

Sad News

20th July 2017 Sikh Council UK conveys heartfelt sadness in hearing of the loss of Bhai Jagraj Singh Ji, founder of Everything13 and Basics of Sikhi. The Sikh Community around the world, not just the UK, has lost a great pioneer who brought Sikhi to millions of people around the world through his YouTube videos and charitable work. Bhai Jagraj Singh was very much a Panthic personality and brought together Sikhs of different Jathebandi's onto the same platform. Sikh Council UK urged the Sikh Community to continue to support initiatives such as the Visitor Centre in Amritsar and Basics of Sikhi through which Jagraj Singh's legacy will live on.

Media

An Executive Member of Sikh Council UK took part in 2 separate discussion programmes on BBC Asian Network topics:

- 1 Stigma of breastfeeding in places of worship. What is the protocol for mothers wanting to breastfeed their baby in a gurdwara?
2. Discussion on why women don't have equal footing to men in a gurdwara in terms of why aren't there Sikh female gyaani? Why are there so few Sikh female gurdwara presidents?

Casework

Sikh Council UK was contacted by an individual who was denied access into his place of work because he was wearing a kirpan. The workplace was a distribution warehouse in which the wearing of a kirpan would have no impact or pose any risk. As such Sikh Council UK provided the individual with the kirpan guidance as the request was not for the Council to make direct contact but just to provide the individual with the information. This was followed by another individual who wanted to receive the guidance for use should he too be approached.

Sikh Council UK was made aware that 'Aad Sri Guru Granth Sahib Jis' are being used for oath in courts and tribunal services. It appears through ill advise the Ministry of Justice had equipped courts and tribunal services with the option of Aad Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and/or a Sundar Gutka Sahib. Working closely with the Satkar Committee UK arrangements have now been made through communication with Ministry of Justice for a planned removal of all Aad Sri Guru Granth Sahib Jis from courts and tribunals across UK.

Sikh Council UK is currently pursuing a formal complaint to NHS Trusts across UK as it was noted that where individuals were not able to communicate their diet preferences for varied reasons. It is assumed they eat any type of meat including halal and were being fed their diet accordingly. Having witnessed this on numerous occasions at 2 separate hospitals in the west midlands it was deemed that this may be the case across the board with a blanket approach. Some Trusts have rectified this while others are pending.

Sikh Council UK contacted a food company in Austria known as Curry Masters as they were using images on Sri Harmander Sahib Ji on their fish and meat products. As a result the company issued the following statement:

'Curry Masters would like to sincerely apologise to the Sikh community around the world and any others who were offended by our recent release of our repackaged Amritsari Fish product which included an image of religious significance.

When the issue associated with our packaging was brought to our attention, immediate action was taken. Within 15 minutes, a recall of all Amritsari Fish products took place and our packaging is being fixed immediately.

We respect all religions and again would like to deeply apologise for any harm caused to any individual and the Sikh community'.

Sikh Council UK, PO BOX 16788, Smethwick, B67 9FH

info@sikhcounciluk.org t:07867 608417

<https://twitter.com/SikhCouncilUK>

www.sikhcounciluk.org

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sikh-Council-UK-SCUK>