

Singh in Sydney ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ ਅਕਾਲ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

Ik oaṅkār sat nām kartā purakh nīrbha'o nirvair akāl mūrati ajūnī saibha'n gur parsād.



THE SIKH BULLETIN GURU NANAK AND HIS BANI

January-February 2018

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editor@sikhbulletin.com

Our Website: www.sikhbulletin.com

EDITORIAL

KAVNEET SINGH PANNU SPECIAL

I first met Kavneet Singh Pannu at the residence of Dr. Bakhshish Singh Sandhu after Singh Sabha International conference sponsored by Philadelphia Sikh Society on October 2, 2004. Reports of that year's six conferences were published in the Sikh Bulletin of [November-December 2004](#).

Since that time, we have been in touch over the phone and his book reports have appeared in the Sikh Bulletin. During one of our more recent conversations he mentioned the Boy Scouts of America. That one comment has led to this special issue because I became a boy scout in pre-school in my village Primary School and stayed one through my Master's Degree at Govt. College Ludhiana. In college we were called Rovers. I have experienced the benefits of character-building of this organization throughout my life. It was my experience as a Boy Scout that led me to join Lions International in North America so that I could be a productive and useful member of the communities I was going to be part of.

This special issue is dedicated to the excellent work of American Sikh Council (ASC) that began in 1995 as Vishav Sikh Council, renamed World Sikh Council (WSC-America Region) in 1996 and morphed into ASC of today in 2014.

Sikhs have a tendency, perhaps not unlike other religious groups, to have multiple organizations but that have short life spans. But there are only a few that have a long-life span and ASC appears to be one such example even though I did not join it when membership was offered to me in 1996. My objection was to a member of its Board of Directors in particular and Akal Tsakhat Jathedar as Patron in general.

Hardev Singh Shergill

KAVNEET SINGH PANNU

Led, planned, organized and implemented several creative national level initiatives with the collective assistance and full support of the entire ASC Board and many other well-wishers.

- American Sikh Council – National Advocacy and Resource Officer, 2017 - Present
- American Sikh Council – President, 2016
- ASC www.americansikhcouncil.org Secretary General, 2012, 2013 & 2015
- ASC Treasurer - 2006, 2007 & 2009
- ASC Chair of the Human Rights Committee, 2004 - Present
- Started, organized and ran the *Khalsa School*, 2004-2007 at GNSSDV, Deptford, NJ
- Voorhees Soccer Association, Voorhees, NJ – Coach, 2006 - Present
- Voorhees School District Advisory Board – Member, Key Communicator 2014 – Present
- Participated in the Multiple Sclerosis MS150 and volunteered fundraised 2009 - Present

- Participated in and help fundraise (over \$16,000) for the Breast Cancer 2009 – Present
- Participated in the March of the Dimes, 2010 – Present.
- Chair – National Sikh Boy Scouts Taskforce for the ASC, 2013 – Present
- Member – Religious Relationships Committee of the BSA (National), 2014 – Present
- Committee Member – Troop 48 Berlin, NJ, 2016 – Present
- Assistant Scoutmaster - Troop 48 Berlin, NJ 2010 – 2016
- Read and compiled detailed (Sikh centered) book lists on the Sikh Faith and Heritage for adults and kids starting in 2000 – Present, used by ASC to disseminate globally.
- Written over 50 critical book reviews http://globalsikhstudies.net/r_link/reviews.htm
- Planned and designed the 9 brochures for the American Sikh Council
- Compiled, co-authored, edited, designed and published 12 academic books 2013 - Present
- Actively promoting anti-bullying initiative nationwide using the ‘Bullying of Sikh....’
- Currently the book ‘Bullying of Sikh American Children’ has been implemented in more than 16 school districts in NY, NJ, NC & NY from middle – high school.
- Planned and worked to make a dedicated detailed website on "*Third Sikh Genocide*".
- Worked for ten years to single-handedly plan and get final official approval to include the "*Third Sikh Genocide*" into the New Jersey statewide curriculum as part of the Holocaust and Other Genocides teaching as of Dec 2014. A historic first in the US.
- Led the first ever conference on the ‘*Third Sikh Genocide*’ to teach high school

teachers and college professors about the Sikhs at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, Feb 2015.

- Planned and designed the first ever '*Sikh Genocide Memorial Plaque*' and disseminated over 200 and installed in over 2 dozen Gurdwaras so far.
- Spoke at the United Nations Human Rights Conference on September 19, 2013 at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland and presented a paper on the Sikh Human Rights violations. The papers presented were published in the form of an academic book in August 2014.
- Helped initiate ASC, one of the founding member organizations of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) www.nrcat.org starting in January 2006, to stop torture on US and non-US citizens, including shutting down of the Guantanamo Bay.
- Regularly attended meetings at the White House and the State Department to collectively stop torture since 2006.
- Spoke at the Darfur Rally to an audience of 50,000 at the Washington, DC on April 30, 2006 against the Genocide in Sudan. <https://www.c-span.org/person/?kavneetsingh>
- Actively worked with the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia since 2005 – Present
- Worked with the Peace Coalition of Princeton, NJ since 2005 – Present
- Co-organized and participated in the first official Vaisakhi celebration, presided by Governor Corzine inside the state capitol in Trenton, NJ on April 25, 2006.
- Represented the ASC at the National Sikh-Catholic Dialog Retreats over the years.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN SIKH COUNCIL (ASC)

The American Sikh Council (ASC) was formerly known as the World Sikh Council – America Region (WSC-AR). The name was changed at the 2014 General Body meeting to simplify it for two reasons. First, the founders of the organization wisely envisioned that by having the name 'World Sikh Council - America Region', similar 'national associations of gurdwaras and Sikh institutions' would coalesce in other countries, with each country having only one national org representing the collective Sikh interests of their respective country be part of the 'World Sikh Council', for example; World Sikh Council – Canada Region, so forth and so on. Unfortunately, due to several factors no country was able to produce a single unified national gurdwara association, except for Malaysia in recent times. Sometimes the name itself caused a little confusion among the public. Second, the name American Sikh Council is simple and straightforward. www.americansikhcouncil.org

Many other organizations have tried to form national organizations but have been unsuccessful for several reasons. Personal leadership, nepotism, financial issues, impractical agendas, political allegiances with foreign countries, and some downright scams are some of the reasons of failure. Building legitimate organizations takes a long time to mature and sustain because without people with a fair amount of integrity everything collapses. ASC has been around for over twenty years and it has been a slow process for the first fifteen years.

Sikh have no clergy, yet the global Sikhs still keep looking towards the Akal Takht in Amritsar for answers on every important religious issue. Even though all Sikhs respect the office of the Akal Takht, for the last three decades (except for some minor respite in between) the **extremely corrupt Akali Dal political party of Punjab controls all the levers of the Akal Takht**

completely, which makes the Akal Takht redundant in practice. Second, rarely is the ‘Jathedar’ (political leader and not a religious head priest as the Indian media portrays the incumbent) really educated, which makes a mockery of the esteemed office. Third, the Sikh diaspora has absolutely no say in the nomination process. Fourth, there is no history of the Akal Takht issuing edicts as they really have no authority, because the ‘Sarbat Khalsa’ is the only place where important panthic decisions can be made. **It is the British who started to reduce the authority of the Sarbat Khalsa and move it to the Akal Takht so that they could control it easily.** Most Sikhs have fallen into this trap and assume that the Akal Takht is supposed to issue edicts when that is untrue!

Every country has its own cultural nuances and laws which are unique with its own set of challenges. The office holders of Akal Takht in no way can even start to fathom these issues, yet on the whim of a few, issue edicts which many times are in direct contradiction to not only the teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib but also the normal norms of country ‘x, y or z’!

It is for this reason that the American Sikh Council was set up so that many critical issues affecting the Sikhs in America are taken up and then deliberated on with no time limit, but discussed till there is a consensus and finally ‘white papers’ are written so that all other Sikh organizations can use the same for legitimate answers to some tough questions.

The goals of the organization include promoting respect and understanding of Sikh heritage and identity, strengthening the faith of the Sikh community, and safeguarding the Sikh heritage overseas.

If anyone chose to understand the complete history (200+ pages) of the American Sikh Council from its inception till 2007 the history is available at <https://americansikhcouncil.org/history/> . In the

meantime, there are some important questions which are answered below and will hopefully enlighten many.

Why and what is the need for ASC? What has ASC achieved? What can ASC accomplish?

Question: Why and what is the need for ASC to exist considering there are a few other Sikh American advocacy orgs in the US? What has ASC achieved which is of great significance?

Answer: Every major faith and ethnic/racial group has advocacy orgs especially the minority groups in the US. Additionally, all have national associations. Major faiths like the Christians (and their over 250 denominations/sects also have their national associations), Muslims (few sects), Jews (several sects), Buddhists (few sects) and many others. All these Faith groups will only talk and dialog with other similar national orgs and not with ‘advocacy groups’, unless of course the national organization is asleep at the wheel or simply low key. Only when no national org exists, will ‘others’ dialog with an ‘advocacy group’. In fact, the only legitimate national org for the last approximately twenty years has been ASC as the collective representative voice of the community and that ‘institutional member’ based association adds serious credibility to the stature of the organization like ASC. Typically, advocacy groups are 1-5-member well-meaning non-profits doing good work but do not have the official backing and/or the blessing of all the gurdwaras, which is critical if an org wants to be the voice of the collective and be able to speak on behalf of the larger faith community.

Example 1: In 2005 every Sikh organization in the US (including the Sikh advocacy orgs), Canada and Europe tried contacting the UNSECO (in Paris) but there was no response. But UNSECO did respond to ASC’s request, because as they stated upon inquiring, that ASC seemed to be the only legitimate and credible national org which represented the Sikh collective in the US.

Thereafter ASC spearheaded a global effort (worked with multiple Sikh orgs to coalesce in order to have a united front) and over a 5-6-month period put enough pressure to scuttle the Indian government's bid to make the Darbar Sahib a World Heritage Site (If it had gone through, it would be actually handing over all operational control to the Indian Government permanently).

Result: It has been over 13 years and the Indian government is keenly aware that possibly trying to re-apply will re-energize the Sikh diaspora even more, so ASC and other national orgs need to be very vigilant, but the Indian government have not attempted again, so far! (We did call UNESCO headquarters in Paris in late 2015 and 2016 and there has been no movement yet). It made the Sikh diaspora and the Indian Government take notice that ASC does carry some weight.

Example 2: Starting in 2006 the Sikh – Catholic (ongoing) dialog which was initiated by the Pope himself to work with the ASC and not with anyone else because ASC is a national association of gurdwaras who have legitimate member gurdwaras representing the collective voice of the Sikhs in America. Similarly, the Homeland Security, TSA, The State Department, The Pentagon and The White House want to work with the ASC, because it is a national association of gurdwaras representing the larger collective, but currently since we have no full-time staff or the funds; that gap is filled by the Sikh advocacy groups and self-appointed leaders.

Result: Starting in 2006 this ongoing (several retreats held over the East Coast) dialog has resulted in a much greater understanding of the Sikh Faith and its foundational principles by the upper echelon clergy and that has had a trickledown effect across the nation. Also, there have been more meetings with the top bishops and the Pope on more than a dozen occasions since this started. Furthermore, the concentrated effort by the ASC volunteers, ASC did participate in the previous three World Parliaments of Religion in a

very big way and is preparing for the next one in November 2018. The incredible effort of not only ASC representatives but the collective effort of all other Sikhs from lectures, to exhibits to the unbelievable langar sewa did capture the imagination of all other faiths and denominations/sects from across the globe. The chair of the PWR at Salt Lake City in 2015 stated publicly from the stage to an audience of over 5,000, "*The Sikhs have stolen the show*"! That is a testament to the work.

Example 3: In early 2008 officials from the Pentagon got in touch with ASC requesting confidential meetings to get educated on the Sikh articles of faith and the relevance to the US Armed Forces. One Sikh advocacy had been in touch with the State Department/Pentagon repeatedly but they were rebuffed, instead the Pentagon very clearly wanted to talk to the national org like - ASC. Dr. Ranbir Singh was nominated by ASC to liaison and conduct the meetings with a Colonel (a Chaplain) and another higher-ranking army brass. These meetings went on for nearly a year till all their questions were answered and clarified to their full satisfaction.

Result: It is due to these patients closed door confidential meetings to build dialog and understanding with the Pentagon officials, which ultimately lead to (the following year) starting in Oct 2009 that the first Sikh after a 25-year gap was accommodated and hired. ASC was directed not to publicize or mention these closed-door meetings to anyone till the dust settled completely, which we did! As of August 2016, there are six more Sikh Americans who have been accommodated after Lt. Col.(Dry) Kamaljit Singh Kalsi and the rest is history.

Many Sikhs ask why no one has heard about the ASC and its activities. By design our volunteers are low key and are doing the grunt work and avoiding the limelight by not tooting their own horn. It is the responsibilities of all well-wishers to let everyone else around them know the good

work and join and support the work because it is primarily for their own benefit.

The following are more initiatives which have taken tremendous effort to bring to fruition.

Global Sikh Council:

Many projects have been worked on in parallel with some taking a longer to mature. One of those projects was forming a global level coalition. Many senior and seasoned members of the American Sikh Council worked tirelessly over a decade to network and build relationships to finally be able to start the 'Global Sikh Council' in early 2015. Some of the founding members like Dr. Ranbir Singh and S. Kuldeep Singh worked tirelessly to push this and get it off the ground.

Finally, the first meeting to jump start the initiative was held in March 2014 in Australia with more than five-member countries coming on board. Over the last three years there are currently 18-member countries. Two faces to face meetings are held every year somewhere around the globe to continue dialog so that many pressing issues can be discussed.

The Global Sikh Council (GSC) represents the collective view of the Sikhs on Global Issues, developed through collaboration and consensus. GSC endeavors to serve the Sikhs worldwide through National Level Sikh Organizations with no interference in the internal functioning of member organizations. Initiated and started by ASC in early 2014, today the eighteen (18) representative countries are Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Dubai, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, UK and USA.

It has taken several years of groundwork to achieve this present global setup. The main mission is to achieve the collective Sikh vision through collaboration of national level Sikh

organizations; e.g. putting collective pressure to change Article 25(b) of the Indian Constitution by replacing it with the Anandpur Resolution. www.globalsikhcouncil.org

Conflict Resolution Services:

ASC has even spent years to develop a 'Conflict Resolution Service'. S. Kuldeep Singh a past chair and who was a longtime board member of ASC did put in years of effort in getting the legal and Sikh angle covered in order to have a proper working document. The vast majority of Sikhs are unaware that since state and religion are separate in the US, the state cannot meddle in the affairs of the religion, i.e., any civil litigation of any church, mosque, synagogue, etc., is not supposed to be entertained by the regular courts. There exists a system of 'Connectional Churches' under US law, which falls under a rule that any civil dispute of any kind must be first brought to a 'conflict resolution panel' of the same faith; preferably the highest authority within the faith system. Only when all avenues are exhausted can the litigation be sent to court. This is exactly the system all gurdwaras fall under, therefore the reasoning for preparing the 'Conflict Resolution Service' so that all our internal disputes are resolved internally by a panel of five Sikhs by the choosing of the litigants on both sides to resolve their issues(s). At the moment nearly half of all gurdwaras have some dispute or the other and many of these are lingering in the courts with no end in sight, except of course the lawyers getting rich and the hard earned daswand of the sangat being squandered on egotistical frivolous infighting.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION & MITIGATION SERVICES

The American Sikh Council has implemented the Conflict Resolution and Mitigation Services for the Gurdwaras and other Sikh Institutions. The books have been hand delivered/mailed to all Gurdwara Sahibs. The objective is to keep Sikh disputes in house and save the Sikh image from

being tarnished in court battles. As a result the Sikh community's funds will be used for better projects instead of attorney's fees. In case of any conflict at your Gurdwara Sahib, for further information please contact contact@americansikhcouncil.org and learn about this service so that the conflict can be mediated and settled.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICES

FIRST EDITION



AMERICAN SIKH COUNCIL
VOICE OF SIKHS IN AMERICA

www.americansikhcouncil.org

Sikh Youth Camps:

The American Sikh Council is deeply invested in the education and empowerment of our youth and the next generation. Several board members regularly every year do volunteer to plan, organize and run the week long camps to educate, energize and empower the young Sikh children so that they remain strongly grounded in their religious heritage and proudly carry on the traditions of serving humanity while growing up to be the best professionals they can be as American citizens.

At least three organizations which regularly run Sikh Youth Camps in the summer and other times

are also insitutional members of the American Sikh Council (ASC). Sikh Youth Alliance of North America - <http://sikh-youthalliance.org/camp/>, Toledo, OH; Sikh Youth Federation of North America – Camp Chardi Kala <http://www.campchardikala.org/>, Stoneybrook, NY and Camp Khanda <https://www.campkhanda.org/>, Syracuse, NY.

The other ongoing major projects/initiatives by ASC have been; 'Sustained Sikh Genocide', Book publishing, Educate the Educators, Anti-bullying, Sikh Scouting and Interfaith' propogated nationally acrss the US.

SUSTAINED SIKH GENOCIDE DETAILED WORK

It has taken years and hundreds of hours of tireless effort to work on many of the Sikh Genocide initiatives. This is not everyone's cup of tea! The vast majority of Sikhs genuinely feels the pain and trauma that the Sikh collective has endured physically and mentally, yet there are only a handful that are actually doing the work at the ground level to push for change through sustained education and advocacy. It is imperative that the readers understand that the Indian government is trying everything in its power to erase and change the narrative of the Sikh Genocide. The Indian government has an arsenal which includes most of the media, all the money in the world, the Indian intelligence like RAW and much more to carry out a misinformation propaganda blitz across the globe against the Sikhs in order to minimize the sustained Sikh genocide perpetuated against the tiny Sikh minority in India.

The American Sikh Council representatives have spearheaded planned and initiated most of the human rights work on behalf of the ASC over the last 14 years (since 2004). www.thirdsikhgenocide.org

a. Planned and worked to make dedicated

website was made for the "*Third Sikh Genocide*". Put together all the material on the website – PowerPoint presentation, documentary movie, brochures, list of human rights book, resource material, etc. <https://thirdsikhgenocide.wordpress.com/2014/05/25/third-sikh-genocide-30-years-and-counting-a-documentary/>

– A video documentary project initiated by the American Sikh Council.

Ever since the Sikhs sided with the Hindu Majority part of India during the 1947 partition, the Sikhs have been treated as second class citizens. Starting with the ignoring of the demands from both of the Sikh representatives of the committee to develop India's constitution, not recognizing Sikhism as a religion in itself, chipping away at the territory of Punjab – the homeland of Sikhs, systematic efforts to abolish Punjabi – the language of the Sikhs, distortion of Sikh history and culture, subtle encroachment on the Sikh faith and its followers, and then the major push to annihilate the Sikh Faith by perpetration of the sustained Sikh Genocide starting 1984.

The third Sikh Genocide started on June 3rd 1984, the day of maximum attendance at the Gurdwaras, the Sikh religious centers, with an Indian Army attack on 36 Gurdwaras simultaneously. The main target being the Darbar Sahib (incorrectly called the Golden Temple) complex Amritsar, akin to the Vatican for the Catholics.

Dr. Sangat Singh, director of India's strategic studies at ministry of defense (who also worked for RAW – the Indian foreign intelligence), in his book title "Sikhs in history" estimates total number

of Sikhs killed from 1984 to 1998 between 1 and 1.2 million. The exact number may never be known as Indian government denies inquiry by any independent body. It is not difficult to understand the reason why Indian government has banned Amnesty International from Punjab since 1984. While the Nuremberg trials brought those guilty of the Jewish holocaust to justice, Sikhs worldwide are still waiting for a closure to the worst of crimes perpetrated on them in an oxymoron called "free" and "democratic" India. This presentation is dedicated to all those Sikh victims and their families and loved ones who faced the atrocities perpetrated by the Government of India since 1947 and are still waiting for Justice.

- b. It took ten years of meticulous and tireless effort to provide detailed information, hundreds of phone calls and meetings to plan and get final official approval to include the "*Third Sikh Genocide*" into the *New Jersey statewide curriculum as part of the Holocaust and Other Genocides teaching as of December 2014*. <http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/resources/>

Inclusion of the Sustained Third Sikh Genocide as part of the Holocaust Education in the State of New Jersey

American Sikh Council (formerly known as World Sikh Council – America Region) representative Kavneet Singh has worked diligently and closely with the New Jersey Commission of Holocaust Education for over ten years to formalize this initiative. This monumental effort has finally paid off and starting in December 2014 all information about the

'Third Sikh Genocide' will be accessible as teaching material for dissemination across the state of New Jersey so that students from elementary school to high school can learn and be made aware about the atrocities perpetuated on the Sikhs in Punjab and elsewhere across India through the *'Sustained Sikh Genocide from 1984-1998'*.

This landmark move by the 'New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education' to include the teaching of the *'Sustained Third Sikh Genocide (1984-1998)'* in all the schools across the State of New Jersey is indeed historic and a first in the US. American Sikh Council (ASC) applauds this move and sincerely thanks the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education in taking this noble step to help educate school children about others around them and their pain and suffering. This momentous step will not only educate all children but reduce ignorance, create genuine respect and hopefully reduce bullying of Sikh children.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/resources/>

- c. Led and organized the first ever conference on the *'Third Sikh Genocide'* to teach high school teachers and college professors about the Sikhs at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, February 7, 2015. <https://americansikhcouncil.org/2015/02/07/conference-on-the-sustained-sikh-genocide-1984-1998-in-india-held-at-princeton-university/>

Conference on 'The Sustained Sikh Genocide 1984-1998 in India' held at

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ on February 7, 2015

The first ever conference on 'The Sustained Sikh Genocide 1984-1998 in India' was organized by American Sikh Council (ASC) formerly known as World Sikh Council – America Region, and held at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey on Saturday, February 7, 2015. The itinerary was to bring awareness through education and was focused on educators. This important event was attended by professors from Princeton and elsewhere, teachers from across New Jersey, college students and others who travelled from distances. The all-day conference held the audience spellbound with the detailed information by the various presenters, each specializing in their particular field, which also included a short thirty-minute documentary on the Third Sikh Genocide.



Panel (L – R) Kavneet Singh, Sutinder Singh, Dr. Paul Winkler, Jasbir Singh and Dr. Maureen Hogan

Dr. Winkler highlighted the need for the world to know about the atrocities like the unrelenting genocide committed against the Sikhs. Dr. Hogan stressed the fact that minorities Faith groups can never be secure where societies deny such genocides and are likely to happen again. This conference was co-sponsored by the Sikh Students Association of Princeton University and the

Coalition for Peace Action, Princeton, New Jersey.

**INVITATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE SUSTAINED SIKH GENOCIDE (1984-1998) IN
INDIA**

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CONFERENCE ON THE
CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON
A RELIGIOUS MINORITY IN INDIA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015

TIME: 2 – 6 PM (REGISTRATION STARTS 1:30 PM)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM ST, PRINCETON, NJ 08542

**ROOM 006 – FRIENDS CENTER FOR
ENGINEERING EDUCATION
(BETWEEN OLDEN ST & CHARLTON ST)**

AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATION

The conference will examine the world's lack of awareness of the sustained Sikh Genocide in Punjab Northwestern India, from 1984-1998. The speakers will address the following questions:

- Ø *What is the experience of the Sikh diaspora and how they are dealing with it?*
- Ø *Why this issue is of worldwide concern?*
- Ø *Why is it a particular issue for Sikh women?*
- Ø *How should information about this atrocity be disseminated?*
- Ø *How should the academic community respond?*
- Ø *How should religious communities respond?*
- Ø *Plan for the future?*

Speakers include:

- **Dr. Maureen Hogan** – Global Education Curriculum Specialist, NJ
- **Rev. Robert Moore** – Coalition for Peace Action, Princeton, NJ
- **Jasbir Singh** – Retired Principal, Gurmat Missionary College, Punjab, India
- **Kavneet Singh** – Secretary General, World Sikh Council – America Region, NJ
- **Sutinder Singh** – Past member of the Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council, NJ

- **Dr. Diane Young** – Assistant Superintendent, Voorhees School District, NJ
- **Dr. Paul Winkler** – Executive Director, State of New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

For more information - please contact:

Arjan Dhillon adhillon@princeton.edu 920-728-3821 | **Sutinder Singh** sutinders@gmail.com 609-290-8998

Organized by World Sikh Council – America Region and Sikh Students Association of Princeton

Co-sponsored by Coalition for Peace Action, Princeton, NJ

Free - refreshments

- d. Planned and designed the first ever '*Sikh Genocide Memorial Plaque*' and disseminated over 200 and installed in over 2 dozen gurdwaras so far! <https://americansikhcouncil.org/2015/02/06/the-sikh-genocide-memorial-plaques-being-installed-in-various-gurdwaras-across-the-nation/>

The 'Sikh Genocide Memorial' plaques being installed in various Gurdwaras across the nation

Starting in the latter half of 2014, Gurdwaras across America started to install the 'Sikh Genocide Memorial' plaque made specifically to commemorate the 'Sustained Sikh Genocide' by the Indian state on the Sikhs of Punjab. The following Gurdwaras are some who have already installed the plaques with pride and honored the memory of hundreds of thousands of their faith brothers and sisters who died in Punjab and elsewhere across India. Gurdwara congregations should be applauded for this show of true respect in a dignified manner, to memorialize the horror perpetuated upon them by the Indian regime.



The Sikh Genocide Memorial plaque installed inside the Sikh Sabha Gurdwara, Lawrenceville, NJ

Sikh Sabha Gurdwara, Lawrenceville, New Jersey
 Sikh Foundation of Syracuse, Syracuse, New York
 Gurdwara Sachkhand Darbar, Hamden, Connecticut
 Sikh Study Circle, Atlanta, Georgia
 Sikh Study Circle, St. Louis, Missouri
 Chesapeake Gurdwara, Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Opelika, Alabama
 Guru Nanak Sikh Society of the Delaware Valley, Pine Hill, New Jersey
 Sikh Religious Society of Palatine, Palatine, Illinois
 Sikh Center of the Pacific Coast, Selma, California

Additionally, a few hundred plaques have already been installed at various businesses across the nation to honor all the Sikhs murdered in the '*Sustained Sikh Genocide in India*'.

e. ASC representative spoke at the **United Nations Human Rights Conference on September 19, 2013 inside the UN in Geneva, Switzerland** and presented a paper on the Sikh Human Rights violations by India. The Paper and other papers presented at the conference was published in the form of an academic book in August 2014 whereas a ASC representative contributed a chapter, co-edited and help publish <https://www.amazon.com/MurderPluralismCopinGDemocraticOppression/dp/0986803715>

f. Compiled, edited, designed and published a comprehensive two volume record of all the human rights violations against the Sikhs and others by the Indian regime. All that information is found in the US Congressional Record: **U.S. Congress on the Sikh Struggle for Khalistan – Vol One 1985-1998 and Vol Two 1999-2007**: (2013) [840 Pages and 937 Pages] ISBN: 978-0-9889370-0-0, ISBN: 978-0-9889370-1-7,

http://www.amazon.com/USCongressSikhStruggleKhalistan/dp/098893700X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1427744698&sr=1-1
http://www.amazon.com/USCongressSikhStruggleKhalistan/dp/0988937018/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1427744698&sr=1-2

g. Helped initiate and was one of the founding member organizations of the **National Religious Campaign Against Torture** (NRCAT) www.nrcat.org in January 2006, to stop all forms of torture on US and non-US citizens, including the permanent shutting down of the infamous Guantanamo Bay facility. <http://www.nrcat.org/torture-abroad/shining-a-light-on-torture/dec-13-2011-wh-meeting>. ASC representative regularly attended meetings at the White House and the State Department to collectively stop torture for the last twelve years.

h. ASC representative spoke at the **Darfur Rally** to an **audience of 50,000** at the Washington Monument on April 30, 2006 against the Genocide in Sudan. <https://www.c-span.org/person/?kavneetsingh>

i. Led and organized many protests and candle light vigils in the last 30 years in reference to Sikh human rights violations by the Indian regime. <https://americansikhcouncil.org/resources-for-teaching-about-sikh-human-rights-violations-and-genocide/>
<https://americansikhcouncil.org/books-on-sikh-human-rights-violations/>
<https://thirdsikhgenocide.wordpress.com/>
<https://americansikhcouncil.org/2015/02/>
<https://americansikhcouncil.org/2015/02/07/confer>

[ence-on-the-sustained-sikh-genocide-1984-1998-in-india-held-at-princeton-university/
https://americansikhcouncil.org/2015/02/06/the-sikh-genocide-memorial-plaques-being-installed-in-various-gurdwaras-across-the-nation/
https://americansikhcouncil.org/2015/02/05/inclusion-of-the-sustained-third-sikh-genocide-as-part-of-the-holocaust-education-in-the-state-of-new-jersey/](https://americansikhcouncil.org/2015/02/06/the-sikh-genocide-memorial-plaques-being-installed-in-various-gurdwaras-across-the-nation/)

There are several historic firsts achieved by the American Sikh Council, thanks to its passionate and committed volunteers and relentless work ethic. Many of these projects have not been publicized properly, therefore not many are aware of the phenomenal work done so far!

1. First website on the Sustained Sikh Genocide www.thirdsikhgenocide.org.
2. First documentary (30 mins) about the Sustained Sikh Genocide.
3. First two volume book on the human rights violations of the Sikhs recorded in the US Congress, published in early 2013.
4. First major conference held at the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland on the human rights violations of Sikhs by the Indian government.
5. First academic book – a compilation of all the papers presented at the United Nations conference, published in late 2014.
6. First major conference held at an Ivy League University to educate the educators about the Sustained Sikh Genocide.
7. First inclusion of the Sustained Third Sikh Genocide as part of the Holocaust Education in the State of New Jersey in late 2014.
8. First major implementation of the Sustained Sikh Genocide plaques across the US inside Gurdwaras and businesses, starting in 2015.

If only the Sikhs across the United States really stepped up their education and understanding by increasing the depth of knowledge about the

‘genocide’, it will bring about a sea change in awareness not only for our own future generations but also for the host majority. Sikhs must understand the distinct difference between serious human right violations and anything else, because the word ‘politics’ is commonly used whenever anyone talks about the ‘genocide’.

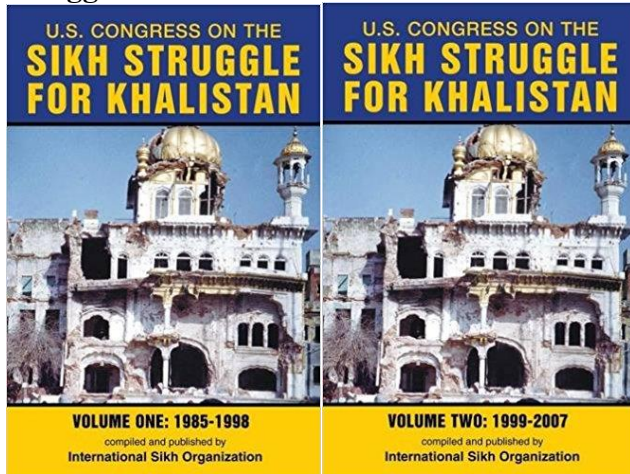
Have the Sikhs become so fearful that they refuse to acknowledge the ‘genocide’ when in fact the benevolent Gurus made us fearless, in order for every Sikh to speak up against tyranny and stand up for everyone’s rights, no matter what or whose cause; as long as it is a noble one!

PUBLISHING BOOKS ON THE SIKH HERITAGE PROJECT

One of the long term ongoing initiatives taken up by the American Sikh Council was to be able deliver content driven books for a wide audience; from academia to the Sikh youth focusing on all the issues which are current and relevant. Even though the American Sikh Council (ASC) organization is now twenty years old, in particularly the last five years passionate volunteers from the American Sikh Council have authored, coauthored, compiled, formatted, edited, designed and published twelve books listed as follows.

1. *U.S. Congress on the Sikh Struggle for Khalistan – Vol One 1985-1998 and Vol Two 1999-2007*: International Sikh Organization (2013) [840P and 937P] ISBN: 978-0-9889370-0-0, ISBN: 978-0-9889370-1-7, [\$50 + \$50] \$100 for a set
http://www.amazon.com/USCongressSikhStruggleKhalistan/dp/098893700X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1427744698&sr=1-1
http://www.amazon.com/USCongressSikhStruggleKhalistan/dp/0988937018/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1427744698&sr=1-2

New Book out 'U.S. Congress on the Sikh Struggle for Khalistan':

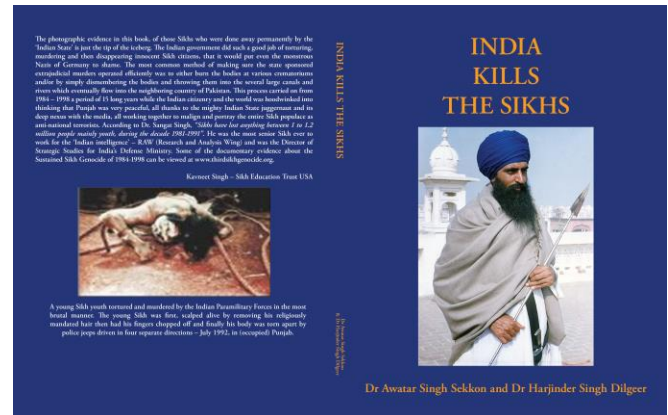


The two-volume book contains all the congressional records of the various human rights violations against the Sikh collective in Punjab and elsewhere in India between the years 1985 - 2007. This book is a comprehensive record useful for researchers and academics.

2. *India Kills the Sikhs*: Dr. A.S.Sekhon & Dr. H.S.Dilgeer (2016) [228P] ISBN-13: 978-0986803727; ISBN: 0-9695964-9-9 Sikh Educational Trust \$35
https://www.amazon.com/India-Kills-Sikhs-Awatar-Sekhon/dp/0986803723/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1472331646&sr=1-1&keywords=india+kills+the+sikhs

New Book out on the 'Sustained Sikh Genocide' by The Sikh Educational Trust:

Dr. Awatar Singh a human rights activist and a prolific writer who has written several books earlier just republished this much needed book with the assistance of the American Sikh Council (ASC) in July 2016. Dr. Awatar Singh has been tirelessly speaking; several times every year at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland since 1999, on the issue of human right violations against Sikhs and other minorities in India.



https://www.amazon.com/IndiaKillsSikhsAwatarSekhon/dp/0986803723/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1469883304&sr=1-1&keywords=india+kills+the+sikhs

The photographic evidence in this book, of those Sikhs who were done away permanently by the Indian State' is just the tip of the iceberg. The Indian government did such a good job of torturing, murdering and then disappearing innocent Sikh citizens, that it would put even the monstrous Nazis of Germany to shame. The most common method of making sure the state sponsored extrajudicial murders operated efficiently was to either burn the bodies at various crematoriums and/or by simply dismembering the bodies and throwing them into the several large canals and rivers which eventually flow into the neighboring country of Pakistan. This process carried on from 1984 – 1998 a period of 15 long years while the Indian citizenry and the world was hoodwinked into thinking that Punjab was very peaceful, all thanks to the mighty Indian State juggernaut and its deep nexus with the media, all working together to malign and portray the entire Sikh populace as anti-national terrorists. According to Dr. Sangat Singh, “*Sikhs have lost anything between 1 to 1.2 million people mainly youth, during the decade 1981-1991*”. He was the most senior Sikh ever to work for the ‘Indian intelligence’ – RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) and was the Director of Strategic Studies for India’s Defense Ministry. Some of the documentary evidence about the Sustained Sikh

Genocide of 1984-1998 can be viewed at www.thirdsikhgenocide.org

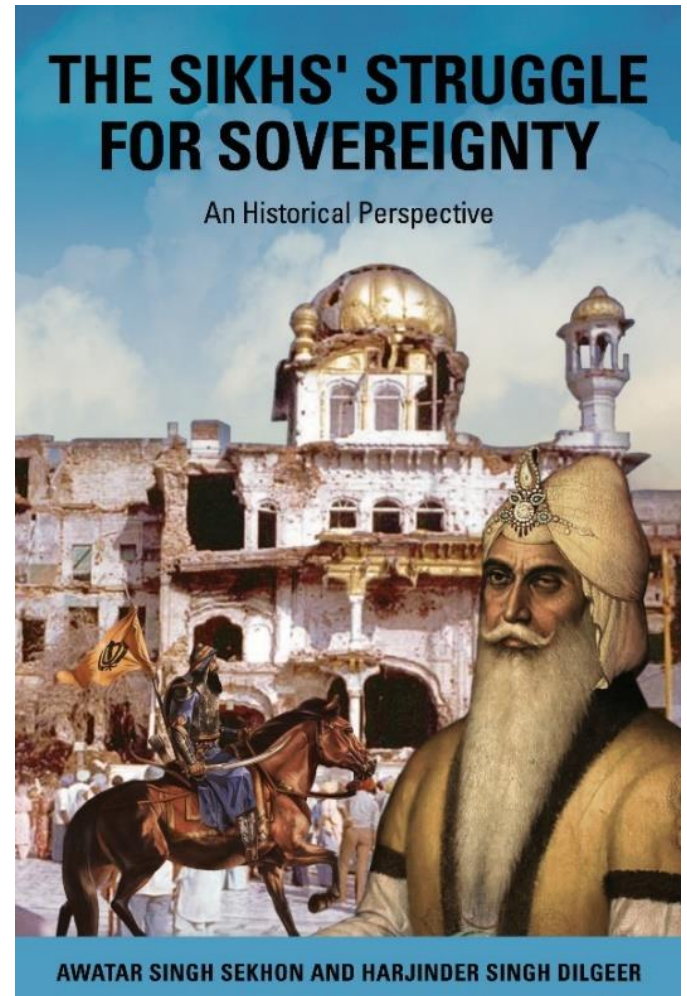
3. *The Sikhs' Struggle for Sovereignty*: Dr. A.S.Sekhon & Dr. H.S.Dilgeer (2017) [368P] ISBN: 0-9695964-0-5 Sikh Educational Trust ISBN-10: 098680374X; ISBN-13: 978-0986803741 \$20 https://www.amazon.com/Sikhs-Struggle-Sovereignty-Historical-Perspective/dp/098680374X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1492959281&sr=1-1

New Book out on 'The Sikhs' Struggle for Sovereignty – An Historical Perspective' by The Sikh Educational Trust

Sikh sovereignty is either unknown or accidentally discussed by the historians. This is because the present rulers of India in particular and historians in general have regarded the Sikhs as a denomination of the Hindus. The British Empire transferred power to the unelected upper caste Hindus, who had been 'subservient' to the Afghans, Mughals, Sikhs, British, Portuguese, etc., for more than a millennium. Blessed by the 10th Master, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, General Banda Singh Bahadur established the first sovereign kingdom from 1708 - 1716. Between 1716 and 1799, there was incredible turbulence. During this period, the Sikhs fought for survival from the Mughal rulers trying to establish a sovereign country, but were finally able to rule under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, from 1799 to March 29, 1849.

The Sikhs were forced to surrender their Sovereignty to the British Empire when the Punjab of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was 'annexed' to the British Empire on March 29, 1849. A segment of the Sikhs, who did not accept the British Empire's 'annexation', continued their struggle to regain sovereignty. In fact, the 'Mutiny of 1857' was only a violent protest against the use of beef tallow in the usage of cartridge grease by Hindu soldiers

serving in the Indo-British Army and not an act for freedom.



It is noteworthy that the Sikhs of Guru Nanak Sahib to Guru Gobind Singh Sahib have never been 'subservient' to any political power. It must be stated that the Sikhs of Punjab, have never signed, accepted or endorsed the 'Constitution of India'.

The authors Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon and Dr. Harjinder Singh Dilgeer, each have several academic books to their credit, all concerning the history and political struggles of the Sikhs. The current book is an updated edition with an additional chapter covering recent events. The book is available on: https://www.amazon.com/dp/098680374X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1492701109&sr=1-1

4. *Betrayal of the Sikh Nation by Master Tara Singh*: Ram Singh (2015) [133P] ISBN: 0-9811360-6-6 Sikh Educational Trust, Canada \$15

http://www.amazon.com/BetrayalSikhNationMasterSingh/dp/0981136060/ref=pd_sim_sbs_b_1?ie=UTF8&refRID=0HP088JGK19X3S44W13Q

5. *The Sikhs - Sovereignty to Slavery*: Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon (2015) [125P] ISBN: 978-0981136080 Sikh Educational Trust \$15

http://www.amazon.com/TheSikhsAwatarSinghSekhon/dp/0981136087/ref=pd_sim_sbs_b_1?ie=UTF8&refRID=1CP6NM29VXSCR38W13NK

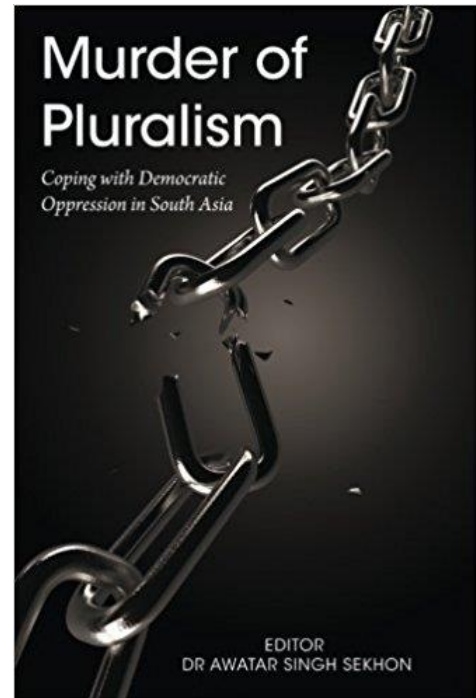
6. *Murder of Pluralism: Coping with Democratic Oppression in South Asia*: Editor - Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon (2014) [318P] ISBN: 0986803715 Sikh Educational Trust, Canada \$25

http://www.amazon.com/MurderPluralismCopingDemocraticOppression/dp/0986803715/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1427743762&sr=1-2

New Book out 'Murder of Pluralism: Coping with Democratic Oppression in South Asia': by the Sikh Educational Trust:

This book is a compilation of academic papers presented at the seminar held at the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, on September 19, 2013, under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles Graves.

Academic papers were presented on the gross human rights violations and abuses in South Asia, with particular reference to the Sikhs of Punjab and other minorities of South Asia.



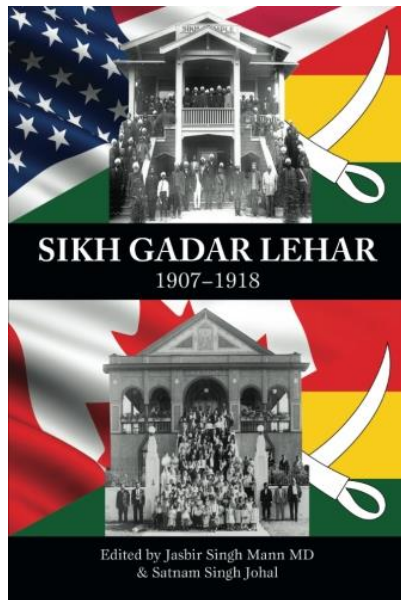
It is indeed gratifying to see so much passion and work put into this book. I have especially known the Sikh authors and their tireless work for a very long time. Each chapter has authentic and well-researched material which portrays an honest and forthright view of the current human rights situation pertaining to various ethno-religious groups in South Asia. The book deserves wide circulation and is a must read for any serious student of history, politics, anthropology, religion, social studies, and other areas. This book sheds light on the modus operandi of the largest democracy in Asia vis-à-vis its minorities Faith groups. The existing democratic structure is really putrid, requiring major changes because the near and long-term future does not bode well for a multitude of ethno-religious groups whose woes of suffering are being trampled on daily. I have no hesitation in recommending this book without reservations to all lovers of liberty and justice but especially those who cherish freedom from any kind of tyranny. – Dr. Charles Graves

7. *Sikh Gadar Lehar 1907 – 1918*: Editors. Dr. Jasbir Singh Mann and Satnam Singh Johal (2015) [582P] ISBN-13: 978-

0986298790 ISBN-10: 0986298794 Shri
Guru Granth Sahib Foundation \$25.

http://www.amazon.com/GadarLehar19071918JasbirSingh/dp/0986298794/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1426792629&sr=1-1

New Book out on the Sikh Gadarites by SGGS
Foundation, Anaheim, CA



Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation of Anaheim, CA a founding member of the American Sikh Council has just published a fascinating book on the monumental sacrifices made by the 'Sikh Gadarites' in America in the early part of the last century. The Sikh Gadar Lehar 1907-19018, a 582 page (ISBN-13: 978-0986298790 ISBN-10: 0986298794):

http://www.amazon.com/GadarLehar19071918JasbirSingh/dp/0986298794/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1426792629&sr=1-1

Cover shows two historical Gurdwaras built 1908 Vancouver B.C. and 1912 Stockton CA, birth places of Gadar movement of Sikhs against British colonialism. Prof Teja Singh raised community consciousness. The Gadari Babey's took inspiration from Sikh Ideology and history of Sikh armed revolution. More than 85% percent

participants were male Sikhs. Movement did not involve repudiation of their religious faith; instead their faith strengthened their involvement. Sir. Michael O'dwyer lieutenant governor of Punjab in 1912 -1919 in his book Calls it 'Sikh Gadar Conspiracy'.

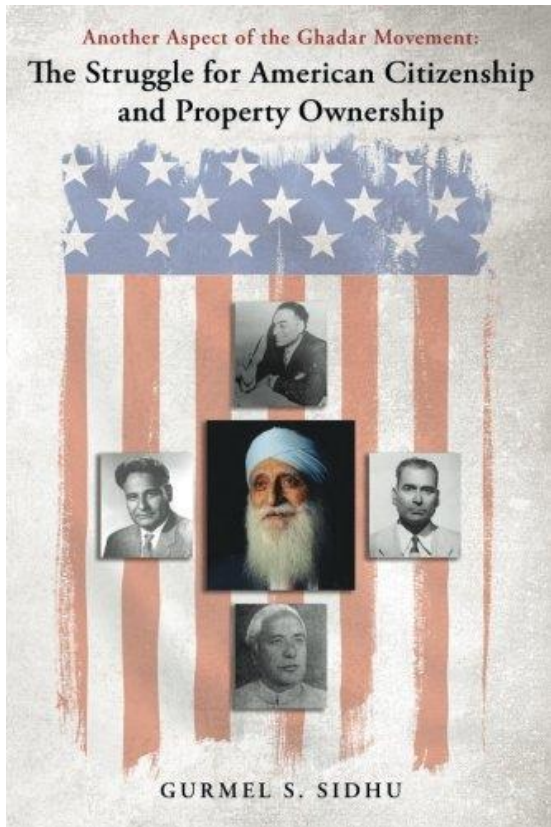
Gadar Party truly a Sikh led organization as "The Gadar Directory" published by British in 1917 and updated in 1934 shows list of 616 names out of which 527 were Sikhs, 54 Hindus and 35 Muslims. Canadian Government Archivals shows out of total of 376 Komagata Maru passengers in 1914, 340 were Sikhs, 24 Muslims and 12 Hindus.

Across world 35 Sikh preachers and 25 Gurudwaras participated in movement. Between 1907-1918 true Sikh religious conscience was the guiding force. From 1905- 1913 in Europe, Shyamaji Krishna Varma's Arya Samaj thought, Veer Savarkar Abhinava Bharat's thought and Bhikaiji Cama and Sardar Singh Rana's Social Democratic could not produce any international mass movement of Independence as compared to this North American west coast movement finally executed thru Sikh Inspiration. Literature produced by Indian National historians has suppressed the role of Sikh ideology, Sikh Gurdwaras, Sikh priests, Prof Teja Singh and relations of the Gadari Babas with the Sikh League, SGPC & Sri Akal Takhat and their participation in Sikh affairs.

8. *Another Aspect of the Ghadar Movement: The Struggle for American Citizenship and Property Rights:* Dr. Gurmail S.Sidhu (2015) [396P] ISBN-10: 0986298735, ISBN-13: 978-0986298738 Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation \$20:

http://www.amazon.com/AnotherAspectGhadarMovementCitizenship/dp/0986298735/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1430338148&sr=1-1&keywords=another+aspect+of+the+ghadar+movement

New Book out on the Sikh Ghadar Pioneers by
SGGS Foundation, Anaheim, CA:



The cover page shows five pioneer Sikh-Americans who paved the way for millions of Asians toward American citizenship.

Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation of Anaheim, CA a founding member of the American Sikh Council has just published another captivating book on the colossal sacrifices made by the 'Sikh Ghadar Pioneers' in America to pave the way for all Asians to gain US citizenships and property rights from 1918 - 1946. The 396-page book, "*Another Aspect of the Ghadar Movement: The Struggle for American Citizenship and Property Rights*", should be an eye-opener for political history enthusiasts. ISBN-10: 0986298735, ISBN-13: 978-0986298738.

http://www.amazon.com/AnotherAspectGhadarMovementCitizenship/dp/0986298735/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1430338148&sr=1-1&keywords=another+aspect+of+the+ghadar+movement

The book captures the short struggle for Indian independence and the long struggle for American citizenship. This study focuses on the Punjabi (Sikh) farmers who came to California to practice their old agricultural profession, the land laws enacted to bar them from tilling, and their marriages with Mexican women to bypass these laws. The study extensively deals with the lives and roles played by well-educated and politically apt Indians in lobbying for the bill for American citizenship. Overall, the book clearly documents the story of Indian immigration to North America and their achievements in the long run. The result is that India is now free and Indians have the right of citizenship in North America. "*Dr. Gurmel S. Sidhu has performed a great service by researching and publishing, first in Punjabi and now in English, this account of the pioneer Punjabi Sikhs in America. His chapters on Bagga Singh Sangha, Bhagat Singh Thind, J. J. Singh, and Dalip Singh Saund show his painstaking original research and contribute new material about these leading figures in the pioneer Sikh struggle for citizenship and civil rights in the United States. The book is a fine achievement.*" – Prof. Karen Leonard. The cover page shows five pioneer Sikhs who paved the way for millions of Asians toward American citizenship.

9. *Bullying of Sikh American Children: Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student*: Karanveer Singh Pannu ISBN: 978-1519420138 (2015) [254P] Sikh Education Trust \$20

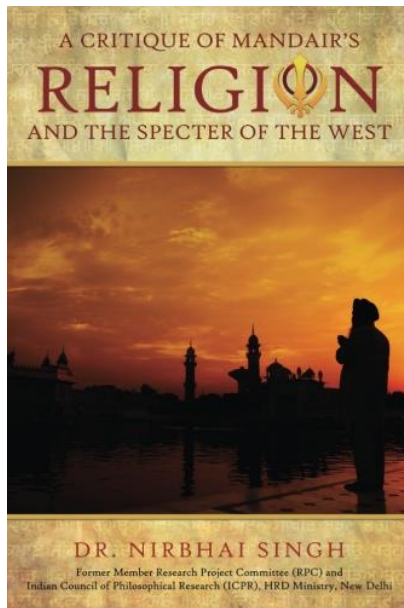
http://www.amazon.com/BullyingSikhAmericanChildrenThrough/dp/1519420137/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1448145757&sr=81&keywords=bullying+of+sikh+american+children

10. *The Critique of Mandair's "Religion and the Specter of the West..."*: Dr. Nirbhai Singh (2016) [234P] ISBN: 978-0-9862987-8-3 Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation \$20

<https://www.amazon.com/CritiqueMandair>

[sReligionSpecterWest/dp/0986298786/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1481990076&sr=1-5](https://www.amazon.com/Critique-Mandairs-Religion-Specter-West/dp/0986298786/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1481990076&sr=1-5)

New Book out on A Critique of Mandair's, 'Religion and the Specter of the West' by SGGS Foundation, Anaheim, CA



Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation of Anaheim, CA a founding member of the American Sikh Council –ASC has just published a book which is a critical review and a rebuttal of a book published by Arvindpal Singh Mandair (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI) called Religion and the Specter of the West: Sikhism, India, Postcoloniality, and the Politics of Translation published in 2013.

The Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation took up this important project to critically review and respond to the extremely flawed and skewed view presented by a Sikh American academic who sits Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation of Anaheim, CA a founding member of the American Sikh Council –ASC has just published another book, 'Critical Review of Anne Murphy's "The Materiality of the past...." & The UBC Chair at a Glance', 312 Pages, ISBN-10: 0986298778;

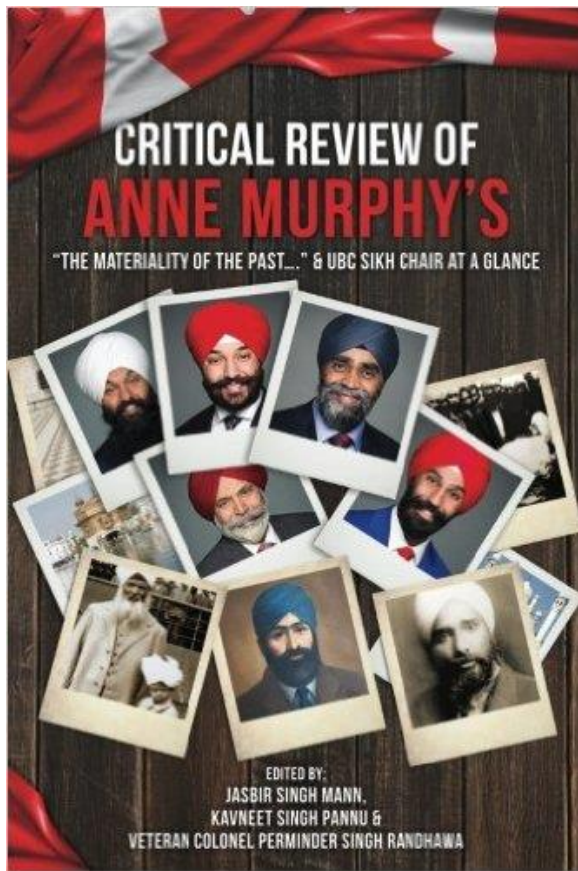
ISBN-13: 978-0986298776 in a Sikh Chair setup at the University of Michigan. The Sikh Chair was built on the blood and sweat of many hardworking Sikhs whose entire premise was that the Sikh Faith would be protected, projected and researched in a positive wholesome manner by the incumbent scholar. Instead Prof. Arvind Pal Singh Mandair has stooped so low as to bring shame not only to the Sikh panth but also is not fit to hold the post he currently is enjoying. A Critique of Mandair's, 'Religion and the Specter of the West', 244 Pages (ISBN-10: 0986298786, ISBN-13: 978-0986298783)

https://www.amazon.com/Critique-Mandairs-Religion-Specter-West/dp/0986298786/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1480440431&sr=1-1

The book, The Critique of Mandair's "Religion and the Specter of the West....", is a philosophical rebuttal of Mandair's work, which presents a distorted Sikh identity of Sikhism from the Western standpoint. From the scriptural perspective Mandair's work is sacrilegious and blasphemous of the Sikh Faith. Dr. Nirbhay Singh has logically demolished the premise put together by Arvind Pal Singh Mandair in his book.

11. The *Critical Review of Anne Murphy's "The Materiality of the Past."* & *UBC Sikh Chair at a glance*: Dr. Jasbir Singh Mann, Kavneet Singh Pannu & Veteran Colonel Perminder Singh Randhawa (2017) [305P] ISBN: 978-0-9862987-7-6 Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation \$20
https://www.amazon.com/Critical-Review-Murphys-Materiality-Glance/dp/0986298778/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1486237712&sr=1-1&keywords=critical+review+of+anne+murphy

New Book out on Critical Review of Anne Murphy's "The Materiality of the past...." & The UBC Chair at a Glance by SGGS Foundation, Anaheim, CA



Sikh religion and its independent identity cannot be studied with materials and phenomenology. The numinous experience is the core and base of the Sikh religion, and its ingredients do not overlook the developments taking place in the universe around him/her. The ultimate reality is not comprehensible through the sensory motor perceptions and speculations. Sikhism is a religion of Naam (numina), which has been explained in the hymns of Sikh scripture/Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Damdami version through revealed statements, literary similes, and allusions. The full gaze of history for true scholars of Sikhism, who would like to find the ideal Sikh identity, should seek the Sikh scripture and early historical sources of 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. For Sikh studies, scholars writing on identity issues must refer to the primary source - Sri Guru Granth Sahib, spiritual experience of the Gurus, their concept of God, their goal, their methodology, and their approach to the empirical life. The book presents

the assessment of different scholars who have reviewed Anne Murphy's book thoroughly. The contributors to this volume are no casual observers or amateur writers but have published extensively on educational matters relating to Sikh studies in the past.

https://www.amazon.com/Critical-Review-Murphys-Materiality-Glance/dp/0986298778/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1487559377&sr=1-1&keywords=critical+review+of+anne+murphy

The book, *Critical Review of Anne Murphy's "The Materiality of the past..." & The UBC Chair at a Glance* is a rebuttal of Murphy's work, by over a dozen seasoned writers and academics who have challenged Murphy's shoddy research in order to present her thesis.

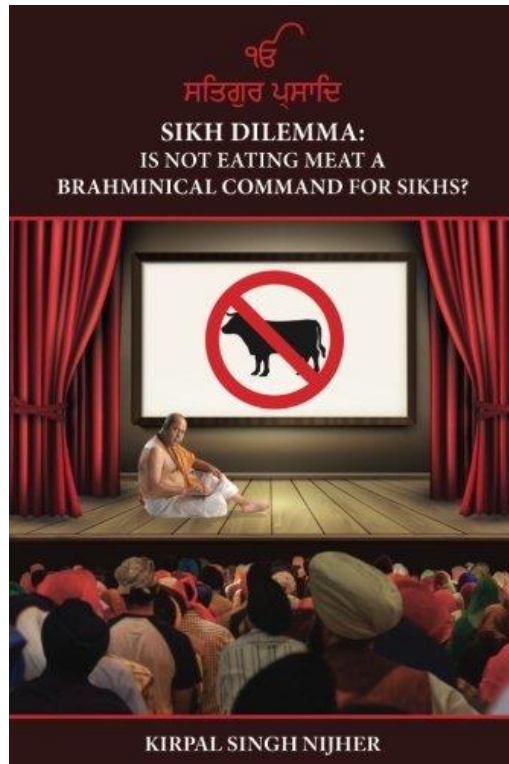
12. *Sikh Dilemma: Is "Not Eating Meat" a Brahminical command for Sikhs?: Kirpal Singh Nijher (2018)[500P] ISBN-13: 978-1984987068:\$30*

https://www.amazon.com/SikhDilemmaEatingBrahminicalCommand/dp/1984987062/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1519145775&sr=1-1&keywords=kirpal+nijher

New Book out; Sikh Dilemma: Is "Not Eating Meat" a Brahminical Command for Sikhs? by Kirpal Singh Nijher:

S. Kirpal Singh a long-time board member who has served in many capacities including the President of the American Sikh Council (ASC) has republished a comprehensive book on the question of whether Sikhs are supposed to 'meat' or not? Since times immemorial, India has been a land of superstitions, religious intrigue and shams where one of the most deceptive but popular superstitions that is advocated as a passport to heaven, by the conniving Brahmin Hindu priests is the 'renunciation' of meat-eating. The basic postulate of this 'do not eat meat command' is that anybody who fails to renounce eating meat in life becomes a defiled sinner because of the presence of meat in

the stomach and hence, has no chance of going to the so-called heaven or attain salvation.



Furthermore, such an individual is said to be not only destined to go to hell but is also advocated to be ordained to be reborn again and again as a snake, a cat, a dog, a chicken, a goat, a cow, etc., to pay back for the crime of eating meat. Historically, this 'religious command to not eat meat' perpetuated by the sleazy Brahmin Hindu priests surpasses every other mind-controlling deception used by the priestly classes to fool and rob innocent people in broad daylight. This superstition has been the most effective trap invented by the Hindu ritualistic class of India to instill fear and an extreme sense of guilt in peoples' minds. It would not be an overstatement to say that this particular mind-controlling superstition has proven to be a gold mine in the hands of the Hindu priests to open each and every psychological door to the human mind and to facilitate the instilling of all other types of superstitions and ignorance to further befuddle the masses. Unfortunately, in spite of having the

advantage of being the members of the most enlightened ideology (the Sikh Faith), some Sikhs have still fallen prey to this insidious Brahmanical deception.

Sikh Dilemma: Is "Not Eating Meat" a Brahmanical command for Sikhs? Kirpal Singh Nijher (2018)[500P]ISBN-13: 978-1984987068: \$30

https://www.amazon.com/SikhDilemmaEatingBrahminicalCommand/dp/1984987062/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1519145775&sr=1-1&keywords=kirpal+nijher

There are approximately over 7,000 books written and published on the Sikhs and related topics to date, with more being published every day, globally. For the novice or the interested, volunteers on the American Sikh Council have continued to read all sorts of books on the 'Sikhs' and come up with a list of best books covering a wide range of topics (history, religion, human rights, politics, music, etc). This list is continually updated, vetted and is posted on the website.

<https://americansikhcouncil.org/books-for-adults/>

There is a similar list of books for Sikh Children which has been continually updated for the last two decades so that Sikhs/Non-Sikh children read the best books and be better informed with accurate information about their own faith and history.

<https://americansikhcouncil.org/books-for-children/>

For those who are interested in reading shorter versions of many interesting books. Volunteers have written critical book reviews on many topics surrounding the Sikhs. Some of the book reviews are available on the following website:

http://www.globalsikhstudies.net/r_link/reviews.htm

The American Sikh Council continues to write and publish new literature, especially one-page brochures meant for the larger public in order to

inform them about the Sikhs and many of the related topics and issues. There are several other brochures in the pipeline. The ones that have been published and used to educate Sikhs and the public at large in the United States are freely available on the website:

<https://americansikhcouncil.org/brochures/>

1. Sikh Faith
2. Sikhs and Scouts
3. Sikhs in Scouting
4. Bullying of Sikh American Children
5. History of Sikh Americans
6. Sikh Genocide
7. Boy Scouts Initiative
8. ASC 2017 Projects
9. Sikh Scripture

Generally, Sikhs are not very avid readers of books on any topic covering the Sikhs. While talking to the publisher and owner of the Singh Brothers in Amritsar, Punjab a few years ago he said something which rings true even today. Gursagar Singh stated, *“If it wasn’t for the Sikhs in the diaspora buying our books, we would be out of business.”*

Pretty much any book published in Punjab has no more than a 1,000 printed in the first print run. Rare is the book which is reprinted. If there are somewhere between 25 - 30 million Sikhs worldwide, it seems like literally 99.9% do not read about their own heritage. No wonder the ‘panth’ has many issues.

A well-read collective can obviously withstand the rigors of society much better than a collective which knows little. While having langar at the Palatine Gurdwara in Palatine, IL many years ago a journalist from the Chicago Tribune happened to sitting next to me and we got talking. After some polite conversation he stated the following, *“You (Sikhs) are the most religious looking people yet the most ignorant about your own faith”!* Truth is a bitter pill indeed!

The Jews have put their writers on pedestals and created an army of them and treat them with great respect, but with the Sikhs it is a very different and a sad story.

A nation cannot survive simply on professional working people with no deep knowledge about religion, history, culture, music, the arts, language and much more. To nurture the soul, all the above is needed and to sustain it, we have to create an environment where we inculcate the art of deep reading only then can a collective such as the Sikhs survive in the next century.

The example and answer are staring in our face! The revered Sikh Gurus did not create any idol, instead compiled an incredible scripture in writing so that all the followers could read, understand and then use the wisdom to better their lives. But the followers (Sikhs) have stopped reading, instead has started worshipping the Guru Granth Sahib as a deity in many ways.

Most of the 250 Gurdwaras in the US have libraries of various sizes, but rarely does a book go missing, because no one is interested in reading about their heritage. The famous George Santayana said, *“Those that forget their past are doomed to repeat it”!*

The American Sikh Council and the volunteers are doing everything they can to lead the effort of inculcating the art of writing on serious topics which are current and meaningful to the Sikhs in America and elsewhere.

We need everyone to help join this initiative so we can all arm ourselves with as much knowledge to rise together to make a better tomorrow for the next generation. This would inspire our children to become world class writers, journalists, playwrights and others of this genre, because there is dire need for them!

EDUCATE THE EDUCATORS PROJECT

ASC planned and led the effort of educating the educators nationwide starting in January 2016 and it has been the most rewarding experience ever! The education awareness effect is in geometric progression. The entire focus is to educate the educators (3.5 million teachers/educators) so that they can educate the approximately 55 million school children about our Sikh heritage. The best and the top educators attend the national conferences/conventions across the nation, annually.

There is no way bullying of children and adults can be stopped by placing super expensive ads about identifiable Sikhs on TV and hope that the problem can be solved quickly. Education is a long-term goal and can and will take time. There is not shortcut! Afro-Americans have been in the US for four centuries and everyone knows who they are, yet they get bullied and discriminated. In order to start a ground up process of educating the teachers and all sorts of educators, so that they understand who the Sikhs are and our issues, the American Sikh Council has planned and started a long term ongoing initiative which must be sustained in order to make a real impact.

In 2016 ASC attended 6 major national conferences, interacted and educated over 13,500 educators/teachers across the US who directly teach and impact school children.

In 2017 ASC attended 9 major national conferences by educating over 28,250 teachers/educators plus another 45,000 boy scouts.

American Sikh Council volunteers interacted, spoke, answered questions, presented, held workshops, disseminated literature/brochures, tied turbans and educated over 40,000 educators in the last 24 months (2016-2017).

We were able to do this with the help of many passionate Gursikh articulate volunteers who took the time to empower those educators who not only teach school going children but directly and indirectly affect Sikh children and their lives.

This year (2018) the goal is to attend at least 12 major national conferences and continue to build on the work of the past two years.

There is a cost associated with all this work. Thousands of brochures and books get printed every year; thousands of yards of turban material; registration fees for the booth/exhibits; travel; food; lodging and incidentals all add up. Most of the volunteers are all working professionals who take off time from work to do this, so ASC does need all the support we can get from the Sikh collective in order to carry on this fantastic initiative to educate the educators.

Conferences attended by ASC for 2017

1. National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) San Antonio, TX, Feb 22-24, 2017

ASC reps attended the National Association of School Psychologists Convention in San Antonio, TX on Feb 22 – 24, 2017



(L-R) S. Harminder Kaur, visitors, S. Manmohan Singh, visitor and S. Amarjit Kaur

American Sikh Council (ASC) representatives S. Manmohan Singh, S. Amarjit Kaur, S. Harminder Kaur and S. Kavneet Singh organized and set up a Sikh exhibit at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Convention which was held for three days, February 22 – 24, 2017. Over 5,000 School Psychologists, graduate students, specialists, experts, educators, professors attended this conference. There were nearly a 100 exhibitors and hundreds of educational sessions covering, bullying, racism, bias, neuropsychology to suicide prevention, and much more.

ASC representatives interacted with the convention attendees by having conversations and answering many interesting questions posed by the psychologists and educators. Brochures covering the *Sikh Faith, Sikhs and Scouts, History of Sikh Americans, Bullying of Sikh American Children* were displayed and distributed. The recently published book supported by the American Sikh Council 'Bullying of Sikh American Children – Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student', www.bullyingasikhamericanchildren.org was displayed; as this is another resources tool which can be used by professional school psychologists to help the rampant bullying and victimization of many minorities groups like the Sikh American children. This book was even attested by **President Barack Obama**.



A young Sikh American School Psychologist Dr. Kavita Kaur gave a presentation on, 'Improving Cultural Competency: Bullying Victimization of

Sikh American Adolescents' at a session on February 21, 2017. We were overwhelmed with compliments by so many psychologists about the interactive exhibit and had so many requests to hold presentations and provide even more resource material. Ms. Nicole K from California stated, *"After trying on a turban for a day, you have opened my eyes to an entirely different level of bias. Please continue to educate others as this is so important"*.



(L-R) S. Manmohan Singh, with visitors and S. Kavneet Singh

The networking and the outcome of ASC's collective work was a resounding success, and in order to sustain this ongoing effort ASC requests all the gurdwaras but especially member gurdwaras to continue their support of these very important educational initiatives to help our next generation thrive for a better future.

2. National Conference on Bullying and Child Victimization, Orlando, FL March 1-3, 2017 (See Anti-Bullying section)
3. National Council for History Education Atlanta, GA, March 31 – April 1, 2017

ASC reps attended the National Council of History Education (NCHE) in Atlanta, GA, March 30 – April 1, 2017



ASC representative with a visitor at the exhibit

Sikh Council (ASC) representatives S. Kavneet Singh and S. Harsimranjit Singh organized and set up a Sikh exhibit at the National Council of History Education (NCHE) Convention which was held for three days, from March 30 – April 1, 2017 at the Sheraton Convention Center in Atlanta, GA. Over 400 history teachers, college professors and other specialists attended this conference. There were nearly 30 exhibitors and dozens of educational sessions covering, US history, genocide studies, ethnic studies, environment studies, black history, and much more.

ASC representatives interacted with the convention attendees by having conversations and answering many questions posed by the history teachers and others. Brochures covering the *History of Sikh Americans*, *Sikh Faith*, *Sikhs and Scouts*, *Bullying of Sikh American Children* were displayed and distributed.

The recently published books supported by the American Sikh Council from the '*Sikh Gadar 1907-1918*', '*Another Aspect of the Ghadar Movement*', '*Murder of Pluralism – Democratic Oppression in South Asia*' and '*Bullying of Sikh American Children – Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student*', were displayed for information. The history teachers were surprised at the depth of resource material available to teach Sikh American history at the high school level and beyond.



ASC representatives with visitors who wanted to experience and understand the 'dastaar'

Some of the teachers got into long discussions and showed a genuine interest in learning more than the minimum required to teach school children. Ms. Arntzen from the University of Maine stated, *"Other than this conference I have also attended the National Conference for Social Studies and seen your volunteers in action at the Sikh exhibit. Your message is succinct and powerful, as most attendees seem to get it so quickly. Please do not stop this great work!"*

Most teachers and professors really appreciated the discussions, education and an eye-opening understanding into an understudied faith community. Quite a few attendees had 'dastaars' tied to experience and see how it feels to walk in our shoes. Some of the teachers who requested turbans to be tied on them decided to enlarge the photographs with dastaars and display them in their respective classrooms when they got back in order to have a conversation and discussion with their students.

Mr. Bingham stated, *"I wish I knew more about the Sikh Faith and history as I am blown away by the all-encompassing message of love, brotherhood, compassion and the stand on all types of civil/human rights."* There is a real impact being made and it can only happen with actual face time with professional educators in venues like this in the foreseeable future.

4. National Education Association (NEA)
Boston, MA, June 30 – July 1, 2017

ASC reps attended the NEA Convention in Boston, MA June 30 – July 1, 2017



(L-R) S. Devinder Singh and S. Manpreet Singh with delegates at the NEA Convention, Boston

The American Sikh Council in partnership with Boston Sikh Community participated at the National Education Association (NEA) Convention (National Teachers Conference) held at the Boston Convention Center in downtown Boston, MA held on the June 30 – July 1, 2017 weekend.

Over eleven (11,000) thousand professional educators (mostly teachers from the Elementary level to the High School level) from across the country attended this major annual event. The very best peers nominated teachers attend this conference from across the nation once a year. All the sewadars interacted with the teachers/educators by talking, answering questions, discussing various issues from teaching to bullying, while giving them multiple brochures about the Sikh heritage.

The sewadars did a fantastic job of not only engaging the attendees but ended up creating long lines of educators waiting to have turbans tied for free in order to understand the turban, by trying to walk in our shoes for a short while. The direct face to face conversations with most teachers while

tying turbans was an extremely effective to educate the visitors about the Sikh faith, our values and the multiple challenges our children face in schools across the nation.

Over the two days, the tireless sewadars interacted hundreds of teachers, tied over 500 turbans, gave out over 2,500 brochures and created a movement that was witnessed by thousands. By the end of the event, attendees, guests, convention center employees and even the organizers became a part of it. The American Sikh Council's exhibit was by far the busiest booth in the convention drawing huge lines and much needed attention. A high school teacher from Tennessee noted, *"It was a rainbow of colors all over the event."*



The Sikh volunteers busy interacting and tying turbans at the ASC Sikh Exhibit

Teachers and sevadars posted pictures with turbans on social media using keyword like 'acceptance', 'tolerance' and 'diversity'

The organizing exhibitors received hundreds of compliments from participants regarding the interactive exhibit. One of the main organizers of the convention stated, *"We are so glad to see you stepping up and raise awareness so please come to the future events too!"* It was a mesmerizing event for volunteers with plethora of fun and encouragement to contribute in future events. The following volunteers enthusiastically participated in the seva – Amarjit Kaur, Angad Singh, Baljit Singh, Barinder Singh, Devinder Singh, Manpreet Singh, Meena Kaur, Navdeep Singh, Simranjeet Singh and Taranjeet Singh.

The networking and the outcome of ASC's collective work was a resounding success, and in order to sustain this ongoing effort ASC requests all the gurdwaras but especially member gurdwaras need to continue their support of these very important educational initiatives to help our next generation thrive for a better future.

As one Mr. Scott D from Alabama pointed out, *"The effect and outcome of this exhibit will be hundred-fold."* S. Baljit Singh one of leaders at the exhibit described the collective feeling of the sewadars and stated, *"Our experience was so empowering and positive that our team is looking forward to actively participating in the next major event which is focused on educating the educators."*

Finally, Ms. Tracy G from Oregon summed it up for everyone by stating, *"Thank you for educating us so we can make a difference in our schools."*

The American Sikh Council (ASC) continues to collaborate and make sure that educating the educators continues in a positive and wholesome manner for a better tomorrow for all us.

5, National American School Counselors Association (ASCA) Denver, CO, July 8-10, 2017

ASC reps attended the ASCA Convention in Denver, CO on July 8 – 10, 2017



(L-R) S. Devinder Singh, S. Amarjit Singh, S. Tejwant Singh and S. Jaswant Singh with a director of ASCA

American Sikh Council (ASC) representatives from the S. Tejwant Singh, Singh organized set up a Sikh exhibit at the National Association of School Psychologists (ASCA) Convention which was held for three days, July 8 -10, 2017. Over 2,700 School Counselors, graduate students, specialists, experts, educators, professors attended this conference. There were nearly a 100 exhibitors and hundreds of educational sessions covering, bullying, racism, bias, and much more. The Sikh volunteers did a tremendous job of interacting with the delegates at the American School Counselors Convention. Over 1,200 brochures were disseminated and over 170 turbans tied.



ASC representatives interacted with the convention attendees by having conversations and answering many interesting questions posed by the counselors and educators. Brochures covering the *Sikh Faith, Sikhs and Scouts, History of Sikh Americans, Bullying of Sikh American Children* were displayed and distributed.

The recently published book supported by the American Sikh Council *'Bullying of Sikh American Children – Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student'*, www.bullyingasikhamericanchildren.org was displayed; as this is another resources tool which can be used by professional school counselors to help the rampant bullying and victimization of many minorities groups like the Sikh American children. This book was even attested by **President Barack Obama on April 29, 2016.**

The volunteers were overwhelmed with compliments by so many counselors about the interactive exhibit and had so many requests to hold presentations at their schools and provide even more resource material. Ms. Kate L stated, *“After getting turban tied and walking around all day I slowly realized what it feels to be looked at in positive and sometimes in negatives ways”*.

The Sikh community of the greater Denver area even had youngsters like S. Anmol Singh lead the exhibit. The Sikhs of the Colorado Singh Sabha must be congratulated for doing an excellent job of presenting the Sikh heritage and all the issues of bullying to the delegates, visitors and attendees at the convention.

The networking and the outcome of ASC's collective work was a resounding success, and in order to sustain this ongoing effort ASC requests all the gurdwaras but especially member gurdwaras to continue their support of these very important educational initiatives to help our next generation thrive for a better future.

7. National Boy Scouts Jamboree, Glen Jean, WV, July 19 – 28, 2017 (See Scouting section)

8. International Bullying Prevention Association (IBPA) Nashville, TN, Nov 5 - 7, 2017 (See Anti-Bullying section)

9. National Council of the Social Studies (NCSS) San Francisco, CA, Nov 17-19, 2017

ASC reps attend the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) Convention in San Francisco, CA November 17-18, 2017.

American Sikh Council (ASC) representatives Lovejot Kaur, Rohenna Kaur, Jujhar Singh, Noveleen Singh Jagjot Singh, Arvinder Singh, Inderjit Kaur, Kirpal Singh and Kavneet Singh organized and set up a Sikh exhibit at the National Council for Social Studies (Teachers) Convention (NCSS) which was held for two full days, from

November 17-18, 2017. Over 4,000 teachers, specialists, experts, educators, professors from the middle school, high school and beyond attended this conference. There were over 200 exhibitors and hundreds of educational sessions covering, social studies, history, gender studies, bullying, racism, bias, social justice, genocide studies and much more.



(L-R) Jujhar Singh, Rohenna Kaur and Lovejot Kaur talking to an attendee at the Sikh Exhibit

ASC representatives interacted with the convention attendees by having conversations and answering many interesting questions posed by the teachers and educators. Several brochures covering the *Sikh Faith*, the *Sustained Sikh Genocide*, *Sikhs and Scouts*, *History of Sikh Americans*, *Bullying of Sikh American Children* were displayed and distributed. Academic books about the Sikh American pioneers and their fight for citizenship and property rights were displayed as teacher resource material. The other ASC supported book written by S. Karanveer Singh which was well publicized at the convention was the *'Bullying of Sikh American Children – Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student'*, www.bullyingasikhamericanchildren.org since this book was even attested by **President Barack Obama**. The four sets of the Sikh Religious Awards Workbooks approved by the Boy Scouts of America were all made available electronically for free dissemination as a teacher

resource material from grades 1 – 12.
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsresource/Membership/Charter_Orgs/Religious.aspx

We were overawed with compliments by so many teachers about the way ASC held the exhibit that we had dozens of requests to do presentations and hold exhibits in many states in the union. Mr. David W of Selma stated, *“You have the most interactive and lucid exhibit and more of these need to be held”*. Other volunteers who assisted and spent their valuable time to wholeheartedly support and make this exhibit a great success were Ram Singh, Harinderpal Singh, Jasdev Singh, Amarjit Kaur and Harpaul Singh.

Many education officials specifically asked ASC for readymade content on the Sikh heritage so that it could be included in their state’s curriculum. The networking and the outcome of ASC’s collective work has been a great success, and in order to sustain this ongoing effort all ASC requests all the gurdwaras but especially member gurdwaras to continue their support of these educational initiatives.

Whenever various members and volunteers of the American Sikh Council travel across the country there have been so many instances of positive goodwill from complete strangers who mention the good work they see being done through these initiatives.

In early September 2014, I was with my two sons at the Mays Landing (NJ) rest stop volunteering for the Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike Ride, which draws over 7,500 professionals and others who ride bicycles Philadelphia to Atlantic City and back and fundraise for MS. At least three different men and women mentioned that they now knew who the Sikhs were since they saw the incredible effort put in by ASC at the National Boy Scouts Jamboree in July 2013. The Jamboree was held in a remote part of West Virginia called Glen Jean where over 45,000 Scouts and adult leaders had gathered from across the nation.

Another example is in late 2017 at the History Conference in Atlanta, GA when a history teacher mentioned her experiment in class to teach about the Sikh heritage. The same female teacher was at the Sikh exhibit at the 2016 History Conference in Niagara Falls, NY and got a turban tied. She blew up her picture and set it up on her white board in her class. She then asked the children who they thought was the turbaned person in the picture! The response varied on two extremes. *Some were very complimentary and others as extreme as, “who is that terrorist”?* This dialog became an ice breaker to have a discussion and a teaching moment on the Sikhs and their distinctive turban.

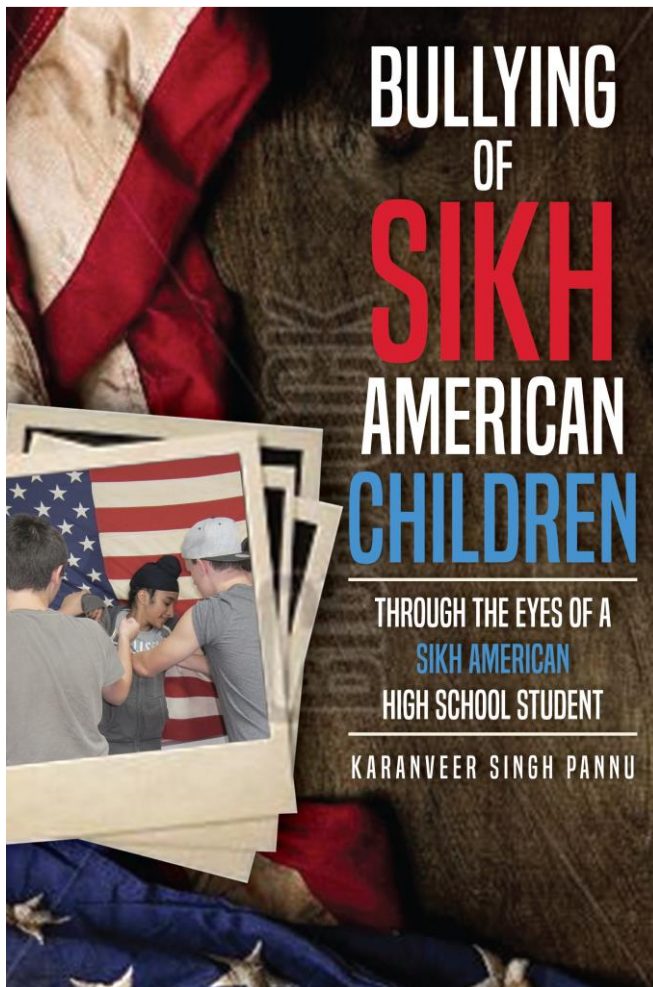
There are so many creative and emotional examples given by all types of educators that it is heartwarming and that is the reason ASC is committed to continuing this great initiative.

ANTI-BULLYING PROJECT

Bullying of Sikh American Children is one of the most insidious and pressing issues for all Sikh American parents in America. One of the primary reasons for young children, especially boys who cut their long hair is that their parents and the children are ill equipped to deal with the incessant bullying that occurs when the male child has long hair covered in a patka, keski or a turban.

Karanveer Singh currently a sophomore in college also a volunteer with the American Sikh Council had spent over a year to write a comprehensive solution-oriented book while a junior (11th grade) in high school and published his book during the first semester of his senior year in high school. His book *‘Bullying of Sikh American Children – Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student’* would be of immense interest to educators and parents.

<http://bullyingsikhamericanchildren.org/>



http://www.amazon.com/Bullying-Sikh-American-Children-Through/dp/1519420137/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1448298729&sr=1_1&keywords=bullying+of+sikh+american+children

This book is unique and one of a kind because it gives an inside view of a teenager's life, with a very positive outlook and with detailed research, surveys, interviews so that hard data can be used by the educators and lawmakers to make changes in the overall educational system.

Any parent reading this must get the book into the hands of the superintendent and/or the diversity director at a minimum in the local school district. Only then will the teachers in the school will end up using the book as a resource and a teaching tool

to stop bullying of our children and make it a safe place to study.

President Barack Obama sent a letter of appreciation complimenting Karanveer Singh on helping others, on April 29, 2016 - a copy of the letter is in the front of the book. That is testament to the quality of the book.

This is the only book of its kind (and a first in the globally) which talks about learning life skills and how to sustain them in a young child's life so that any child can gain the confidence and self-esteem to be able to handle themselves with minimal help from adults, while thriving and empowering themselves in schools.

Over the past two years many members and other well-wishers have actively encouraged the school superintendents and diversity directors of schools in many areas across the country so that this book can be used as a resource tool to teach about the Sikh heritage and alleviate the terrible bullying suffered by not only Sikh American children but all children.

Currently the Liverpool, NY school district started using this book to teach AP English and AP Psychology in 2016 and the Voorhees, NJ district is also using this book in many grades. The greater Charlotte school district in NC has also implemented this book in their area as of late 2016.

As of December 2017, the book is now being used in the Jericho, Nassau, Carle Place, Manhasset, Hicksville, Glen Cove, Plainview, Old Bethpage, Westbury, Baldwin, and Syosset school districts of (Long Island) NY.

With the continuous challenges Sikh children face daily, we are hoping that the Sikhs across the US are able to use this book as a useful resource tool from children to educators in order to reduce bullying and simultaneously educating everyone around them about the Sikh Faith. Karanveer

Singh is available (time permitting) to give presentations if needed. He has done presentations in over a dozen gurdwaras (CA, NJ, PA, NY & CO) so far and has been speaking in regular public schools since April 2016. He has also been interviewed by Radio Voice of Khalsa Dallas, TX, Radio Apna Punjab, Fresno, CA, featured on the PTC Channel did an hour-long TV interview which aired by Jus-Punjabi in May 2016 regarding his book. He has presented at over <http://bullyingsikhamericanchildren.org/events/> 35 events as of 2017.

It is important to note that as of late 2017 over 5,000 school children, university students, educators, teachers, professors, school counselors, school psychologists and other members of the public have been educated about the Sikh heritage and how to mitigate the bullying against Sikh American children.

On January 25, 2018 the Voorhees Breakfast Club associated with Rotary International honored Karanveer Singh, for his dedication as an anti-bullying activist and recognized him with the **“2017 Citizen of the Year Award” for the town of Voorhees, NJ.**

<https://voorheessun.com/voorhees-breakfast-rotary-hosts-its-ninth-annual-community-service-award-585424408939>



Karanveer Singh giving his acceptance speech at the banquet in his honor

From drawing awareness to bullying of Sikh-American children to providing not-for-profit hospice care to elders, last week's 2017 Voorhees Community Service Awards, hosted by the Voorhees Breakfast Club, honored a scope of selfless South Jerseyans.

The ninth annual event, which was held at the Mansion on Jan. 25, recognized four categories of service—Citizen of the Year, Selfless Student of the Year, First Responder of the Year and Business of the Year.

Amid a competitive nomination process, the Voorhees Breakfast Rotary selected an elite few who epitomized the club's motto—*“Service Above Self.”*

“Voorhees is probably not that much different than a thousand other towns,” said Glenn Page, the club's past president and public relations director. *“But if there is at least one thing very special about our town is that we believe in honoring and we believe in showing the people who excel that we appreciate them. We care deeply about making sure that they know that.”*

The first honoree of the evening was Karanveer Pannu, a Rutgers University student and graduate of Eastern Regional High School, who received the 2017 Voorhees Citizen of the Year award.

Along with several other service projects, such as raising \$16,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Pannu has worked to spread awareness about bullying, particularly among Sikh-American children. During his junior year of high school, he created a capstone project on the issue that eventually led to his writing of a book, titled *“Bullying of Sikh-American Children: Through the Eyes of a Sikh-American High School Student.”* After its publication, Pannu spoke at more than 30 venues across the country, including conferences, schools and Gurdwaras—a Sikh place of prayer. Pannu attributes his faith and family to his desire to help others:

“My friends,” Pannu told the crowd, “it takes an act of love to realize we’re all in this together, and it takes an act of courage to demand more and dream bigger and to fight for that just and inclusion world we all know is possible.”

Invited to do presentations about the book by the following organizations:

- December 7, 2017 Educational Psychology, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
- December 2, 2017 National Interfaith Anti-Bullying Summit, George Washington University, Washington D.C.
- August 8, 2017 Guru Nanak Sikh Society of the Delaware Valley Gurdwara, Pine Hill, NJ
- April 20, 2017 Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
- March 17, 2017 Moorestown Upper Elementary School, Moorestown, NJ
- March 3, 2017 Keynote Speaker at the National Conference on Bullying, Orlando FL
- January 13, 2017 (6th grade) Voorhees Middle School, Voorhees NJ
- January 13, 2017 (7th grade) Voorhees Middle School, Voorhees NJ
- January 12, 2017 (8th grade) Voorhees Middle School, Voorhees NJ
- January 5, 2017 E.T. Hamilton Elementary School, Voorhees, NJ
- January 5, 2017 Signal Hill Elementary School, Voorhees, NJ
- January 4, 2017 Kresson Elementary School, Voorhees, NJ
- November 18, 2016 Osage Elementary School, Voorhees, NJ
- July 6, 2016 Camp Khanda, Syracuse, NY
- May 21, 2016 Sikh Leadership Lunch, Secacus, NJ
- May 20, 2016 TedX at Eastern Regional High School talk on Racism Voorhees, NJ
- May 17, 2016 Interview on JusPunjabi T.V. Talk Show, Long Island City, NY
- May 12, 2016 Voorhees Breakfast Rotary Club Voorhees, NJ
- April 30, 2016 Sikh Women’s Alliance, Fresno, CA
- April 17, 2016 Vaisakhi-Sikh Peace Parade, Bakersfield, CA
- April 16, 2016 Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Gurudwara, Bakersfield, CA
- March 20, 2016 Sikh Cultural Society of New York, Richmond Hill, NY
- March 13, 2016 Philadelphia Sikh Society Gurdwara, Millbourne, PA
- March 12, 2016 Makhan Shah Lobana Gurdwara Richmond Hill, NY
- March 6, 2016 Invited to do Radio Talk on Apna Punjab, Fresno, CA
- March 6, 2016 South Jersey Sikh Society, Vineland NJ
- February 22-24, 2016 National Bullying and Child Victimization Conference, Orlando, FL
- February 7, 2016 Sikh Gurdwara of Pine Hill, Pine Hill, NJ
- January 31, 2016 Invited to do Radio Talk on Voice of Khalsa, Dallas, TX
- January 17, 2016 Sikh Center of New York, Flushing, NY
- December 20, 2015 Guru Nanak Sikh Society of Lehigh Valley, Nazareth, PA
- December 13, 2015 Central Jersey Sikh Association, Windsor, NJ
- December 12, 2015 Sikh Sabha of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, NJ
- November 5-6, 2015 New Jersey Education Association Convention, Atlantic City, NJ
- October 4, 2015 Colorado Singh Sabha, Commerce City, CO



S. Karanveer Singh speaking at the Signal Hill Elementary School, Voorhees, NJ

INTERFAITH PROJECT

The mainstay and primary focus of the American Sikh Council (ASC) from its inception till around 2012 was primarily interfaith initiatives, from the local to the international level. Interfaith is very important as the **founders of our faith very deeply involved in interfaith activities themselves**. The subject of interfaith was taken so seriously that the **9th Guru, Guru Tegh Bahdaur Sahib gave up his life for the right of another persecuted faith community (Sanatan-Brahmin-Hindu) to freely practice their own set of values, even when those values were in diametric contradiction to his own**.

All active well-meaning Sikhs are in some way or the other involved in 'interfaith' activities because it is a safe and neutral space with minimal controversy normally. The issue is that, first most interfaith groups are very small set in semi-formal settings, while most of the folks are the same people meeting again and again. Second, each of the representatives representing their particular faith creed wants to **tout the value system of their own faith rather than learn and accept the other**, while making nice accepting noises. Third, the dominant faith groups like the Semitic or the Sanatan-Hindu continue to flaunt their age-old superiority with much hype. Fourth, Sikhs have a unique marketing problem; i.e., **most of the people around us still do not know what our**

faith stands for and in these small settings it takes much longer to expand the knowledge base since the others in the setting do get educated, but with a limited reach.

Sikhs need to reach the widest audience possible so as to educate as many people around us because of the tsunami of negative issues we have to deal as a distinguished minority faith. This is one of the reasons that since 2012, ASC has expanded its initiatives to '**Anti-Bullying Initiative, Educate the Educators Initiative, Sustained Sikh Genocide Initiative, Sikhs Scouting Initiative, Publishing Books of the Sikh Heritage**' and much more.

These five major initiatives have made a remarkable difference in the lives of Sikh children and in the non-Sikh majority (our co-citizens) of children and adults. Touching the hearts and minds of over 40,000 educators in the last 24 months and over 100,000 Scouts in the last 48 months while teaching and educating them about the Sikh faith and heritage, all face to face is no small feat.

Placing ads on TV are extremely short lived in order to teach about the Sikh identity (turban, etc). If it was that easy, schools would not need teachers as everything could be taught by watching TV. Real education still does takes time and has to be done with actual face time and must be sustained for a very long time for some semblance of permanence in the psyche of the host majority.

Like mentioned earlier ASC has worked to build interfaith bridges from the ground up from the local level in various corners of the country to the international arena. Just to mention a few:

- Parliament of the World's Religions
- Sikh – Catholic Dialog – National Retreats
- Religions for Peace Conference
- North American Interfaith Network
- Coalition for Peace Action

- National Religious Campaign Against Torture
- Interfaith Council of Greater Philadelphia
- Interfaith Council of Cleveland
- Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta
- Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada
- Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago
- Interfaith Center of New York
- Interfaith Works of Central New York

Most of the Semitic faiths and some of the South Asian faiths do have paid clergy and/or advocacy staff. For the Sikhs and especially at ASC all are unpaid volunteers and it can be hard many times to find time from regular work to volunteer for these noble bridge building events. See below just a few of the activities that ASC has led, organized, participated to make this a better world:.

ASC rep attends Inter-faith meeting at the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia



Interfaith meeting held at the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA

On Tuesday February 6, 2018, American Sikh Council (ASC) ASC representative S. Kavneet Singh attended and addressed the interfaith gathering organized by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia (ICGP) at the First Baptist Church – Paschall, Philadelphia, PA. Over 30 attendees discussed how diversity intersected with

their professional and personal lives by many giving examples and what they learnt in the process.

The host for the meeting Dr. Wilson Goode the former mayor of Philadelphia recalled his childhood in the Deep South and how some parts of his life while growing up as a child influenced his attitude towards changing his life headed for public service. It is fascinating how one instance in a person's life can change the direction moving forward hopefully for the better. Sikh, Christian, Jewish and Muslim representatives appreciated, the continuous and collaborative work being done to make the tristate area a harmonious place to live.

ASC REP SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HATE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO



Dr. Kamal-Neil Singh speaking at the Interfaith Fellowship Day Seminar, Cleveland, OH

On Monday February 5, 2018, American Sikh Council (ASC) ASC representative Dr. Kamal-Neil Singh attended and presented a paper on *'understanding others and dealing with hate'* to an audience of over 55 people. The seminar was organized by a women's group to celebrate the Interfaith Fellowship Day and talk about issues which are relevant in today's charged environment. The seminar was held in the afternoon.

Dr. Kamal- Neil Singh speech was on Sikh principles from the Sri Guru Granth Sahibji and how they relate to reducing hate and bias of others, which were well received by the audience. Women from the Christian, Jewish and the Islamic faith traditions were in attendance and some of their representatives were also presenters at this seminar talking about ways in which more inclusiveness rather than our differences to combat hate. Dr. Kamal-Neil Singh is a practicing Child Psychiatrist and serves as assistant professor for the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, OH.

ASC rep attends and speaks at a Church service in Parma, Ohio



Dr. Gurdas Singh speaking at the St. Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church in Parma, OH

On Monday February 5, 2018, American Sikh Council (ASC) ASC President Dr. Gurdas Singh attended and addressed the church gathering on the invitation of the St. Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church in Parma, Ohio. He spoke on interfaith, peace and harmony at the church's prayer service.

It was attended by over 30 individuals. Dr Gurdas Singh spoke on interfaith peace and harmony by giving examples from Sikh history and references from Sri Guru Granth Sahibji. Brochures on the Sikh Faith and Sri Guru Granth Sahibji were

distributed. Majority of the people who did not know about the Sikh Faith were very impressed to find out about Sikh history and Sikh religious principles. Dr. Gurdas Singh has been active as a leader with the local greater Cleveland interfaith community for a very long time and continues to regularly attend interfaith functions whenever the opportunity arises.

ASC participates in interfaith event to screen a movie on the Oak Creek tragedy in Yardley, PA on January 21, 2018



Sutinder Singh with Natalie Kaye at the January 21, 2018 event

American Sikh Council Representative S. Sutinder Singh was invited to attend an interfaith event held at the United Methodist church in Yardley, PA and organized by 'Not in Our Town' to highlight the issue of hate and gun violence across our nation. On Sunday, January 21, Sutinder Singh was asked to speak after a showing of the movie, "*Waking in Oak Creek*" a documentary made by an organization called 'Not In Our Town' which focuses on interfaith and inter-community dialogue in order to increase better understanding between people of various religions.

The movie is about the massacre of six Sikhs and wounding four others inside the Oak Creek gurdwara in Milwaukee, WI by a white terrorist in August 5, 2012 and how an aggrieved faith

community came out stronger with the genuine support of all others in the surrounding larger community.

S. Sutinder Singh spoke about the importance of transforming the frustrations and disappointments of ordinary people with the inactions of the politicians into activities which can help bring about positive change. He was well received by the audience. S. Sutinder Singh also invited all the attendees to visit the local Gurdwara in Lawrenceville, NJ during the Sunday Kirtan program.

The Sikh American community must do more to be involved in intercommunity issues because it not only affects Sikhs but other minority faiths groups as well.

ASC rep presents at the Women's Empowerment Conference in Toronto, Canada



S. Navdeep Kaur, S. Jasbir Kaur, S. Baljinder Kaur and Dr. Jagraj Kaur before they presented at the conference

On January 14, 2018, American Sikh Council (ASC) Vice-President S. Jasbir Kaur attended and presented a paper on '*Sikh women as a Suhagan and Duhagan according to the Sri Guru Granth Sahibji*' to an audience of over 150 people. The conference was organized by Singh Sabha

International of Brampton, Canada and held at the Grand Taj in Brampton, Canada.

Speakers included Dr. Jagraj Kaur a retired professor of Sikh history from Guru Nanak University, Punjab; S. Navdeep Kaur from UK (Professor Inder Singh Ghagga's daughter); S. Baljinder Kaur a radio host of Radio Punjab from Fresno, CA and Col G. B. Singh a retired US Army dentist from Colorado Springs, CO.

This all-day conference was very interesting as S. Baljinder Kaur spoke on the insidious derawad which has hijacked the Sikh panth and made massive inroads into the minds of women and distorted the message of Sikhi.

S. Navdeep Kaur spoke about the various kinds of rituals which have crept into and others which have been brought in through our own immaturity to further degrade the Sikh Faith. Dr. Jagraj Kaur spoke on the equality of women vis-a-vis the current patriarchal attitude even in the Gurdwaras. Dr. G.B. Singh spoke about the many vicious inequities against women clearly written in the Hindu scriptures which have crept into the Sikh Faith.

S. Jasbir Kaur and the other esteemed Sikh women speakers were interviewed by a local Punjabi TV the same evening in reference to the conference. S. Jasbir Kaur also managed to distribute the newly approved Mool Nanakshai (MNC) Calendars to the many attendees who were present at the conference. The attendees were really appreciative of the women's perspective from the collective wisdom of these well respected and well known personalities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-xBRcxsQgs>
<http://www.singhsabhaCanada.com/?p=90080>

**ASC participates in the National Interfaith Anti-Bullying Summit
on Dec 2-3, 2017 in Washington, DC**



S. Karanveer Singh presenting at the National Interfaith Anti-Bullying Summit, George Washington University

American Sikh Council (ASC) representatives S. Karanveer Singh and S. Kavneet Singh were invited to participate in the two-day National Interfaith Anti-Bullying Summit held by the American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) held at Ames Hall on the George Washington University campus in Washington, DC on December 2-3, 2017.

This two-day summit was attended by over 100 experts from the state/federal government, social workers, child psychologists, school counselors, educators, diversity directors and anti-bullying specialists from across the country. The participation included presenters and panelists from the Sikh, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu Faiths. There were participants from the Dalit-Buddhists and Christian faiths as well.

S. Karanveer Singh currently a sophomore in college spoke at the plenary session on December 2, 2017. He highlighted the pressing issue of Sikh children being bullied at twice the (US) national average. He further explained how parents can play a pivotal role to empower their own children by inculcating and training their children with a set of skills which can bring about marked change through self-confidence so that bullying can be reduced. S. Karanveer Singh's published book in late 2015 at the start of his senior year in high school, *"Bullying of Sikh American Children – Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School*

Student" was an eye-opener for many of the professionals at the summit. **This book has been accepted and is currently being used to teach AP Psychology, AP English, History and Social Studies classes from the Middle School to High School level in the school districts of Liverpool, NY; Voorhees, NJ; Charlotte, NC; Jericho, Nassau, Carle Place, Manhasset, Hicksville, Glen Cove, Plainview, Old Bethpage, Westbury, Baldwin, and Syosset school districts of (Long Island), NY.**

www.bullyingsikhamericanchildren.org

The sessions covered the various forms of bullying and how best to mitigate the sinister nature of bullying. Some of the sessions were moderated by young high school and college students. One of the more active high school students Hana Kaur leads an ongoing training through an organization called 'Sikh kid to kid', where high school students train teachers about the Sikh heritage to minimize bullying. Teachers get continuing education credits for the course.



Some of the participants at the National Interfaith Anti-Bullying Summit on December 2, 2017

The attendees were very appreciative of the practical approach to tackling the disturbing issue of bullying through S. Karanveer Singh's presentation and the panel discussion. The organizers (AMHP) of this summit must be congratulated for taking the initiative to hold this much needed event to hold a discussion on a

serious social and mental health concern.

Bi-annual Sikh Studies tour for Naperville North High School at the Wheaton Gurdwara Sahib, Wheaton, IL



Students from the Naperville North High School learning about the Sri Guru Granth Sahib

The Sikh Resource Society (SRS) of Schaumburg, Illinois, an institutional member of the American Sikh Council (ASC), has been holding bi-annual gurdwara tours combined with a comprehensive Sikh Studies basics geared towards high school and college students in the greater Chicago area for the last four plus years. This most recent bi-annual Sikh event was held on Friday November 17, 2017 for the Naperville North High School students as part of the integrated religions class. During this session there were over 100 students who came through seeking hands on experience in learning about the Sikh way of life.

The Sikh Resource Society (SRS), with the support and encouragement of the Illinois Sikh Community Center (Wheaton Gurdwara), typically hosts 65 to 125 students taking a religions course at Naperville North High School. This particular course focuses on multiple religions, and for the past four years, SRS has worked closely with educators, in providing accurate information on Sikhs and their way of life. Students receive a tour of the Gurdwara Sahib along with details on Langar, Guru Granth Sahib, current events, Sikh identity, Kirtan display (by

the local Bhai Sahib), and a chance to tie a Dastaar. The visit is one that dives into the intricacies of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib and its mathematical and musical compilation and allows for a Q&A session in groups so that the students can ask questions that may intrigue them and may not be found in books.



Teachers and a student with Sikh volunteers at the Sikh Studies class/tour at the Wheaton Gurdwara

Fair full sarticle please Click on the link below:



Article on ASC for
the Sikh Bulletin for

SIKH SCOUTS PROJECT



Article on ASC for
the Sikh Bulletin Scc

Introduction:

Starting in late 2006 Kavneet Singh a representative of the American Sikh Council (formerly known as World Sikh Council – America Region) started to work on laying the groundwork in order to prepare for the process of getting the Sikh Religious Award workbooks be part of Boy Scouts of America's Duty to God series.

After several years of networking, perseverance and tirelessly working for years, by laying the ground work with persistence, finally in early 2012 Kirpal Singh a veteran volunteer/teacher of Sikh summer camps and a long-time board member of the American Sikh Council took the lead in writing the first of a series of four workbooks. Kirpal Singh not only had a clear and deep understanding of the Sikh faith but also be able to articulate it very well in an extremely simple forthright manner so that anyone regardless of faith could comprehend the contents.

With the wonderful sound support and guidance of all the ASC board members, but especially Dr. Manohar Singh and Kuldeep Singh, **in November 2013 the first workbook was approved by the Boy Scouts of America.** In April 2014, the second workbook got approved along with the four Sikh Medallions for Scouts. The final two workbooks for the Cubs Grades 1-3 and 4-5 were approved in October 2014. Later the fifth emblem/medallion called 'Sewadar' was also approved for any adult volunteer who may have served for five or more years and made a serious impact on young children/Scouts, given through nomination.

The first two Scouts to receive the Sikh Emblems/Medallions after completing the Sikh Religious Awards workbooks over a period of six months, were Karanveer Singh an Eagle Scout and Sherveer Singh a Life Scout with Troop 48, Berlin, New Jersey. They received this honor at the Sikh Sabha Gurdwara, Lawrenceville, New Jersey on July 20, 2014.

Ten Sikhs including two Scouts participated for the first time in the summer National Jamboree 2013 at the Bechtel Summit, Glen Jean, West Virginia. The Sikh contingent put up a Sikh Faith and Beliefs exhibit which ran for over ten days. Thousands of brochures were given out while interfacing with Scouts from all across the nation. Simultaneously **over 1,500 turbans were tied** on those Scouts wanting to experience what it feels to wear a turban. The entire Summit was filled with

Scouts wearing colorful turbans while running, playing and doing their various activities without missing a beat. Many came back to re-tie their turbans as they thought it was the coolest thing ever.

Those handful of Sikh American Scouts who did go through the Scouting program and are now adults have done remarkably well in life by studying hard and have turned out to be Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers and other kinds of top notch professionals serving their respective communities and giving back too. Pretty much all of them have attested that Scouting helped them remain 'keshdhari' Sikhs and made them even more proud it.

The first all Sikh Troop 600 was formed in 2009 in San Jose, California. The Troop has had between 20 – 35 boys at any time and has produced around 10 Eagle Scouts as of July 2014; which is a significant achievement. There is also a Cub Pack 600 which has 15-20 Sikh Cubs run by a few passionate parents who are Pack leaders.

The Sikh Faith and Scouting have common values which fit perfectly and it behooves all Sikh American children to be part of Scouting and immerse themselves by learning everything they can from the exceptional hands on experience provided by thousands of volunteers with varied expertise while enjoying the great outdoors. Skills which are normally taught and learnt in the corporate world are taught at a young age to Scouts; from team building to leadership and everything in between. Some of the work that has borne fruit in the past few years has been highlighted below:

1. **Sikh Medallions and the Sikh Religious Award Workbooks covered by the 'Boy Life' Magazine in June 2017 with a circulation of over 1.1 million readers.**
<https://americansikhcouncil.org/2017/05/30/sikh-religious-emblems-featured-in-boys-life-magazine-june-2017/>

Sikh Religious Emblems featured in 'Boy's Life' magazine – June 2017

BL presents: **Fitness FIRST**

Get SCOUTStrong
Take the SCOUTStrong Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) challenge. To earn the award, just be active for 60 minutes a day, five days a week for six weeks. You have up to eight weeks to complete the challenge. More than 100 activities count, like hiking, playing ball and canoeing. Each week, you will focus on a healthy eating goal, like consuming more whole grains, eating smaller portions or drinking less soda. Get started at go.boyslife.org/scoutstrong

SCOUTStrong
FIT • FUEL • FUN

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS Sikh Faith

One in a series

For their religious emblems, Sikh Scouts learn, starting from the very basic foundational principles, Sikh articles of faith, history and the inspirational lives of their Gurus (Divine Teachers).

KHANDA
Sikh Cub Scouts, Tigers to Bears, first through third grades, can earn the **Nirbhau emblem**. Cubs learn about the basic concepts of the Sikh faith.

IKONGKAR
Webelos I and II in fourth and fifth grades can earn the **Nirbhau emblem**. Webelos learn about the overview of the Sikh faith.

KHANDA
Boy Scouts in middle school (sixth through eighth grades) can earn their **Gyan Khary emblem**. These Scouts learn more detailed concepts and examples from the Gurus' lives.

IKONGKAR
Older Boy Scouts in high school (ninth through 12th grades) can earn their **Khalsa emblem**. Boy Scouts learn about the inspiring lives of the 10 Gurus.

For more information, contact your local council or go to: go.boyslife.org/religiousawards

BOY'S LIFE • JUNE 2017 43

The continuing trail blazing work done by American Sikh Council (formerly known as World Sikh Council – America Region) on the Sikh Religious Awards was featured in the June 2017 issue of 'Boy's Life' magazine. The circulation of Boy's Life magazine is 1.1 million, and there are approximately 1.5 million Cub Scouts and another 1 million Boy Scouts, across the nation.

This is the second time Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has featured the Sikh Religious Emblems highlighting them so that anyone can earn them regardless of their faith. Earlier in the May 2015 issue of 'Boy's Life' the same emblems were featured for the first time. All four Sikh Religious Emblems were introduced for the second time by highlighting the emblems with the captions while describing each of the emblems, all under the heading of the 'Sikh Faith'.

<http://boyslife.org/magazine/153264/inside-the-june-2017-issue/>

2. Scout leader S.Kavneet Singh covered by Scouting magazine in June 2017 with a circulation of over 1.2 million readers. <https://americansikhcouncil.org/2017/05/30/asc-rep-and-eagle-scouts-featured-in-national-scouting-magazine/>

ASC rep and Eagle Scouts featured in national 'Scouting' magazine



S. Kavneet Singh with both his Eagle Scout sons

S. Kavneet Singh a representative of the American Sikh Council (ASC) who also chairs the American Sikh Council, Sikh Scouting National Task Force was featured by the national 'Scouting' magazine in their May-June 2017 issue and the online edition.

<http://scoutingmagazine.org/2017/04/scouter-kavneet-pannu-paves-way-religious-relationships/>
Over one million printed magazines are read by over five million readers.

S.Kavneet Singh earned his Wood Badge award in the summer of 2015. While being involved in Scouting for over twelve years, he has volunteered as an adult Scout Leader in various capacities including an Assistant Scout Master and continues as a Committee Member with Troop 48 in Berlin,

NJ. He also serves on the Boy Scouts of America's National Religious Relationship Task Force since 2014. S.Kavneet Singh is determined to recruit Sikh American youngsters and spread Sikh Scouting throughout the nation. In February 2018 just got nominated for the Silver Beaver award for the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council

Through S.Kavneet Singh's passionate perseverance today, there have been several other inclusions of Sikh Americans in the Scouting material being disseminated across the nation all the while highlighting the 'turban' and the positive attributes of the Sikh Faith in action. Some of the work done is as follows:

- Planned and organized the first ever contingent of ten Sikh American volunteers to participate in the **National Boy Scouts Jamboree in July 2013** to engage over 36,000 Boy Scouts, with the help of several ASC members.
- Spearheaded the planning and writing of the *four 'Sikh Religious Award (SRA) workbooks'* with the assistance, guidance and expertise of **S. Kirpal Singh and S.Jasbir Kaur**. All the SRA workbooks have been approved by the BSA in 2014
- Led and helped design the *five Sikh Religious Awards Emblems/Medallions (Nirbhau, Nirvair, Gyan Kharg, Khalsa and Sewadar)* approved by the BSA in 2014
- **'Duty to God'** (brochure) highlights all five Sikh emblems in print and on the BSA website in 2015
- **'Sikhs and Scouts'** (brochure), over 17,000 printed by the (BSA) Boy Scouts of America in 2015

- **'Sikhs in Scouting'** (brochure) for internal recruiting – approved by BSA in June 2015
- **'Boys' Life'** (magazine – circulation 1.1 million) May 2015 issue highlighting the Sikh Faith Emblems.
- **'Scouting Our Way'** a new book included Sikh prayers in three chapters and a photograph of Sikh American Scouts in 2015. Book is now placed in every Council store in the nation as of late 2015.
- **2016 Boy Scout Handbook** includes two photographs of two Sikh American Eagle Scouts and over 150,000 books have been printed and published in January 2016.
- **'Sikh Scouting Initiative'** (brochure) for internal recruiting – highlighting the various initiatives completed by ASC for the benefit of the Sikh American children, January 2017
- **'Boys' Life'** (magazine – circulation 1.1 million) June 2017 issue highlighting the Sikh Faith Emblems for second time.
- Planned and organized the second ever contingent of Sikh Americans to volunteer and participate in the **National Boy Scouts Jamboree in July 2017** to engage over 40,000 Boy Scouts, with the help of several ASC members.

S. Kavneet Singh embodies the Sikh Faith in action, which is easier to understand by non-Sikhs than trying to teach them. All this foundational content will eventually educate over 2.5 million Boy Scouts and another 2.6 million Girl Scouts. Laying the foundation is hard work but the rewards will be multifold making it easier for children from the Sikh Faith to enjoy the Scouting in the future and hopefully making them into great citizens contributing in many ways to make America an even better nation.

1. **ASC participated and held the second Sikh Exhibit at the National Boy Scouts Jamboree in July 2017 attended by over 45,000 Boy Scouts and Adult leaders.**
<https://americansikhcouncil.org/2017/08/08/national-boy-scouts-jamboree-july-19-27-2017/>
National Boy Scouts Jamboree July 19 – 27, 2017



Boy Scouts in turbans at the American Sikh Council 'Sikh Exhibit'

The American Sikh Council (ASC) participated in the National Scout Jamboree held by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, West Virginia from July 19 – July 28, 2017. The National Jamboree is held every four (4) years. This year over 40,000 Boy Scouts and over 6,000 adult volunteers and organizers participated in the event.

The American Sikh Council (ASC) participated in the event with ten (10) adult Sikh volunteers, two (2) Sikh Boy Scout volunteers and eight (8) Sikh youngsters who volunteered at the event. The American Sikh Council specially invited Sikh American youngsters to participate and volunteer at the Sikh exhibit so that they could have a immersive experience and finally go back and not only join Scouting but also inform others within the community about the awesome experience. Over 11,000 brochures were given out and every

Sikh volunteer was completely engaged with the Scouts, while answering questions and having discussions.

The ASC Sikh exhibit at the Jamboree presented a number of posters that highlighted the basic principles of the Sikh Faith, such as 'Ik-Onkar'; and the 'Khanda'. There were posters of the three main principles of the Sikh Faith, Sikh soldiers in World War I & II, and two Sikh Eagle Scouts. A few short documentaries explaining the salient aspects of the Sikh principles were presented including, the Sikh martial art of 'Gatka', showcasing the first Sikh American idol – Gurpreet Singh, the first Sikh American officer from West Point - Captain Simratpal Singh was run constantly in a loop. Several types of brochures were distributed to the participants.

These included a brochure on '*Sikhs and Scouts*', which is now regularly printed by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Brochures such as '*Sikh Faith*', '*History of Sikh Americans*', '*Bullying of Sikh American Children – Through the Eyes of a Sikh American High School Student*', '*Sikh Genocide 1984-1998*', '*Sikhs in Scouting*', '*Sikh Scouting Initiative*' were some of the other brochures disseminated to thousands of Boy Scouts and Scout leaders.

The Sikh exhibit at the National Boy Scouts Jamboree attracted tremendous attention, with constant lines of participants waiting for an hour or more to learn about the Sikhs and tie turbans. There was a stream of Scouts asking questions, and groups of Scouts gathering around Sikh volunteers who unwearingly answered their queries.

The Scouts waited patiently and enthusiastically in lines, for their turn to get a turban tied on their heads, which many wore with pride around the event grounds throughout the day. Over a twenty-three hundred (2,300+) turbans were tied by the end of the 4th day and after wearing the turbans on

their head through the day, most scouts took their turbans with them as souvenirs.

As stated by Scott B, *"Everyone had only positive things to say about your outstanding exhibit"*.



Some of the American Sikh Council volunteers with the National Commissioner of BSA

The organizers of the BSA Jamboree were highly impressed with the presentations at the Sikh exhibit. They not only complemented the ASC participants for a phenomenal job, but also made a strong pitch for continuing and further strengthening the collaboration between ASC and BSA by inviting us for the World Jamboree being held in July 2019.

On Monday July 24, 2017 Karanveer Singh an Eagle Scout, was honored by the Boy Scouts of America, by being asked to give the opening prayer just before President Trump gave his speech to the entire Jamboree. Karanveer Singh introduced himself, then did the 'Ardas' in Punjabi and then translated it into English and finally thanked the crowd of over 45,000 Scouts, adult leaders and visitors. The crowd was not only extremely respectful but also hugged, high fived, took pictures with him and many Scouts wanted the same style turban the next day.

The Jamboree provided an outstanding way to bring awareness about the Sikh Faith to a vast

number of non-Sikh youth. ASC is engaging in further collaboration with BSA, in particular propagating the Sikh Religious Awards (SRA) across the national spectrum so that anyone and everyone can learn and earn the Sikh emblems if they so choose. ASC is leading the charge for the nationwide Sikh Scouting initiative, so that children from all 200+ gurdwaras and elsewhere get into scouting to improve themselves and thrive for a better future.



**Karanveer Singh about to give the 'Opening Prayer' at the Jamboree on Monday July 24, 2017
[A historic first]**

This event has provided a significant opportunity for Scouts from various faiths to learn about Sikhs since there are over 2.4 million active Boy Scouts with another one million adult leaders across the country. There another over 2 million Girl Scouts and another 800,000 adult leaders across the nation.

In turn, it will help in enhancing interfaith understanding and harmony among various segments of society in the country and beyond.

The ASC contingent of volunteers consisted of Kirpal Singh, Sutinder Singh, Amardeep Singh, Dr. Navinderdeep Singh, Dr. Gurdas Singh, Karanveer Singh, Sherveer Singh, Navjeet Kaur, Jaspreet Kaur, Jaswinder Kaur, Avneet Singh, Veer Singh, Agamjyot Singh, Tanvir Singh,

Navjot Singh, Jeevanjot Singh, Kharag Singh, Kheber Singh and Kavneet Singh. In addition, Dr. Rupinder Singh a Jamboree VIP staff volunteer and his son Jujjar Singh a dynamic Scout also assisted at the Sikh Exhibit.



The lines were 80-100 deep, waiting to tie their turbans at the Sikh Exhibit

On Sunday July 23, 2017 the Sikh Prayer was held at the 'Worship Tent'. More than 250 Scouts and Adult Leaders showed up to observe and participate in the services. A s(h)abd was sung, then translated for the congregation, basics of the Sikh Faith were presented, the protocol of the Gurdwara was explained and then there was a Q & A session. The well attended Sikh Prayer session lasted a little more than an hour.

The extraordinary message of 'Guru Nanak' the enlightener and the founder of the Sikh Faith must be shared outside the Gurdwaras so that everyone around us understands the inclusive, universal message of love and camaraderie, especially in time when there is so much ignorance about minorities in particular.

The Boy Scouts of America and the Jamboree staff did an incredible job of hosting everyone and they cannot be thanked enough for their selfless service.



The Ardas after the Sikh presentation with kirtan at the 'Worship Tent' with over 250 attendees

<https://youtu.be/5vK26mEYHsw?t=612>

Clip ends at 12:39 mins.

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/07/25/opinions/t-rump-scout-speech-opinion-hertling/index.html> In the 6th paragraph

there is mention about a Sikh Scout giving the opening prayer.

<https://politicsmeanspolitics.com/donald-trump-and-the-scout-law-3eff173ae91a>

Mention about the Sikh Exhibit.

<https://christianscienceaustin.com/author/pegwommack/page/2/> Mention of the Sikh Booth being busy.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865685624/Boy-Scouts-and-religion-How-wood-carvings-help-spread-messages-of-faith.html> Mention of the Sikh Exhibit.

3. ASC gave out over 11,000 brochures and tied over 2,350 turbans in nine days.

<https://americansikhcouncil.org/2017/08/08/national-boy-scouts-jamboree-july-19-27-2017/>

Sikh Eagle Scout S. Karanveer Singh was honored by giving the opening prayer with an Ardas (in Gurmukhi and then in English) in front of an audience of 45,000 just before

**AUSTRALIAN SIKH COMMUNITY
HONORING LATE
SARDAR GURMIT SINGH
FOR SERVICES TO SIKH COMMUNITY.**

Sardar Gurmit Singh passed away today 26th January, 2018 AEST. (born 12 June 1935) Funeral and Antim Ardas details are awaited from the family. He is survived by his wife Surinder Kaur, sons Rajinder Singh, Parvinder Singh, Satpinder Singh and their families.

Two weeks back some members of Australian Sikh Community honored Sardar Gurmit Singh for below mentioned services to the Sikh Community especially in Australia. Attaching a photograph. Cover photo was shared by Sardar Balbinder Singh.



June 12, 1935-January 26, 2018

1. Conducting Sikh Scripture Classes in NSW schools for last 10 years.
2. Conducting Punjabi language classes and initiating Sikh Khalsa Mission Association.
3. Liaising with Australian authorities in relation to Sikh Identity and Immigrant Settlement related matters.
4. Providing Volunteer Justice of Peace Services to Wider Australian mainstream community.
5. Documenting Sikh history related articles and researching Gurbani based on Guru Granth Sahib.
6. Distributing books about Sikh teachings based on Guru Granth Sahib.
7. Championing Sikh Human Rights Issues.

He could not visit India after he protested GOI over 1984 June Operation Bluestar while on deputation from GOI customs department in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. **As he could not attend his mother's funeral in 1980's after GOI revoked his passport he never visited India.**

Papua New Guinea government granted him PNG citizenship based on his impeccable and efficient performance and handling of customs department in Port Moresby. He moved to Australia in late 1990's first settling in Adelaide, then Gosford and finally in Quakers Hill.

8. He was a brave and a committed person who stood against religious dogmas, adulteration of Gurbani, superstitions and ritualism. And was the first one to speak against mythological literature promotion in Sikhi.

9. He was a founder member of WSO and went to Canada as representative from PNG in late 1980's and early 1990's.

10. He researched Gurbani based on teachings in Guru Granth Sahib. Even during his last moments, he requested Sardar Balbinder Singh to recite Rehraas Sahib. And instructed him with great effort (as due to intestinal and esophagus cancer he was not eating anything for last four weeks and treatment was not possible) to stick to Rehraas

Sahib written in Guru Granth Sahib only. In spite of ill health, he was in Chardhi Kala and stuck to his beliefs and ideals to the end. Shortly before being hospitalized he asked me to purchase a book by Rajinder Singh Shiromani Khalsa Panchayat (Khalsa Panth Benaam Deravaad) and was last email received by me from his side before he was hospitalized:

*

On Fri, Dec 22, 2017 at 12:09 PM, Gurmit Singh <GurmitSingh01@bigpond.com> wrote:

Dear Amandeep Singh,

Thanks for your short-visit for two weeks.

If Lahore Book Shop, 2 – Lajpat Rai Market, Ludhiana having Phone 161 – 2740 738 is nearby your residence, please try to grab one copy of Book:

“Khalsa Panth Benaam Deravaad” by Mukh Sevdar, Khalsa Rajinder Singh of Shiromani Khalsa Panchayat –

Email: rajindersinghskp@yahoo.co.in

Gurmit Singh.

*

Gurmit Singh breathed every moment of his retirement living for the Sikh cause. Another regular annual report from S. Gurmit Singh is reflected in the following email provided by his friend S. Amandeep Singh:

On Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 8:13 PM, Gurmit Singh

<GurmitSingh01@bigpond.com> wrote:

Dear Bhai Dya Singh Jee (Melbourne),

Many thanks for sharing your Article: “SAVA-LAKH: Aussie Sikhs come of Age” as published in The Sikh Review, October 2017 at pages 33 to 36. I am also grateful for providing population of other religious groups in Australia i.e.

*Christians = 52.1%

* Muslims = 2.6%

* Buddhists = 2.4%

* Hindus = 1.9%

* Sikhs = 0.5%

* Jews = 0.4%

Other – 0.4%. (Over 33% claimed they do not belong to any particular religion).

Earlier, Inter-net Activist Amandeep Singh has also provided Sikh population

Figures in accordance with the 2016 Census under each Australian State:

Victoria (Melbourne) = 52,762

New South Wales – NSW (Sydney) = 31,737

Queensland – Qld (Brisbane) = 17,433

Western Australia – WA (Perth) = 11,897

South Australia – SA (Adelaide) = 8,808

Australian Capital Territory – ACT = 2,142 (Canberra)

Northern Territory – NT (Darwin) = 634

Tasmania – TAS (Hobart) = 488

Total: 1, 25, 901

F Y I

Gurmit Singh (QH-NSW)

The above announcement submitted by
S. Amandeep Singh

I first met S. Gurmit Singh on September 18th 2004 at Sydney during one of our six International Conferences by Singh Sabha International. Other five were in Melaka, Malaysia; Brampton, Ontario, Canada; Philadelphia, USA; Hounslow, UK; and Chandigarh, India.

I remember him clearly to push me to get into an argument with him about kes in Sikhism, repeatedly. He was aware of my personal opinion on it from the Sikh Bulletin that started publication in November 1999. We both held our grounds. He kept repeating it and I kept insisting that this requirement is not in the Rehat Maryada published by the SGPC but is in the one prepared by Delhi Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

But we had a very cordial relationship throughout. Anytime I asked for some references, he gladly provided. I respected his single-minded determination to disseminate Gurbani. He dedicated his life to that goal. It was he who introduced me to S. Gurbakhash Singh Kala Afghana. Rest is history.

Formation of **The Sikh Council of Australia** was announced at this conference by S. Bawa Singh Jagdev.
Hardev Singh Shergill

Following is a brief summary of that Conference provided by S. Bawa Singh Jagdev:

First World Sikh Conference in Sydney, 2004

This summary is from the [November-December 2004](#) issue of the Sikh Bulletin.

Sikh Council of Australia organized and hosted a two days World Sikh Conference on 18th and 19th September 2004 at the Gallery Function Centre University of Technology Sydney. This report is a brief review of its proceedings.

Theme of the conference was “Sikhism, The Challenges Today” various issues facing Sikhs in Multicultural Australian Society were discussed including Sikh Practices- Problems and Issues, Identity of Sikhs, Latent energies of the Sikhs and Interfaith Harmony and Religious tolerance in Australia.

As many as fifteen speakers, including Professor Gurtej Singh from India, Mr. Hardev Singh Shergill Editor of Sikh Bulletin from U.S.A, and thirteen local speakers, nine moderators and number of discussion forum participant took part in the conference.

Mr. M. Ganapathi Consul General of India represented the Indian Government, Federal Opposition Leader Mark Latham, was represented by Ms. Tanya Plibersek MP, Mr. Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chairman of Community Relation Commission represented the N.S.W Government, Assistant Commissioner Of police Gary Dobson represented the N.S.W Police Four other religious institutional representative participated in the conference. Mr. Krishnana Nair represented Sathya Sai Organization of Australia

and Papua New Guinea, Mr. Kuranda Seyit represented Forum of Australia’s Islamic Relations, Buddhist Council Of N.S.W was represented by Mr. Graeme Lyall AM, and Ms. Jessi Kaur Singh represented Multi-faith Australia.

The conference opened with the prayer Ardaas by Bhai Narindrpal Singh. In his opening address the Secretary of The Sikh Council of Australia Mr. Bawa Singh Jagdev underlined the need of establishing such a Sikh National Organization, its aims and objectives and achievements since its inception. Mr. Ajmer Singh Gill, President of the SCA welcomed the participants and expressed the hope that this conference will come up with some solutions which will help them to understand and retain our heritage, language and values which have been passed on to us by our elders.

Mr. Stephan Kerkyasharian in his address touched on various issues affecting the Sikh community, and referring to the terrible events of September 11, said that the subsequent war on terror has changed dramatically the world we live in and has presented a new set of challenges for the Sikhs in Australia and the world around, and illustrates, how easy it is to stir up emotions of hatred directed toward a religion.

New South Government has well established protocols and procedures to support the Sikh community to meet the challenges and to deal with any such racial or religious abuse or harassment. He congratulated the Sikh Council of Australia for establishing itself in the first place and putting the map of New South Wales on the map internationally with the Sikh world community by hosting the World Sikh Conference here in New South Wales.

In conclusion he said, “I want to say in conclusion that the fundamental values of equality, charity and compassion are very much similar to the fundamental principles of multiculturalism, accepting the diversity and respecting the diversity of each other, So Sikh is at home in multiculture in

New South Wales and I wish you a very productive and successful conference”

Mr. M. Ganapathi Consul General of India said that the theme of the conference “Sikhism – The Challenges Today” was timely one, in that in a world where religion is seen to have created disharmony, opportunities such as this conference would start dialogue which would focus on issues particularly facing the Sikh community in Australia and globally. He said that Sikhism is among the greatest religions of the world. Its essence is belief in the goodness of mankind, its fundamental philosophy is based on harmony, peace, tolerance, compassion and the need for man to help fellow human beings. This great religion preaches equality and purity of thought and purpose, coexistence and unity are important strands in Sikhism.

Referring to the post September 11 incidences he said, “what we saw in Australia in terms of the Daily Telegraph report, mentioned by Bawa Singh Jagdev is relevant, in those difficult days the Consulate General of India had kept in touch with the Sikh and whenever we became aware of instances of harassment, we took it up strongly with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The formation of the Sikh Council at that time to highlight the problems facing the community was significant and within this parameter, today’s World Sikh Conference in Sydney is timely, opportune and relevant”. This month is particularly auspicious month, he said, not only for the Sikhs but for Indians specifically and for the world community at large as we are celebrating the 400th anniversary of the installation of the Shri Guru Granth Sahib at the Golden Temple at Amritsar

Gary Dobson Assistant **Commander of N.S.W** police said that the greatest enemy of peace and good order in this world and in N.S.W is ignorance and the photos of September 11, 2001 is a classic example of how ignorance and prejudices

lead to violence and many of the issues that have confronted the people, in particular the Sikh community, during the last three years are due to the ignorance of the Sikh community. “It is pleasing to know that you have established the Sikh Council of Australia as that it will be a significant step forward for the Sikh community in terms of reducing that ignorance and bringing the issues to the fore front for the community in N.S.W and in Australia” he said. “I am in-charge of Education and Training for the entire organization and one of my portfolio is the recruitment of individuals from the communities to become police officers.

We have had extremely small number from the Sikh background becoming police officer we are actively trying to recruit people from broad spectrum of diverse background and certainly this is an opportunity to get a message across, those who produce media for the Sikh community and I would most assuredly on behalf of the N.S.W police encourage any individual from Sikh background to apply to become police officer”, he said.

Professor Gurtej Singh presented his paper on Sikhism encompassing a wide variety of topics on Sikhism, and river water issue in Punjab, followed by Mr. Hardev Singh Shergill, who spoke, in detail, on “Sikh practices their problems and issues”, giving examples, followed by questions from the audience.

Both papers raised a host of questions, unheard of previously. Their widely lauded papers underlined the need to accept cultural and social changes and the need to understand the difference between a Sikh and Singh, what Sikhism and Sikhi are, and ways to stop un-Sikh practice which have made inroads into Sikhism and the Sikh ways of life.

Dr. Tejpal Singh, an eminent Sikh scholar presented a very comprehensive paper on the universalism of Sri Guru Granth Sahib quoting

Hymns from Guru Grant Sahib. The paper was multidimensional, in religious terms and presentation was spiritually inspiring. And Mr. Gurcharan Singh Bhatia spoke on the identity of Sikhs. Mr. Mukhtiar Singh presented a discussion paper on “Latent Energies of the Sikhs” which was most profound and thought provoking, and posed number of questions such as, reasons of the decline of the Sikh population, definition of a “Sikh” and the need to do away with the categories such as Amrit dhari, Sahij dhari and Patit Sikh. While Ms. Jessie spoke on “Sikhs and Multi Faith movement, Mr. Harmohan Singh Walia spoke on promoting Sikh image and influence.

Youth symposium chaired by Mr. Satwant Singh Calais turned out to be very informative. Various issue affecting the youths, such as difficulties faced by the youth living in this multicultural society while conforming to culturally defined symbols and practices, and how to deal with discrimination and racially motivated remarks directed at them, wearing Patkas or turbans, in schools, were discussed and solutions proposed. Culturally defined dress for the Sikh working girls/ women, its implications and acceptability were discussed and views recorded.

Women’s Discussion Forum: On the second day Women’s discussion forum was held in which a number of women took part and problems facing the women were discussed and solutions proposed.

Conclusion

Listening to the views of the invited guests and discussion papers presented during the conference by various speakers it was clear that:

- The establishment of the Sikh Council of Australia was timely in terms of reducing the ignorance of other ethnic community people about the Sikhs and bringing the issues facing the Sikh community in N.S.W and in Australia to the fore front.
- the Sikh religion, while going through difficult time on several fronts, many due to ignorance of

the faithful/fundamentalists, some established religious practices need changes.

- the conference had put the map of New South Wales on the map internationally with the Sikh world community by hosting the World Sikh Conference here in New South Wales.
- majority of the participants expressed the need to hold such conferences regularly.

Following resolutions concerning the implied authority of the SGPC, (Sri Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee) and imposition and implementation of their edicts on the diaspora Sikhs, without consulting the diaspora or having any say in them, were passed at the World Sikh Conference, which will be sent to the SGPC and other Gurudwara Management Committees in India for their consideration.

Resolutions:

The First World Sikh Conference held on 18th and 19th of September 2004 in Sydney Australia under the auspices of The Sikh Council of Australia calls upon the leadership and management of the SGPC Amritsar to:

- A. Stop un-Sikh practices which have made inroads into the Historical and other Gurudwaras under the direct control of SGPC or amiable to its influence, such as:
 1. Performing of multiple Akhand Paths in the Gurudwaras.
 2. Ready-made Akhand Paths and Sadharan Paths.
 3. Accord Dasam Granth the same status as Sri Guru Granth Sahib and performing Akhand Path of Dasam Granth at Damdami Taksal, Nihang Deras, Takhat Patna Sahib and Takhat Hazur Sahib and sacrifice of Goats at Hazur Sahib.
 4. Refusal to women to perform Kirtan at Darbar Sahib.
- B. Appointment of Mukh Sewadar of Sri Akal Takhat Sahib.

Since all Sikhs acknowledge the supremacy of Sri Akal Takhat as the manifestation of absolute and sovereign existence and glory of Sri Gur Granth Sahib and Sri Guru Khalsa Panth and since SGPC has jurisdiction only on Gurudwaras in Punjab, Himachal and Haryana, be it resolved that Sikhs in other parts of India and the diaspora have an equal say in the selection of the Mukh Sewadar of Sri Akal Takhat Sahib.

- C. A Chapter of Singh Sabha International be established in Australia.
- D. The conference also endorses the resolutions one through seven as attached."

Bawa Singh Jagdev

Secretary

For and on behalf of the Sikh Council of Australia

22nd September 2004

From: Bawa Jagdev

[mailto:bawaj@optusnet.com.au]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 10:11 PM

To: Bawa Jagdev <bawaj@optusnet.com.au>

Subject:

National Sikh Council of Australia Inc

170- Ninth Avenue Austral N.S.W 2179 (**Inc No: INC9877869**)

Voice of the Sikhs in Australia

President: Ajmer Singh Gill JP, **Secretary:** Bawa Singh Jagdev OAM JP

GOODBYE S. GURMIT SINGH

Passing away of the Sikh crusader and campaigner of the understanding of the Sikh faith. Born on 12 June 1935 Sardar Gurmit Singh left to his heavenly abode on 26th January, 2018. He was widely considered to be a Sikh theologian and cultural critic who never ignored the ethics of the faith he followed, preached and practiced.

S. Gurmit Singh will be missed by many Sikhs who knew him the world over, especially those

who sought some advice on the Sikh Rahet Maryada and Gurubani as I, as a secretary of the National Sikh Council, often did when faced with the rulings on certain social, cultural and religious issues. **I vividly remember when the Council had to make a ruling whether a school going child should be baptised and carry a kirpan to the school, I sought S. Gurmit Singh's advice and his firm answer was "only a mature person can be baptised who can recite Gurubani and knows the significance and purpose of kirpan, school going children cannot and should not be baptised".** However, he was very uncompromising, according to his belief, on certain SRM issues.

When the Chaplain of the Royal Military College wrote to the Sikh Council of Australia to seek advice whether a Sikh Army personnel was forbidden to remove his turban and wear a helmet, for his own protection, in a situation where he is to deal with fire, explosive or poisonous gas. Council sent an email to all its members and overseas Sikh scholars, retired Army and Air force personnel and most of them agreed that when a serviceman has to deal with fire, explosive or poisonous gas he can wear helmet over his Patka and even the Air Force pilots have to remove their turban to put on the flying suit with all the communication gears in the helmet, but so strong was his faith in Sikhi or SRM that he was the only person who was against removing the turban..

But he had no soft corner for the, Sant Babas, Dehara Walas, SGPC, Akali Dal and the Sikh politicians as they were responsible for the disunity amongst the Sikhs and the decimation of Sikh Nation.

He firmly believed in people taking responsibility for their own actions and shaping their own destinies and was a *strenuous* advocate of reform, especially in the teaching of Sikh philosophy. He always attacked the literary, philosophical, and pseudo-priestly establishments of his days for

amassing unnecessary wealth by misrepresenting and misinterpreting and selling Gurbani which was given free to the Sikhs by Guru Nanak.

Thrig tenhan ka Jeevana Jo lekh lekh bache Naam

An ardent advocate of speaking Punjabi at home with growing children and strongly supported the claim of Punjabi Language as a subject in the school curriculum and ultimately a subject of the HSC curriculum. He took upon himself the task of teaching Punjabi and Sikh Religious Education (SRE) voluntarily in NSW schools as long as he lived.

He established The Sikh Khalsa Mission Association, printed books, pamphlets and articles on Gurubani and distributed free of charge to the people in Gurudwaras and emailed to all on his posting list. Being a Justice of the Peace of NSW, he provided this free service to the Sikh community and other Australians. He was a dedicated Sikh for the Sikh cause.

Sikh Council of Australia appointed him as the Sikh Chaplin and he visited Sikh inmates in the Corrective Services in NSW. As a volunteer he taught SRE (Sikh Religious Education) classes in schools in Sydney for a number of years.

He had a thorough understanding and knowledge of Gurbani and Sikh history and was a crusader of the Sikh philosophy and Panthic unity which he actively promoted and often expressed his disgust about the gullible being misguided by the so called self-styled leaders on the Sikh nation. He always expressed his opinion to his State and Federal parliamentarian on issue affecting not only the Sikhs but the other communities.

May Satguru grant peace and tranquillity to the departed soul. Our sincerely heartfelt sympathy and condolences go to his bereaved family.

With Kind Regards
Bawa Singh Jagdev OAM
(Mob) 0401211111
Bawaj@optusnet.com.au

For and on Behalf of the National Sikh Council of
Australia Inc

SARDAR GURMIT SINGH, AUSTRALIA



June 12, 1935-January 26, 2018