

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

September 2014 Bulletin 45

Meetings and Events

2nd September 2014 visit to National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum Derby by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Stephen Williams MP in commemoration of the Sikh contribution and sacrifices during World War I.

4th September 2014 Secretary General of Sikh Council UK attended an urgent meeting with Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, Lord Nash at the DfE to discuss concerns regarding a Sikh ethos Free school in Leicester being removed from the control of the Akaal Education Trust a few days prior to its opening. Following the meeting the school was reinstated to the Trust with new Trustees and Governors and work is under way to prepare for its opening in October.

11th September 2014 visit and unveiling of a memorial plaque in commemoration of the Sikh contribution and sacrifices during World War I at Gurdwara Baba Budha Ji by Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims, Rt Hon Mike Penning MP.

12th September 2014 a representative of Sikh Council UK attended the BAFSA Launch of Saragarhi Day to commemorate the service of Sikhs in the British Army at Sandhurst.

13th September 2014 an Executive Committee Meeting of Sikh Council UK took place at Ramgarhia Sikh Temple, Derby.

13th September 2014 a Special Meeting took place at Ramgarhia Sikh Temple, Derby to discuss constitution and plans for the third administration of the Sikh Council UK.

Campaigns and Casework

Sikh Council UK circulated widely the 5th draft version of the mixed marriage guidelines. This was done via a UK wide mail-shot and email circulation with responses required by 29th September 2014 following which a final version will be prepared and adopted at the General Assembly on 11th October 2014.

Sikh Council UK was contacted by the management of The London Eye seeking our assistance as part of a review of current policies to consider allowing access to The London Eye for Kirpan wearing Sikhs. Following the meeting the Council is working closely with another Sikh organisation who had also been in contact with the London Eye on the same matter to find an amicable resolution to the discriminatory practice.

EHRC guidelines were shared with a parent of a child who asked to cover his Kara with a band or leave the school premises. The parents were guided over the phone and the Sarika kara case was also shared for their reference. The matter reached a positive conclusion through a meeting between the parents and school, the child was able to continue to attend school wearing his kara as normal.

Complaints relating to various issues concerning the proposals of the management committee of a Gurdwara Sahib in the Midlands- the Sikh Council UK was asked by the Jathedar Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib to investigate the complaints and to report back. The Sikh Council as a matter of Policy does not intervene in internal matters of a Gurdwara Sahib and advocates local resolution by the Sangat. However, where the Council asked by the Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib to take statements of all parties and present objectively without judgement to Sri Akal Takhat Sahib to take any decisions.

Queries

Sikh Council UK was contacted by a reporter for the Daily Mail for comments about an online campaign that has been launched in objection to Russell Grants' Khanda Tattoo and a Khanda symbol hung in his car. Sikh Council was not aware of this prior to the contact from the reporter

Sikh Council UK was contacted by a Digital & Marketing Manager of a non-Sikh company seeking clarification whether their new logo was similar to a Sikh symbol. Three members of Sikh Council UK checked this and were of the opinion that this was not the case.

Sikh Council UK was contacted by the Police in relation to a matter they were investigating and wanted to understand as to what are qualifications or competences of Granthis. They were referred to colleagues who could provide a response.