

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Meetings:

5th October 2013 Home Secretary visit to the General Assembly Meeting of Sikh Council UK at Gurdwara Amrit Pirchar Dharmik Deevan Oldbury. The Home Secretary was a guest of honour at the meeting. During the meeting the Home Minister announced that Sikh Council had been granted a £60k funding from the Home Office to support destitute panjabis who wish to voluntarily return back to India with appropriate support.

17th October the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby hosted a reception of Faith leaders at Lambeth Palace. Mankamal Singh and Surinder Singh Jandu -representatives of Sikh Council and other Sikh representation such as Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, Lord Inderjit Singh and Dr Jasdev Singh Rai also attended this prestigious event.

The event included an exhibition of religious artefacts from the British Museum and key note speech by its Directors Neil MacGregor celebrating the history of respect for religious diversity in Britain.

20th October Representative of Sikh Council UK visited and met with representatives of Brent Sikh Centre.

20th October 2013 following requests by Jathebandis, Gurdwaras and individuals, the Indian Sub-Continent Affairs Committee of Sikh Council UK facilitated an open Panthic meeting at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick.

Representatives of Sikh Council UK attended a consultation at west Bromwich Mental Health hospital in supporting dementia cognitive assessment tools in ensuring appropriate assessment terminology and visual images for the Panjabi Sikh Community when undertaking assessment.

Meeting has been organised between Giani Sukha Singh and 2 members of Board of Jathedars to discussed and collect files of evidence in relation to an allegation of a high profile individual.

Campaigns:

Sikh Council formally wrote to welcome Esther McVey MP and also take the opportunity to highlight the current Hard Hat issue their predecessor was dealing with

Sikh Council circulated widely the 1984 genocide petition organised by Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and All India Sikh Student Federation (AISSF) with a view to submit the petition of 1million signatures or beyond at United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay in Geneva Switzerland on 1st November 2013

Following agreement with Council of Sikh Gurdwaras in Birmingham for Sikh Council UK to sub-lease empty offices in their building, we have begun refurbishing and equipping the office.

Gurinder Singh Josan, Head of Political Engagement at Sikh Council UK has provided support to a Sikh candidate who is seeking to be the Labour candidate in Brent Central constituency. The candidate is Inder Singh-Nijhar and for more information his website is at www.inder4Labour.com.

Following the success of the use of a lobbyist firm during the caste legislation, Gursewak Trust in Leamington has agreed to fund Sikh Council UK to obtain lobbyist support for six months in a limited range of areas.

Sikh Council was approached by Equality and Human Rights Commission for consultation on documents of same sex marriages and in developing an advisory group for this. Sukhvinder Singh Executive Member of the Council is leading on this matter

Correspondence:

Sikh Council UK wrote to the Offices of Home Secretary to thank the Home Secretary for attending the General Assembly Meeting

Sikh Council UK wrote to Jathedar Sri Akal Takhat Sahib in requesting a meeting with member of Board of Jathedar during his trip in India.

Sikh Council widely circulated request for a Giani Vacancy at Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji Nottingham. Contacts were made with the Gurdwara Sahib Pardhan with potential Gianis' as a result of the circulation

Casework:

Sikh Council was contacted by an individual who was allegedly unfairly dismissed from her job within the Council during a restructure of the department where she worked. Sikh Council was provided with the relevant paperwork to establish if it required our participation. From the information available it was considered that there were no reasonable prospects of succeeding with a claim for unfair dismissal at an Employment Tribunal relating to the redundancy in August 2011. The deadline to make such a claim had also been missed. Therefore, it was recommended that there was no benefit of commencing legal action but perhaps raising the matter with the old employer through other avenues such as local MP. Sikh Council made their position clear that it was not providing formal legal advice and that the recommendation to the individual was to consult a lawyer for formal legal advice as seen appropriate.

Media:

6th October 2013 Sikh Council UK representative undertook a BBC Asian-Network interview to share with listeners the purpose of Home Office Funding

8th October 2013 Representatives of Sikh Council attended Sangat tv to share with Sangat the project that the Home Office Funding will cover.

Sikh Council representatives met with Akaal Channel Tv management in building a working relationship

19th October 2013 Sikh Channel recorded programme on Sikh Political Discussions Women Participation Norwood Hall London

A scroll was placed on all 3 Sikh Media Channels informing Gurdwaras and Organisations of the panthic planning meeting on 20th October 13.

New Members:

Sri Dashmesh Sikh Temple, Lozells, Birmingham
Sikh Organisation for Prisoners Welfare (SOPW)