

Bulletin 38

February 2014

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Meetings:

4th February 2014 Sikh Council UK organised for representatives of the Sikh community to meet with Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Rt Hon Hugo Swire MP and Cabinet Secretary, Sir Jeremy Haywood following publication of the Governments report and Ministerial Statement regarding the disclosure of documents in relation to UK Government involvement in the events of 1984.

5th February 2014 Sikh Council UK arranged and attended a meeting with the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP and members of the Shadow Foreign Team to discuss the Labour Party response to the disclosure of documents in relation to UK Government involvement in the events of 1984.

8th February 2014 Operations team meeting took at Singh Sabha Gurdwara Sahib, Coventry.

8th February 2014 Executive Meeting took place at Singh Sabha Gurdwara Sahib, Coventry.

12th February 2014 representatives of Sikh Council UK attended a reception with the Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP bringing together many different faith based groups to celebrate and reiterate the importance and strength of interfaith work and relations.

23rd February 2014 South Regional meeting held at Seven Kings Gurdwara

25th February 2014 Sikh Council UK organised for representatives of the Sikh community to meet with Senior Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Minister for Faith & Communities, the Rt Hon Baroness Warsi to discuss the community response to the Governments report regarding the disclosure of documents in relation to UK Government involvement in the events of 1984.

Recognition by Sri Akal Takhat Sahib:

Sikh Council UK was honoured and humbled to learn of the decision taken by the Panj Singh Sahibaans, during a meeting at Sri Harmander Sahib, Amritsar for the Sikh Council UK to work to resolve matters concerning UK Sikhs. The decision issued as an Adesh, is a historic decision and is recognition of the affiliated member organisations of Sikh Council UK as well as being an expression of confidence in the Sikh community of UK.

Media:

Appearances by representatives of Sikh Council UK on Akal Channel, Sangat TV and Sikh Channel as well as within mainstream broadcast and print media.

Circulations:

Following a request made by Sikh representatives at the meeting on 29th January 2014 with the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Jeremy Heywood the Sikh Council UK received and circulated the Terms of Reference of the inquiry being carried out by Sir Jeremy Heywood.

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Sikh Council UK circulated a statement congratulating all Sikhs and in particular our brothers and sisters in the Ravidass Community on the auspicious occasion of the 637th birth anniversary of Bhagat Ravidass Ji.

Casework:

Issue of interfaith marriages was brought to the attention of Sikh Council UK and was referred for guidance and recommendations to the Board of Jathedars.

A letter of support and information about the guidelines for wearing a Kirpan in UK venues was provided as good practices examples to Sikhs in Italy who were facing problems when entering certain venues in Italy.

Sikh Council UK provided letters of support and examples of airport security search guidelines for two separate incidents that took place at Antigua airport in which Sikhs were required to remove their turbans during security searches in an undignified manner.

Sikh Council UK made representations regarding perceived inaccuracies in reporting by BBC News Online for a story with the headline 'Sikh Leader attack Sri Satguru Uday Attacked'.