Amritdhari Sikh undertaking personal care duties, Issue arose when the Sikh refused to undertake personal care duties of someone opposite gender. (Outcome pending).mrithdhari Sikh undertaking personal care duties, Issue arose when the Sikh refused to undertake personal care duties of someone opposite gender. (Outcome pending).

Internal Policies:

- Policy 8: Code on Communications SCUk circulated to members for final comments by end of May.

Woolwich Incident:

- The Sikh Council UK condemns the cold blooded terrorist attack on a member of the armed forces in the Woolwich area of London and issued various statements.