

*Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh*

**Meetings and Events:**

7th May 2014 Meeting with Labour Party frontbench spokesperson regarding safety helmet amendment to the De-regulation Bill currently progressing through parliament.

8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 Members of the Sikh Council UK and the Sikh helpline met with the West Midlands Strategic Leader on Preventing Violence against Vulnerable People.

11th May 2014 representatives of the Sikh Council UK attended the grand official opening of the new site for Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji Nottingham

17th May 2014 Sikh Council UK held its 12th General Assembly in which discussions were focused on membership renewal and new membership's preparation for new administration. Details of the meeting will be circulated within the minutes of the meeting.

Sikh Council have been instructed by Sri Akal Takhat Sahib Jathedar Sahib to look into the complaint of Leamington Gurdwara Sahib in which versions of Issue will need to be collated by both sides and presented to Sri Akal Takhat Sahib in report form to enable an informed decision.

29th May 2014 Meeting with David Lelliot British Deputy High Commissioner for Northwest India. This proved to be a success in developing working relationships.

8th May Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, responded to the Councils request for there to be a network to support Sikh faith and Sikh ethos. Further work will done on this subject to the schools supporting the development.

**Casework:**

Sikh Council UK was approached about a case where a couple were going through a divorce and the person in current custody of the children (in this case the mother) took a decision that she was going to cut the hair of the young Gursikh Children during the proceedings. Sikh Council UK provided a statement 'safeguarding the interest of the child' which also pressed on the issue of the importance of self identity and security for a child while also emphasising the importance of kesh to a Gursikh

Kirpan case Leicester reporting centre immigrant meeting arranged with home office security section. This matter has been pursued with the Home Office securities who have agreed to offer a meeting in June in discussing the way forward.

A large Kirpan worn overtly on the London Underground triggered an armed police reaction.

Two cases referred to the Sikh Council UK about election process at a Gurdwara Sahib and that of a marriage of a non Sikh. The Sikh Council UK could not comment on the first and on the second sent draft guidance.

## Media:

9th May 2014 Panth time participation

30th May 2014 Panth Time programme held at Ernst Young in Central London was supported by the Sikh Council UK

Press Release Issued regarding Halal meat in response to media interest

## Update - Electoral Registration:

The transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER) means that everyone will register to vote individually, rather than by household as they do at the moment. Whilst most people will be automatically transferred to the new register, around 10 million will not and there are at least another 6 million who aren't registered now but should be. The Sikh Council UK strongly encourages all qualifying Sikhs to register to vote.