

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

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Queries

Query 1: Sikh Council UK received a query from a school where a student was given permission to carry a Kirpan, and while most people have been supportive of that, some parents are not happy about it.

Query 2: An educational consultant for Religious Education requested our opinion on an education resource designed for children between ages 4-11. In this resource they designed some lessons on Sikhism. The Sikh Council agreed to review the materials once produced.

Query 3: An Advertising Standards Authority wrote to the Sikh a Council UK following a complaint that they received about an ad that depicts the Harmandir Sahib, and asked for a view.

Query 4: An individual wrote to the Council to ask why Sikhs take sangat charandhool off ground and put on the front of the dastar. They had seen this action in different gurdwaras across the world. The person opposed to this stating they are a Khalsa Sikh and only allow their dastaar to make connection with the floor is when they bow and matha-tayke in front of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Case Work

The Sikh Council UK had been instructed by Sri Akal Takhat Sahib to investigate complaints it had received in relation to the management committee and a particular member of the committee of a particular Gurdwara Sahib.

Sikh Council UK (SCUK) were made aware of a poster being circulated relating to Ram Katha at a Gurdwara Sahib. It transpired this was not the case. The event was related to hire of a community hall and there was error in the poster.

Sikh Council UK is receiving increasing number of reports relating to mixed marriages and Maharaj Suroops being taken to venues for marriages and functions. This matter is being looked investigated and the Council will be re-circulating guidance for final consultation

The Sikh Council UK expressed its bemusement over media reports that the British Government is proposing to erect a statue of Mahatma Gandhi outside the Houses of Parliament. "The popular portrayal of Mahatma Gandhi as a leading civil rights campaigner of the Indian independence movement and a peace-loving humanitarian has been challenged in recent years following revelations of darker aspects of his life including allegations of overt racism, caste discrimination and aspects of his personal life."

Following a dispute that broke out at a Gurdwara Sahib which led to a physical altercation. Subsequently a petition for kirpans to be licensed which was briefly circulated but rejected by the large part of the Sikh community. The Sikh Council UK expressed its concern about isolated disturbances that occur in Gurdwaras, especially those involving aggressive behaviour. These have a negative impact both within the Sikh Community and society in general. These incidents not only bring the community into disrepute but they also divides the Sangat and occasionally results in individuals being criminalised. Sikh Council urged all parties in any dispute to seek mediation and aim to resolve difference through dialogue, understandings and compromise where ever possible.

Media

Sikh Council UK Supported circulated information at request for television producers behind such TV shows as Undercover Boss, Goggle box & The Great Interior Design Challenge as they are producing a new documentary series about food for BBC2. They wanted to speak to any families across the country who might be interested in taking part.

A representative of Sikh Council UK provided information to Brit Asia TV about an upcoming episode of our show 'Broken Silence' which will be discussing the non- labelling of halal products in stores and restaurants in the UK.