



sikhcounciluk
A UNITED VOICE

S E P T - D E C 2 0 2 0
N E W S L E T T E R

SECRETARY - GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Sikh Council is fortunate to have a very diverse set of individuals all enthusiastic to work and provide projects for the community. We want to create effective tools which will help us now and in the future, to further develop and serve the Sikh community and the wider community. We continue to feel motivated to start 2021 with the team now fully in place. Thank you to all the sangat who have supported us and helped us along the journey, we are your sevadars and are humbled to do this seva.



Gurpreet Singh Anand
SECRETARY GENERAL | SIKH COUNCIL UK

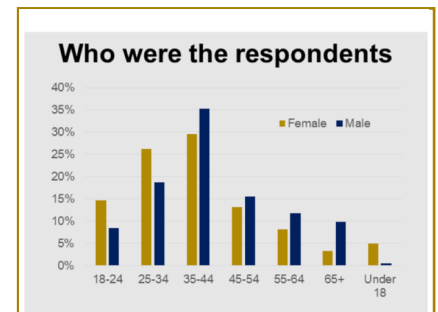
2020 HIGHLIGHTS

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਬੁਖਾਰ, ਖੰਗ ਜਾਂ ਸਾਹ ਲੈਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਮੁੜ ਜਾਓ

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS SUCH AS A FEVER, COUGHING, SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR A LOSS OF SMELL OR TASTE

**DO NOT VISIT TODAY
GO HOME AND SELF ISOLATE**

sikhcounciluk HM Government NHS TSDESIGNS



COVID-19

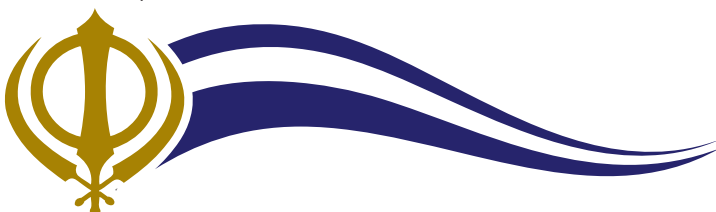
2020 has been the busiest year yet for SCUUK, with the worldwide covid-19 pandemic affecting us all. The Council has provided regular updates on advice and guidance to Gurdwaras and the whole Sikh community on daily worships and performance of ceremonies such as wedding and funerals. Council's Executive committee members Dr Sukhdev Singh & Dr Gobinderjit Kaur have participated in many NHS Covid-19 lead conferences and round-table talks as well as working with research organisations to determine the effect on BAME communities. This has allowed us to give the most recent advice to the whole community.

FARMERS PROTEST

We have been raising awareness on the farmers protests in all over India. We have witnessed one of the biggest peaceful protests in history with over 250 million people protesting at one time to overturn 3 agricultural laws, which would cripple the farming industry in Panjab and all over India. Sikh Council UK have issued a joint statement with 177 British Sikh Organisations consisting of Gurdwaras, Charities, NGO's, Universities and Human Rights Organisations on the World's largest peaceful protest for the Farmers rights in India.

FARMERS SURVEY

The Council had conducted a farmers survey in the UK, data has been collated by EC member Manivjoyt Singh to ascertain the effect of these laws to British Sikhs who have many ties with India, especially the Panjab with family, property and heritage links. These findings were extensively discussed and given great attention to in the All Parliamentary Party Group (APPG) conference call in November, where it was clear that anything that happens in the Indian sub-continent is never in isolation and will always affect the Sikh community abroad.



“A UNITED VOICE”



UK FARMERS PROTEST

Protests were arranged across the UK to show support for the farmers. Continued social media coverage has been provided via our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts, for all the community to get a 'non-biased' view on the farmers protest. Sikh Council executive members have been on national and international TV channels i.e BBC News, Sky, CNN, RT News, KTV and Al Jazeera as well as giving interviews to many radio stations and tabloids. Protests will continue until the farmers get their rights and we will keep an active eye on India, so that no human rights violation occurs.



JAGTAR SINGH JOHAL

Sikh Council UK along with various other Sikh organisations have taken a clear stance on the most disheartening and failing case of our time, the false detainment of Scottish-British national Jagtar Singh Johal. The campaign for his freedom from false detainment has now been going on for well over 3 years. Sikh Council UK has raised this directly with MP's in the APPG and indirectly via writing to the RT Hon Foreign Minister Dominic Raab, to bring this issue up on his recent visit to India with Prime Minister Modi. Sikh Council UK will continue to raise this matter until the safe return of Jagtar Singh Johal to his family in the UK.



LORD APPOINTMENT

We are disappointed to hear that Dabinderjit Singh's appointment to Lord was blocked at the last minute. Dabinderjit is one of UK's most active and prominent volunteers who has worked tirelessly to protect and defend Sikh identity, human rights and raised the political voice and influence of Sikhs. We fully support Dabinderjit's appointment and believe he would be an asset for Labour in the House of Lords.



UNITED SIKHS FARMERS PROTEST

'I alone will fight 125,000', is the spirit displayed by 70 yr old farmer, Surjit Singh from Barnala, Punjab, who spent a day volunteering with UNITED SIKHS at the Singhu Border. He had traveled to the Delhi border to be with hundreds of thousands of Indian farmers who are protesting against three black laws that they say will rob them of their their livelihood. Since the Tikri, Singhu and Ghazpur border protest sites sprung up more than a month ago, the public and NGOs like UNITED SIKHS have served more than a million meals, provided medical care, and distributed thermal wear, water proof sleeping bags, and tarpaulins and built tent cities for the never ending stream of protesters from Punjab and beyond. There have been more than 40 deaths, increasingly due to the extreme winter weather where protesters have been sleeping in wet blankets in the outdoors.

"We are in the process of putting up a new tent city they will sleep 1000 protesters who will be provided sleeping bags and thermal wear," said Mejjindarpal Kaur, UNITED SIKHS director, who is also an executive member of the Sikh Council UK



Thank you

With the grace of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the 6th Administration of the Sikh Council UK has contributed and lead many campaign's effecting the Sikh community in the UK and aboard. With its formation just over 3 months ago (26th September 2020) the council has hit the ground running. Not having much time to "Team Build" as such, the team has done remarkably well with sharing and learning from both past and present members. None of this would have been possible had it not been for the support and dedication shown by the previous administration, to whom we offer our gratitude and heartfelt thanks. From everyone at Sikh Council UK we would like to thank Jatinder Singh, Sukhjeevan Singh and Sukhwinder Singh, you have done a remarkable job and have paved the way for us to build on.

MEMBER UPDATES

Charandeep Singh:

Congratulations to Charandeep Singh EC member who has been named in the New Years Honors list. Charandeep Singh is the co-founder of the Sikh Food Bank and has been awarded the BEM for services to charity during the Covid-19 response.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date to be confirmed in January 2021

Happy New Year from SCUK

We are optimistic (in Chardi Kala), for the future as prescribed by the Sikh Gurus to continue forth and seek victory. With this in mind, we have several new projects to deliver in the coming year which will include: Sikh Education, Gurdwara Granthi Program, Sikh women empowerment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWS LETTER PLEASE CONTACT

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