

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Meetings:

Community Cohesion: Executive Member of Sikh Council attended a Community Cohesion Meeting organised by Leicestershire constabulary amongst other issues the meeting discussed Communication and Exploring Shared Responsibility

Meeting was held with a member of the BBC Production team Birmingham in developing a working relationship and areas to work on including 1st World War commemoration programme and 30 year of 1984 2014

11th July Members of the Council attended the meeting on 'Grooming' at the DCLG .to discuss impacts on the Sikh Community

22nd July member of the Council attended a meeting with the Home office as a follow up to reported instances of sexual exploitation of women .and the desperate condition of the illegal migrants from Panjab

16th July 2013 the council has been in contact with the Charities Commission with a view to exploring how to resolve disputes through mediation and improvements to constitutions and supporting governance processes. This is an ongoing area of Councils strategic work.

21st July Council representatives attended the Khalsa Primary School Azaadi Mela 2013

11th July A representative of the council attended an event organised by the Jewish Indian association.

Leicestershire Sexual exploitation of an under aged Panjabi girl:

Sikh Council organised a meeting with senior officers of Leicestershire Police Constabulary including the area Commander in charge of the investigations of the Leicester restaurant incident in January 2013. A number of Community Leaders were in attendance along with 3 Executive Members and 2 Board of Jathedar Members of Sikh Council. Issues raised were around the way this matter was being handled and appeared to be dragged out by the police in which arrests continue to be made. The police were made aware that this was a national concern which may result in demonstrations and or young people becoming vulnerable to being influenced by extreme right wing organisations. Following much discussion the police shared that they believe their investigations were coming to an end soon and there may not be many more arrests however, they highlighted that there were some pending investigations that will need to be seen through.

Sikh Council has continued to update everyone through circulations and on face-book of the Leicestershire child exploitation case that was heard in Crown Court. All involved were found guilty and await sentencing.

Sikh Council complained to the BBC Online reporting about the terminology used in describing the young girl involved in the case a 'sikh girl' while others were referred to Asians. The response from BBC online was as follows: 'Your complaint is about an ongoing court case and when covering court cases we have to be faithful to the actual words used by those giving evidence'.

Campaigns:

Caste Education Pilot: The Sikh Council has clarified its position on that it does not support the Caste Education Pilots intended to educate the public sector on caste

Same Sex Marriages: Following approval into law of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 by the bill receiving Royal Assent on 17th July 2013 the Sikh Council UK circulated the clarifications it had received from the government.

Political Engagement Programme:

- 4th July 2013 The Political Engagement Programme Labour Sikh Pathway was well attended by professionals of all ages with a range of skills and understanding in the political world. The event aimed to develop future British Sikh politicians and political activists through collaboration with the major political parties.
- 11th July 2013 senior Labour politicians and guests at a special reception for Sikh supporters. Sikhs friends of Labour launch event. How many attended?. Say SCUUK promoted and attended
- The council congratulated Cllr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi at being short listed to be a Labour candidate at the next election in the Gravesham area.

Casework:

Kirpan at Court: Contact was made by a person whose sister was serving her first day in jury service at the Old Bailey she was experiencing problems about entering the courts with her Kirpan. We shared the Equality and Human Rights Commission guidelines which includes exemption of access into courts by Kirpan wearing Sikhs. This assisted the lady in providing the courts with the relevant information to allow for access

Poland Border Guard Case: Update on case against the Polish Border Guard in Poland has been progressed to be heard in Supreme Court. The Helsinki Foundation and the pro bono firm of Lawyers, Wardynski & Partners are considering the legal arguments.

Sikh Council UK has also been made aware of other cases relating to dastar in Greece 'Army recruitment service and Finland bus driver case these are being progressed by requesting further details on both matters

Executive Member Cllr B K Saund actively assisted a family where their child was asked to remove her 'Kara' in the playground by the head mistress with no apparent reasoning in Redbridge. The Council provided the background materials to support discussions with the school. The matter was resolved as the school provided wrist bands to be worn at school sports events. The Head also invited the Cllr to the school assembly to give a talk on themes of interest to students.

Support:

The Council circulated the information on One Britain One Nation event due to take place on 11th August 2013.

Sikh Council supported circulation of a request for a petition to be signed to secure a Free School with a Sikh ethos in Buckinghamshire.

Deepest Sympathy:

Sikh Council shared its deepest condolences with Sri Akal Takhat Sahib and Takht Keshgar Sahib following the sad and sudden death of the Giani Tarlochan Singh Ji Jathedar Sahib Keshgar Sahib Ji

Delegate Change: The Council welcomes the following new delegates:

Guru Har Rai Gurdwara Sahib West Bromwich

1. Baldev Singh

Guru Nanak Gurdwara Sahib, Smethwick

1. Jitinder Singh
2. Onkar Singh
3. Jaswinder Singh