

**Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh**

**Meetings/Events**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Sikh Council UK Executive Member along with a colleague attended the Cenotaph Ceremony Remembrance Day Parade. The event was also attended by the Queen, Prime Minister David Cameron and some other Government officials who paid their tribute. Surinder S Jandu took the opportunity to also network with Veterans, Sardar Rajinder Singh Dhatt, officers from the Air Force, Navy and Military representatives.

10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Representatives of SCUK attended reception of celebration of Diwali at 10 Downing Street

12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Representatives of SCUK meet with PM Modi during his visit to UK in presenting Sikh issues. PM Modi

14<sup>th</sup> November 2015 2 senior officers of Sikh Council UK attended a Candlelight Vigil first of its kind organised by the committee of Gurdwaras of Manchester. The event was very well attended and the officers in attendance were also asked to say a few words in tribute and addressing the sangat on the day

26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Head of Operations of Sikh Council attended as a guest speaker to Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburb event jointly organised by the Home Office Sikh Association and UK Border Agency. This was a well-attended event, which provided a good opportunity to network.

12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 following a meeting with PM Modi Sikh Council UK issued the following statement to its members:

*You will be aware from the statement issued that a number of Sikhs made a representation to the Indian Prime Minister Modi today with regard to longstanding issues of concern to the Sikhs. I represented the Sikh Council UK at this meeting. I am attaching the list of issues that have been brought to his attention. These issues include those that were presented by FSO at the meetings facilitated by the Sikh Council UK where it was collectively agreed that any one engaged in any discussions with the Indians need to raise them.*

*The Council was set up to maintain independent positions and to deal with complex and difficult issues by building consensus. In relation to this issue it was clear that some favoured the pressure through demonstrations, lobbying etc as a strategy whilst others preferred the discussion route. In reality the two are strands of the same strategy to bring about outcomes.*

*The Councils engagement work compliments others pressure creating activities.*

*Whilst there are no guarantees it can be cautiously said that we may see some progression towards resolution of some of the issues and a channel opening up through which representatives of the international Sikh Community can make their representations.*



*I appreciate that some colleagues find the idea of making face to face representation to the Indian Prime Minister abhorrent on principle - I respect this but also ask for some consideration to alternative points of view. - S.Gurmel Singh, Secretary General, Sikh Council UK*

### **Correspondence/Statements**

11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Sikh Council UK circulated a letter from Mak Chisthy (MET Police) As the policing Commander with responsibility for community engagement. The letter was a request of support during the forthcoming visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Modi, particularly for peaceful protests/demonstrations as part of a democratic right for people to have a view.

Sikh Council UK wrote to Aaj Tak Tv Hindi News regarding an article relating to Gurdaspur Terrorist attack an article requiring redress as the article referred to Sikhs as militants and radicals. Unfortunately the newsdesk at Aaj Tak failed to acknowledge their misleading terminology as a result of which Sikh Council UK took the matter up with News Broadcasting Standards Authority who viewed the matter independently.

Sikh Council UK released a statement in the wake of terrorist attack in Paris: *The Sikh Council UK condemns the loss of innocent life in Paris. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and people of Paris.*

*Secretary General of Sikh Council UK, Gurmel Singh said, "These senseless acts of violence only galvanise the resolve of the majority to prevail over the tyranny of the terrorists."*

*Earlier today, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, was in touch with the Secretary General of Sikh Council UK. In their conversation the Secretary of State reaffirmed the Government's commitment to all communities in the UK and the need to stand united at this time. He also confirmed the authorities zero tolerance of incidents of hate crime against any community and requested those in the Sikh community to report any such incidences."*