

## **Sikh Council UK meets with Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP**

Sikh Council UK – 18 July 2017

Senior representatives of Sikh Council UK met with the first Dastar wearing Sikh Member of Parliament in the UK, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP at the Palace of Westminster in London yesterday.

Secretary General Elect of the Sikh Council UK, Jagtar Singh Gill, was accompanied by Head of Public Affairs & Political Engagement, Gurinder Singh Josan and Head of Operations, Balvinder Kaur during the meeting.

Jagtar Singh Gill said, "We met with Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi to congratulate him in person on his historic victory and to discuss future working together. Tanmanjeet has been a great supporter of Sikh Council UK over several years and today's meeting was a real meeting of minds. It was important that we gave sufficient time for Tanmanjeet to settle into his new role and I was pleased to hear that he has now both his Westminster and Slough constituency offices up and running and appointed a number of staff. I'm sure we will see great things from our Sikh MP's but it is important that as a community we allow them to give sufficient attention to their constituents. We want to see Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi as an MP for Slough for many years to come."

Jagtar Singh Gill added, "Sikh Council UK works closely with many MP's of all political parties and we are grateful for all their support and assistance. Every election sees change with some MP's not returning and with new MP's joining. We will be maintaining the good links that we have built with existing MP's and will be looking to build relationships with new MP's."

Gurinder Singh Josan said, "Those of us who know Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi know he will be a great MP for Slough, the Labour Party and the Sikh community. We will continue working with the Labour Party to increase their number of Sikh MP's and Councillors and to appoint their first Sikh Peers to the House of Lords. We will also be pushing other political parties to ensure there are Sikhs in their ranks too in Parliament at the earliest opportunity."

Amongst the issues discussed were improving Sikh representation, statutory regulations covering the Dastar and five Kakaars, Sikh monitoring in census, memorial recognising contribution of Sikhs in the World Wars, caste discrimination legislation and others.

Representatives of Sikh Council UK will be meeting with Preet Gill MP shortly.

– END –

Note for Editors: Sikh Council UK is the largest representative body of Sikhs in the UK. We are recognised as the national advocate for British Sikhs in the United Kingdom and in the European Union.

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