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THE NORTH SHORE SIKH ASSOCIATION OF SYDNEY INCORPORATED



ABN: 50 318 933 046

Incorporated in NSW 1986 Registered No. Y01825-43

Registered Office: 81 Kissing Point Road, Turramurra Sydney, NSW 2074 Telephone 02 9449 8253

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

15 th May 2016

Dear Sikh Community representatives,

North Shore Sikh Association of Sydney Inc have noticed some press releases that came out in the public forum. NSSAS wishes to convey that NSSAS does not agree with these and strongly condemn the arguments put forward by National Sikh Council of Australia.

Questioning the purpose of Kesh for Sikhs and calling Turban a cultural thing and not a religious article of faith is wrong, misrepresenting and mischievous. Calling pangat or eating Langar sitting on floor as unhealthy and un-hygienic is again not based on facts and is misleading.

Using words like 'Sikh Talaban' shows no regards for Sikhi and is an effort to confuse one religious thing with other unrelated issues.

NSSAS promotes that Sikh Code of Conduct be followed by all Sikhs and feel hurt by such irresponsible comments to the media.

We want to add here that NSSAS is not a member of the Sikh Council of Australia and thus views put forward by NSC are not views of the NSSAS and its members.

Harbir Pal Singh Bhatia

President

On behalf of NSSAS



Simran House Inc

Inc 9887606 (incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)
ABN: 92 744 994 180

23, Lincoln Street, Minto, NSW 2566
P: 1300 541 116 E: info@simranhouse.org



30th May, 2016

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral, NSW 2179

Dear Sir

Re: Resignation from membership

Our organization **Simran House Incorporated** would wish to resign from the membership of **National Sikh Council of Australia** with immediate effect. For some years now our organisation has never been informed of any meetings or AGM's held by National Sikh Council. We have never been part of election of office bearers of National Sikh Council and have not been consulted on any issues.

Recently some actions of National Sikh Council of Australia were strongly against Sikh beliefs and values. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation and your representatives, breaching the Sikh code of conduct. These have hurt community sentiments hence we are resigning from the membership.

Sincerely

Jasvinder Singh
President
Simran House Inc

Sikh Temple Murwillumbah


National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

7th May 2016

Dear Representatives,

... wishes to inform National Sikh Council of Australia that their actions are strongly against Sikh beliefs and values. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation, breaching the Sikh code of conduct. These have hurt Sikh sentiment and we would be recommending other institutions to not become your members.

With regards,

- Ranbir Singh
- JASWINDER SINGH 
- ABhorla (Amrit Bhorla)

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Sri Guru Singh Sabha

The Sikh Cultural Society of Victoria Inc.

Reg: A00214551X ABN: 13 553 721 764



REF: SGSS/NSC

DATE: 31/05/2016

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sri Guru Singh Sabha, The Sikh Cultural Society of Victoria Inc. has noticed some press releases issued by National Sikh Council of Australia. Sri Guru Singh Sabha strongly condemns these statements which are against the Sikh Code of Conduct.

Questioning the purposes of Kesh for Sikhs and calling the Turban a cultural thing and not a religious article of faith is wrong. Making arbitrary and sweeping statements without thought and wider ramifications does not serve Sikhs interests.

Sri Guru Singh Sabha promotes the Sikh Code of Conduct which should be followed by all Sikhs.

We want to add here that Sri Guru Singh Sabha is not a member of the National Sikh Council of Australia and thus the views put forward by NSC are not views of Sri Guru Singh Sabha and its members.

Gurmit Singh Randhawa
Secretary
Sri Guru Singh Sabha,
The Sikh Cultural Society of Victoria Inc.



**SRI GURU NANAK SATSANG SABHA
GURDWARA SAHIB BLACKBURN**

ABN 45 005 977 837
127 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn, Victoria 3130 Australia
All Correspondence to: Company Secretary
SGNSS, P O Box 101, Blackburn, Victoria 3130 Australia
Tel: (61 3) 9894 1800 • Fax: (61 3) 9894 2208
Email: info@gurdwarablackburn.com.au
www.gurdwarablackburn.com.au

17 May 2016

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

Dear Sir / Madam

Ref: Withdrawal of SGNSS (Sri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha) Melbourne, VIC. from your website


With reference to the above please be informed that SGNSS Melbourne, VIC. do not want to be listed on your website with immediate effect. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation, leaving us with no other option. These have undermined Sikhism as whole and hurt Sikh sentiments in particular.

Making arbitrary and sweeping statements without thought and wider ramifications does not serve Sikhs interests. What is stamped deep in religion and history cannot be erased by personal and "thought bubble" momentary pronouncements.

Etched in the folds of our "dastar" or turban, are many multi-facet aspects – religion, history, tradition, ethos and culture. To assign one aspect, is lacking understanding, appreciation in totality.

Please note and action.

Sincerely


Kirpal Singh
Company Secretary
SGNSS

23rd May 2016

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

Reference: Withdrawal of Gurudwara Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Keysborough, Melbourne, Victoria from your website

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above please be informed that Gurudwara Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Keysborough, Melbourne, Victoria do not want to be listed on your website with immediate effect. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation. These have undermined Sikhism as a whole and hurt Sikh sentiments in particular.

Making arbitrary and sweeping statements without thought and wider ramifications does not serve Sikhs interests. What is stamped deep in religion and history cannot be erased by personal and “thought bubble” momentary pronouncements.

Furthermore you must refrain from associating Gurudwara Sri Guru Granth Sahib with any of your activities or we will be left with no alternative but to instigate legal proceedings.

Yours faithfully



Balwant Jandu
(Secretary)

For non-members:



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Guru Nanak Sikh Society Shepparton Inc.
BBS: 2-311-550-389 FAX: 3-111-026 71
Address: 240 Doyle Road, Shepparton 3632
PO Box 1721, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia, 3632 Email: gnsss@live.com
Telephone: 03-58219300

G.N.S.S.S

Letter No. 4

27th May 2016

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

Dear Representatives,

Guru Nanak Sikh Society Shepparton Inc. wishes to inform National Sikh Council of Australia that their actions are strongly against Sikh beliefs and values. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation, breaching the Sikh code of conduct. These have hurt Sikh sentiment and we would be recommending other institutions to not become your members.

With regards,

G. Singh

Gurmeet Singh (president)

Guru Nanak Sikh Society Shepparton Inc



G N S S S
 Letter No. 3

27th May 2016

Dear National Sikh Council of Australia members,

We wish to convey the views of the Sikh community **strongly opposing** National Sikh Council of Australia (the Council). In this document we will highlight key points that have come to light both recently and in the past that vividly demonstrate that there is a **huge misrepresentation of Sikh principles** by the Council. We want to keep this professional, without any personal vendetta against any individuals. It should be noted the Council claims to have the following aims and objectives:

As the apex body for the Sikh community in Australia, its aims and objectives of NSCA are to

- Act as a principal coordinating and negotiating body with other organisations (including local, state or federal government agencies) for and on behalf of the Sikh community and its member organisations in Australia
- Take necessary steps and act to protect any negative or irreverent criticism of the Sikh community, Sikh religion or its member organisations by any other organisation(s) or individual(s) in public forums or media
- Make representations to the wider Australian community (including government agencies) directly or through the media, in matters relating and affecting the Sikh community or its member organisations
- Consider, advise and make recommendations to the Government on matters concerning and affecting the Sikh community and its member organisations
- Liaise with the other ethnic communities in Australia.
- Do all of the above on behalf of the NSCA member organisations

<http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/explora-naca/aims-objectives/>

Their professed mission is:

To provide a united platform for the Sikhs in Australia for the purposes of liaising with the Government and non-Government agencies, with the aim of promoting the aims and objectives of its members towards a National Sikh Agenda

<http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/explora-naca/mission/>

They have appeared in mainstream media (SBS, SMH, ABC, 2GB radio, etc.), community media, universities, government departments, parliament (submissions), with state and federal MP's, community and business leaders. They also liaise with employees and officials on advising Sikh beliefs with messages declared such as "main", "apex", "peak" and "umbrella" representative body that "represents over 75thousand Sikhs" Australia wide circulated by them.

With regards to members (shown on right), it is stated "Currently there are 22 members of Sikh Council of Australia and the numbers are growing as the community feels the need to unite" with the names listed on the website.

<http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/membership/currentmembers/>

State	Members
ACT	1. Canberra Sikh Association Inc. Canberra (Quadrant Centre)
NSW	2. Gurmeh Singh Sikh Society Inc. (Moggi) Griffith 3. Guru Nanak Sikh Temple (Hoopridge) Queensland Sikh Hong Kong 4. Newcastle Sikh Association Inc. (Shedden) Queensland Sikh Brisbane 5. Rangabhai Welfare Association of Australia Inc. Blacktown 6. Sikh Association of Sydney Inc. (Remedy) Queensland Sikh Remedy 7. Sikh Cultural & Sports Association Sydney Inc. (CCSAS) 8. Sikh Khanda Mission Inc. (Cuthberts Hill) 9. Sikh Mission Centre Sydney Inc. (Australia) Queensland Sikh Brisbane 10. Sikh Temple Australia Inc. 11. Sikh Youth Australia Inc. 12. Sikh Youth Centre Australia Inc. 13. Simon House Maitland (Queensland) Sikh Maitland 14. Sydney Punjabi Society Inc. (West Parramatta Hill) 15. (Indrapur) Simon Society Inc.
NT	None
QLD	16. Brisbane Sikh Temple (Queensland) Sikh Brisbane
SA	17. Elizabeth Sikh Society Inc. (Gosport SA) Queensland Sikh Brisbane 18. Sikh Society of South Australia Inc. Adelaide SA Queensland Sikh Brisbane
TAS	None
VIC	19. Sikh Temple in Melbourne 20. Sri Gurm Gurus Sahib Inc. (Ardmore) Queensland Sikh Brisbane 21. Sri Gurm Gurus Sahib Inc. (Blackburn) Queensland Sikh Brisbane
WA	22. Sikh Association of Western Australia 23. Sri Gurukulam (Edinburgh Hill)



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Guru Nanak Sikh Society Shepparton Inc.

ABN: 26 016 556 589 AU N A 003 826 77

Address: 240 Doyles Road, Shepparton, 3630

PO Box 1721, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia, 3632 Email: gnssst@live.com

Telephone: 03 5821 9309

We would like to raise the following nine concerning issues for your urgent attention:

Sikh Issues with Council known publicly

- Sikh Turban (Dastaar) is a Cultural Tradition and not related to Sikh religion
- Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans
- Attacks on Langar pangat on floor, including it is "filthy" and "unhealthy"
- Dumalla turban is "talaban turban"
- Questioning if hair (kesh) for a Sikh is needed
- Bhangra on vulgar songs at Gurdwara
- Alcohol and belly dancers at representative events
- Attack on Muslims, Indians and Sikh Groups (Taksaal)
- Foul offensive language and conspiracies against individuals who speak out on their anti-sikh practices. Accused of being "radicals", "fundamentalists", "skunk", "cancer worms" - with no prior dialogue

1) **Sikh Turban (Dastaar) is a Cultural Tradition and not related to Sikh religion**

The Council quoted "...explaining that the turban is a cultural tradition for Sikhs and has nothing to do with religion [They have told] people that Sikh men do not cut their hair, and the turban is a way of keeping it under control." Sydney Morning Herald April 6, 2014.

2) **Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans**

School students should not be allowed to carry the kirpan, says the Sikh Council of Australia, the apex representative body of Sikhs in the country, about the dagger worn as an article of faith by baptised Sikhs... [The Council] told IANS, "Kirpans should not be allowed at schools at all. The wearer or the initiate must understand its (kirpan's) significance, utility and consequences if used for any purpose other than what it is meant for. Now the question of student wearing this kirpan in the school, does he understand the significance or its utility?" "The council is of the view that although it's an article of the Sikh faith and if some family wants his 10 or 12 year old to be initiated, they can leave the kirpan at home and go to school, come back and wear it. The reason being it can be harmful to the wearer. Suppose two or three boys get together and remove his kirpan, they can harm him," ... [they added]. Dec 26, 2007 IANS and also featured on 2UE radio station.

"Yesterday [a Council representative] had a call from [two Singhs who] both identified themselves as "baptised Sikhs" and raised concern about... [the Council's clarification on this issue. It appeared that the two Singhs] either did not understand... [the] answer correctly or did not hear the interview personally... [The Council] posed the same question, "Don't you remove your Kirpan before boarding a plane" [One] said, "yes but I then put a small kirpan pendant around my neck". and [the other] said, "yes but with a great pain" whatever that means. But the question is either you remove it or you don't remove there is no in between. If you can remove it before boarding a plane or entering a building then what is the harm in asking a child to remove it before going to school and wear it when you come back." National Sikh Council Email 8 December 2007.

The above is a highly inappropriate example: one related to high security and the other affecting everyday school going children?



3) Attacks on Langar pangat on floor, including it is “filthy” and “unhealthy”

*The Council quoted “But when the **religious dust** settles down from the eyes of these **Sikh Talabans**, their **mental capacity** starts to work and then they realise that eating while sitting on the floor is **filthy and unhygienic** , and even the diehard floor sitters start to realise that they were wrong because they were **religiously misguided** by the fake Sant Babas and Dehrawalas. They decided to abandon sitting on the floor while eating Langer in Gurudwara and started eating Langer while sitting in the chair.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.*

*“...civilised way of eating food is sitting in the chair and that eating Langer while sitting on the floor is **filthy, unhygienic and against the Australian Occupation Health and Safety Act**” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.*

*“Here is one of those **religiously blind persons**, the floor sitter, who has been advocating on his Face book that to sit in the chair while eating Langer is against the Sikh religion.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.*

*“...got intuition from God and realising how silly he has been for years eating Langer sitting on the floor which is **unhealthy and unhygienic** way of eating blessed sacred Langer.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.*

*“There is a disease called **religious “myopia”** or **religious blindness** and most **religions fanatics** are unfortunate victims of this disease but they take it as the sign of the glory of God for their idiocy. They claim to have direct line to God to talk to and interpret Gurubani. The **religious dust** almost blinds them to the extent that they cannot see other peoples point of view. These **misguided** people, because of the **religious blindness**, cannot see the part which culture plays in the faith.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.*

*“Paroxysm and convulsion the celebration of Vaisakhi has created in the **guts of so called the self proclaimed Custodian of the Sikh faith** and agents of God who **force others to sit on floor** to partake Langer but feel no quaim to partake Langer sitting on tables in Gurudwaras where everybody eats sitting on the table.” National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016*

4) Dumalla turban is “talaban turban”

The Council quoted “Can you recognise this fellow with **Talaban turban** eating Langer while sitting in the chair,





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Guru Nanak Sikh Society Shepparton Inc.

ABN 26 016 556 589 ACN A 003 826 77

Address: 240 Doyles Road, Shepparton, 3630

PO Box 1721, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia, 3632 Email: gnsst@live.com

Telephone: 03 5821 9309

Have a guess?" National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"He also has a number of facial facades which he changes according to the situation he is in, some time he is clean shaven, then wears respectable turban, then with Nehang type turban and then Sikh Taleban turban, he has many other faces." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

5) Questioning if hair (kesh) for a Sikh is needed

The Council asked *"It is worth pondering upon as what difference growing of long hair will make to his relationship with the Almighty God? And whether in this age it is necessary to continue to follow the centuries old culturally specified traditions in order to follow the tenets of Sikhism or to become a Sikh ?"* National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"... barking back on the era when one could not think of the present modern day gadgets/ inventions which can send a man to Moon and safely bring him back to earth, which were unknown to them. He wants to drag us back into stone age." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

6) Bhangra on vulgar songs at gurdwara

Photos and videos were posted on social networks showing bhangra being performed inside the Austral Gurdwara Sahib in Sydney, Australia. Gurdwara is a **place of worship and not entertainment**, there are many other venues where such an event could have taken place. **Several inappropriate (vulgar) songs** were heard being played inside the Gurdwara. According to a source, Guru Granth Sahib Ji's Parkash was only 10 Metres from where the bhangra was being performed.

Many sources, including individuals and the media highlighted the dilution of the Sikh religion due to the mixture with Punjabi culture the completely violated the Sikh Code of Conduct. The organisers called it a "Cultural Event", but Gurdwara is most certainly not a place where you perform bhangra. The message and the history of Vaisakhi are meant for Sikhs to obtain lessons and contemplate on what took place in 1699. The event appeared more of a party than religious to celebrate the founding of the Khalsa Panth.



*from Daily Sikh Updates and public pages on Facebook

News feed



2016-04-30 10:00 AM





7) Alcohol and belly dancers

The Council has a track record of serving alcohol, entertaining guests with semi-covered dancing girls (belly dancers) at their organised events with the aim of protecting the Sikh religion and preventing any negative



criticism. In stark contrast, the Sikh representative bodies of US, Canada and UK are protecting, promoting and enhancing the Sikh religion by performing kirtan and other Sikh ceremonies at the parliament and Downing Street to commemorate historical events and achievements. Why is Australia's representation of the Sikh culture vastly different? These low standards are passed on to the next generation and wider community with these anti-sikh activities done in presence of many youth, as well as dignitaries and officials.

**from Sada-e-Watan Sydney and Sikh Council of Australia Public Facebook Page

8) Attack on Muslims, Indians and Sikh Groups (Taksaal)

The Council quoted "...had never heard of what this **bloody Takhsal** word means but...continued and said you cannot do cultural program in the Gurudwara...we are in no way under them or any SGPC as it is Australia and not India." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"This a wakeup call for all of us they want the Sikhs, who have gained respect from Australian and the Australian governments, to be termed as terrorist like the ISIL." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.



"If they are successful in their endeavour we will be hated as the Muslims are being hated." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"They are the Indian Talaban...cannot call them Sikh talaban because a Sikh never attacks you from behind, he comes face to, any other name will suits them well." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

9) **Foul offensive language and conspiracies against individuals who speak out on anti-sikh practices. Accused of being "radicals", "fundamentalists", "skunk", "cancer worms", no prior dialogue**

The Council quoted *"...all those untrue remarks about...views...[on] Sikhism, are of those who have been misguided and brain washed by the fundamentalists."* National Sikh Council Attachment Email 22 April 2016.

"... behaving [in a way] it appears that [they are a] racial elite, amongst a specific exclusive ethnic group of people, an offshoot of Sikhism such as Sants and Dehra Walas." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"...enforcing...[their] half true knowledge of Gurubani on the simple minded youngsters to radicalise them like the fundamentalist Muslims do, to their children from the very young age and they grow up as terrorists." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"...appeal to all those 98% silent majority of the Sikhs in Australia who believe and follow the teachings of S.G.Granth. Sahib and reject the teachings of fundamentalists, off shoots of Guru Nanak's Sikhism, the Sant Babas and Dehrawala, to stand up..." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"...registered...complaint and...also attached a copy of the Tribune news, "India shares information on Sikh Radicals with Australia". Have informed...Local State and Federal members so that they could talk to the FBI, before it gets too serious...also rang to the Green Valley Police Station as Austral comes under them...will inform the Federal Member Mr. Laurie Ferguson Mp for Austral." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"You are a confused person and people like you, and there are many, who are misguided by the spell of their self-imposed conceit and vanity (of being an Amritdhari) and are suffering from a disease, in psychology it is called COFD, "Compulsive Obsessive Faith Disorder" for which there is no cure, because they live in the confused world of their own and are in conflict with everyone else. You don't know who you are or who is a Sikh...Remember by shaving a man's head, giving him a new name and wrapping him in strange clothes won't change his persona. A skunk will smell the same by any other name. By simply taking Amrit one doesn't become a Sikh, it requires much much more than that." National Sikh Council Email 8 Feb 2012.

"People [like you] have penchant for hate and prejudice filled with bitterness against those who reject the philosophy they promulgate. People [like you] are canker worms, woodworm in the Sikh society who are destroying the Sikh Nation from within pretending to be the well wishers of the Sikh Nation, their intentions are questionable." National Sikh Council Email 27 Feb 2012.



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Guru Nanak Sikh Society Shepparton Inc.

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"...personally don't know this person, as such people often change their real names, to bring them some respectability under guise of religious preacher in white robes, so that no one could dig out their questionably muddy past and true self, from their factious name. A skunk smells the same by any other name so does a criminal, a criminal remains criminal no matter what saintly robes he put on. But in this computer age one can find out the complete history if one had been involved in a criminal activity or paedophilia." National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"[Council states they are]...going to dig deep into the past life history of this person as to what sort of saintly person he is, as to why he has put untrue and false allegations...have spread...feelers but...need your help if you have any information about his past activities, as am told that there are many, and if he is the same person...will appreciate." National Sikh Council Attachment Email 22 April 2016 regarding Facebook

Action Plan

These issues cannot be taken lightly. The Council is professing to represent Sikhs nationally both within the community as well as the mainstream. Their actions have damaged Sikh sentiment locally and globally, as multiple media articles have reported on their actions. We urge you to **withdraw your membership** by completing and signing the letter attached. We request you to also forward us a copy (australiansikhs16@gmail.com), so we can keep as record. Should you have any questions or wish to meet in relation to this letter and its contents please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Gurmeet Singh

President

Guru Nanak Sikh Society Shepparton Inc.



Australian Sikhs <australiansikhs16@gmail.com>

Requesting action against the unwanted communication made by Sikh Council of Australia

Canberra Sikh <canberrasikhassociation@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 9, 2016 at 6:15 PM

To: bawaj@optusnet.com.au, ajkalgill@gmail.com

Cc: australiansikhs16@gmail.com

SSA,

I am writing to convey that Canberra Sikh Association strongly condemn the statements made by Mr. Jagdev Bawa while considering them as unwanted and divisive. On behalf of the Canberra Sikh Association I submit the attached statement seeking an action in this matter.

Regards

Madhusudan Singh Sidhu


President

Executive Committee
Canberra Sikh Association Inc.
15 Hickey Court
Weston ACT 2611

(Representing Gurdwara salib in the nation's capital city)

Website: www.canberrasikhassociation.com
Email: contactus@canberrasikhassociation.com

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 **CSA_Letter_to_Sikh_Council_of_Australia.pdf**
189K

06 June 2016

The Sikh Council of Australia,

I am writing to convey that Canberra Sikh Association strongly condemn the statements made by Mr. Jagdev Bawa while pointing out the maryada followed by Sikhs at our Gurdwara Sahib and in general. The Executive Committee has addressed the unwanted communication made by Mr. Jagdev Bawa and found it belligerent and offensive as it uses the words like 'Sikh Talibans', shows disrespect and misunderstanding of the concept of Sangat and Pangat while including that eating Langar in the pangat while sitting on floor is unhygienic and unhealthy.

Canberra Sikh Association upholds and supports the Sikh Rehat Maryada as listed on the SGPC website and would like to see that the joint body presenting the Gurdwaras should have an understanding of the Sikh values and code of conduct while refraining from giving divisive statements.

The Canberra Sikh Association seek an apology from Mr. Jagdev Bawa for this or his resignation from the position held by him in Sikh Council of Australia. In case Sikh Council of Australia does not pursue with this matter in a reasonable time frame then Canberra Sikh Association will have to withdraw their inclusion from the Sikh Council of Australia.

Madhusudan Singh Sidhu

President

Canberra Sikh Association



SIKH GURDWARA PERTH INC. (SGP)
10 CHELTENHAM STREET, BENNETT SPRINGS, PERTH W.A. 6063

1st June 2016

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral NSW 2179
Australia

Dear NSCA Representatives,

Sikh Gurdwara Perth Inc. wishes to withdraw membership with National Sikh Council of Australia with an immediate effect. NSCA has been giving misleading statements regarding the Sikh Turban and has been trying to dissipate the importance of Pangat by calling it un-hygienic in the National media. These statements are directly against the Sikh Code of Conduct (Sikh Rehat Maryada) and are intolerable. These have hurt Sikh sentiments and have put a big question mark on the working of NSCA in representing Sikhs Australia wide.

We would like to see our name removed from your Current Members' list immediately after receiving this letter.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Regards,

Jarnail Singh Bhaur
General Secretary
Sikh Gurdwara Perth Inc.
Bennett Springs WA 6063





Akhand Kirtani Jatha Australia Incorporated

ABN 26 047 197 216

4 Peak Street Glenwood NSW 2768 Sydney
Ph: 02 9785 2920 Fax 02 9676 6477 Mobile 0412391665

To
Australian Sikhs

Dear Sir,

We earnestly thank you for bringing this grave matter to our attention. The National Sikh Council of Australia which is claiming to be the apex representative body of Sikhs in Australia has lot to answer. Its representative(s) have said and spoken about practices of Sikh faith in the most derogatory manner.

A certain style of turban (Dumalla) has been especially targeted as "Taliban". Irony is that the bearers of this style of turban are the ones who struggled and stopped the invasions of Taliban styled leaders from north-west of India. The present turban is just a modification of the Dumalla turban.

To label the pure and spiritual Langar Pratha (tradition) as a filthy and unhygienic method shows total disrespect towards our Gurus and the whole Sikh community worldwide. At the holiest place Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) Amritsar (and Gurdwaras worldwide) food (Langar) is taken squatting on floor. Is the place of Guru Ramdas Sahib (the fourth Sikh Guru) unhygienic and filthy?. WE ARE APPALLED BY SUCH STATEMENTS issued by members of The National Sikh Council.

Akhand Kirtani Jatha one the oldest bodies of Sikh Faith and Sikh Sangat in general condemn such statements and wish to convey our feelings that 'The National Sikh Council of Australia' should be banned from representing Sikhs and Sikh Faith to immediate effect. Any leadership of Sikhs by them is false/fake and is hurting all practising Sikhs Australia wide.

Kind Regards

Bh Maha Singh
AKJ Aust Inc

Dated: 28/05/16



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

20th May 2016

Dear Representatives,

Damdami Taksal Australia wishes to inform National Sikh Council of Australia that their actions are strongly against Sikh beliefs and values. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation, breaching the Sikh code of conduct. These have hurt Sikh sentiment and we would be recommending other institutions to not become your members.

With regards,

AMRIK SINGH

Amrik Singh
25/05/2016



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

20th May 2016

Dear National Sikh Council of Australia members,

We wish to convey the views of the Sikh community **strongly opposing** National Sikh Council of Australia (the Council). In this document we will highlight key points that have come to light both recently and in the past that vividly demonstrate that there is a **huge misrepresentation of Sikh principles** by the Council. We want to keep this professional, without any personal vendetta against any individuals. It should be noted the Council claims to have the following aims and objectives:

As the apex body for the Sikh community in Australia, the aims and objectives of NSCA are to:

- Act as a principal coordinating and negotiating body, with other organisations (including local, state or federal government agencies) for and on behalf of the Sikh community and its member organisations in Australia.
- Take necessary steps and act to protect any negative or irreverent criticism of the Sikh community, Sikh religion or its member organisations, by any other organisation(s) or individual(s) in public forums or media.
- Make representations to the wider Australian community (including government agencies), directly or through the media, in matters relating and affecting the Sikh community or its member organisations.
- Consider, advise and make recommendations to the Government on matters concerning and affecting the Sikh community and its member organisations.
- Liaise with the other ethnic communities in Australia.
- Do all of the above on behalf of the NSCA member organisations.

[http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/explore-nsca/aims-objectives](http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/explore/nsca/aims-objectives)

Their professed mission is:

To provide a united platform for the Sikhs in Australia for the purposes of liaising with the Government and non-Government agencies, with the aim of promoting the aims and objectives of its members towards a National Sikh Agenda.

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State	Members
ACT	1. Canberra Sikh Association Inc. Canberra (Gurdwara Sahib, Canberra)
NSW	2. Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society Inc (Yogali, Griffith) 3. Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Woolgoolga (Gurdwara Sahib, Woolgoolga) 4. Newcastle Sikh Association Inc, Shortland (Gurdwara Sahib, Newcastle) 5. Ramgarhia Welfare Association of Australia Inc, Blacktown 6. Sikh Association of Sydney Inc, Ryvesby (Gurdwara Sahib, Ryvesby) 7. Sikh Cultural & Sports Association Sydney Inc. (SCSAS) 8. Sikh Khalsa Mission Inc, Quakers Hill 9. Sikh Mission Centre Sydney Inc, Austral (Gurdwara Sahib, Austral) 10. Sikh Scouts Australia Inc 11. Sikh Youth Australia Inc 12. Sikh Youth Camps Australia Inc 13. Simran House Minto (Gurdwara Sahib, Minto) 14. Sydney Punjabi Society Inc, West Pennant Hills 15. Waheguru Simran Society Inc
NT	None
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TAS	None
VIC	19. Sikh Naujawan Melbourne 20. Sri Guru Granth Sahib Inc, Keysborough (Gurdwara Sahib, Keysborough) 21. Sri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha Inc, Blackburn (Gurdwara Sahib, Blackburn)
WA	22. Sikh Association of Western Australia 23. Sikh Gurdwara, Bayswater, Perth



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

They have appeared in mainstream media (SBS, SMH, ABC, 2GB radio, etc.), community media, universities, government departments, parliament (submissions), with state and federal MP's, community and business leaders. They also liaise with employees and officials on advising Sikh beliefs with messages declared such as "main", "apex", "peak" and "umbrella" representative body that "represents over 75thousand Sikhs" Australia wide circulated by them.

With regards to members (shown on right), it is stated "Currently there are 22 members of Sikh Council of Australia and the numbers are growing as the community feels the need to unite" with the names listed on the website. (<http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/membership/current-members>)

We would like to raise the following nine concerning issues for your urgent attention:

Sikh Issues with Council known publicly

- Sikh Turban (Dastaar) is a Cultural Tradition and not related to Sikh religion
- Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans
- Attacks on Langar pangat on floor, including it is "filthy" and "unhealthy"
- Dumalla turban is "talaban turban"
- Questioning if hair (kesh) for a Sikh is needed
- Bhangra on vulgar songs at Gurdwara
- Alcohol and belly dancers at representative events
- Attack on Muslims, Indians and Sikh Groups (Taksaal)
- Foul offensive language and conspiracies against individuals who speak out on their anti-sikh practices. Accused of being "radicals", "fundamentalists", "skunk", "cancer worms" - with no prior dialogue

1) Sikh Turban (Dastaar) is a Cultural Tradition and not related to Sikh religion

The Council quoted "...explaining that the **turban is a cultural tradition for Sikhs and has nothing to do with religion...** [They have told] people that Sikh men do not cut their hair, and the **turban is a way of keeping it under control.**" Sydney Morning Herald April 6, 2014.

2) Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans

School students should not be allowed to carry the kirpan, says the Sikh Council of Australia, the apex representative body of Sikhs in the country, about the dagger worn as an article of faith by baptised Sikhs... [The Council] told IANS, "**Kirpans should not be allowed at schools at all. The wearer or the initiate must understand its (kirpan's) significance, utility and consequences if used for any purpose other than what it is meant for. Now the question of student wearing this kirpan in the school, does he understand the significance or its utility?**" "The council is of the view that although it's an article of the Sikh faith and if some family wants his 10 or 12 year old to be initiated, they can leave the kirpan at home and go to school, come back and wear it. The reason being **it can be harmful to the wearer. Suppose two or three boys get together and remove his kirpan, they can harm him,**"... [they added]. Dec 26, 2007 IANS and also featured on 2UE radio station.

"Yesterday [a Council representative] had a call from [two Singhs who] both identified themselves as "baptised Sikhs" and raised concern about... [the Council's clarification on this issue. It appeared that the two Singhs] either did not understand... [the] answer correctly or did not hear the interview personally... [The Council] posed the same question, "Don't you remove your Kirpan before boarding a plane" [One] said, "yes but I then put a small kirpan pendent around my neck". and [the other] said, "yes but with a great pain" whatever that means. But the



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

question is either you remove it or you don't remove there is no in between. If you can remove it before boarding a plane or entering a building then what is the harm in asking a child to remove it before going to school and wear it when you come back." National Sikh Council Email 8 December 2007.

The above is a highly inappropriate example: one related to high security and the other affecting everyday school going children?

3) Attacks on Langar pangat on floor, including it is "filthy" and "unhealthy"

*The Council quoted "But when the **religious dust** settles down from the eyes of these **Sikh Talabans**, their **mental capacity** starts to work and then they realise that eating while **sitting on the floor is filthy and unhygienic**, and even the diehard floor sitters start to realise that they were wrong because they were **religiously misguided** by the fake Sant Babas and Dehrawalas. They decided to abandon sitting on the floor while eating Langer in Gurudwara and started eating Langer while sitting in the chair."* National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

*"...civilised way of eating food is sitting in the chair and that eating Langer while sitting on the floor is **filthy, unhygienic and against the Australian Occupation Health and Safety Act**".* National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

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*"There is a disease called **religious" myopia"** or **religious blindness** and most **religions fanatics** are unfortunate **victims of this disease** but they take it as the sign of the glory of God for their idiocy. They claim to have direct line to God to talk to and interpret Gurubani. The **religious dust** almost blinds them to the extent that they cannot see other peoples point of view. These **misguided** people, because of the **religious blindness**, cannot see the part which culture plays in the faith."* National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

*"Paroxysm and convulsion the celebration of Vaisakhi has created in the **guts of so called the self proclaimed Custodian of the Sikh faith** and agents of God who **force others to sit on floor** to partake Langer but feel no qualm to partake Langer sitting on tables in Gurudwaras where everybody eats sitting on the table."* National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

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The Council asked "It is worth pondering upon as **what difference growing of long hair will make to his relationship with the Almighty God?** And whether in this age it is **necessary to continue to follow the centuries old culturally specified traditions** in order to follow the tenets of Sikhism or to become a Sikh?" National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

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6) Bhangra on vulgar songs at gurdwara

Photos and videos were posted on social networks showing bhangra being performed inside the Austral Gurdwara Sahib in Sydney, Australia. Gurdwara is a **place of worship and not entertainment**, there are many other venues where such an event could have taken place. **Several inappropriate (vulgar) songs** were heard being played inside the Gurdwara. According to a source, **Guru Granth Sahib Ji's Parkash was only 10 Metres** from where the bhangra was being performed.



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

Many sources, including individuals and the media highlighted the dilution of the Sikh religion due to the mixture with Punjabi culture the completely violated the Sikh Code of Conduct. The organisers called it a “Cultural Event”, but Gurdwara is most certainly not a place where you perform bhangra. The message and the history of Vaisakhi are meant for Sikhs to obtain lessons and contemplate on what took place in 1699. The event appeared more of a party than religious to celebrate the founding of the Khalsa Panth.



News Feed

News Feed

Facebook

Facebook post text: The Khalsa Panth was founded by the Sikh Gurus and is a unique and distinct religious community. The Khalsa Panth is not a cultural event, but a religious event. The Khalsa Panth is a community of people who are committed to the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and to the principles of the Sikh religion. The Khalsa Panth is a community of people who are committed to the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and to the principles of the Sikh religion. The Khalsa Panth is a community of people who are committed to the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and to the principles of the Sikh religion.



*from Daily Sikh Updates and public pages on Facebook

7) Alcohol and belly dancers

The Council has a track record of serving alcohol, entertaining guests with semi-covered dancing girls (belly dancers) at their organised events with the aim of protecting the Sikh religion and preventing any negative criticism. In stark contrast, the Sikh representative bodies of US, Canada and UK are protecting, promoting and enhancing the Sikh religion by performing kirtan and other Sikh ceremonies at the parliament and Downing Street to commemorate historical events and achievements. Why is Australia's representation of the Sikh culture vastly different? These low standards are passed on to the next generation



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

and wider community with these anti-sikh activities done in presence of many youth, as well as dignitaries and officials.



*from Sada-e-Watan Sydney and Sikh Council of Australia Public Facebook Page

8) Attack on Muslims, Indians and Sikh Groups (Taksaal)

The Council quoted "...had never heard of what this **bloody Takhsal** word means but...continued and said you cannot do cultural program in the Gurudwara...we are in no way under them or any SGPC as it is Australia and not India." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"This a wakeup call for all of us **they want the Sikhs**, who have gained respect from Australian and the Australian governments, **to be termed as terrorist like the ISIL.**" National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"If they are successful in their endeavour **we will be hated as the Muslims are being hated.**" National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"They are the **Indian Talaban**...cannot call them **Sikh talaban** because a Sikh never attacks you from behind, he comes face to, any other name will suits them well." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

9) Foul offensive language and conspiracies against individuals who speak out on anti-sikh practices. Accused of being "radicals", "fundamentalists", "skunk", "cancer worms", no prior dialogue

The Council quoted "...all those untrue remarks about...views...[on] Sikhism, are of those who have been **misguided and brain washed by the fundamentalists.**" National Sikh Council Attachment Email 22 April 2016.



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

"... behaving [in a way] it appears that [they are a] racial elite, amongst a specific exclusive ethnic group of people, an offshoot of Sikhism such as Sants and Dehra Walas." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"...enforcing...[their] half true knowledge of Gurubani on the simple minded youngsters to radicalise them like the fundamentalist Muslims do, to their children from the very young age and they grow up as terrorists." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"...appeal to all those 98% silent majority of the Sikhs in Australia who believe and follow the teachings of S.G.Granth. Sahib and reject the teachings of fundamentalists, off shoots of Guru Nanak's Sikhism, the Sant Babas and Dehrawala, to stand up..." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"...registered...complaint and...also attached a copy of the Tribune news, "India shares Information on Sikh Radicals with Australia". Have informed...Local State and Federal members so that they could talk to the FBI, before it gets too serious...also rang to the Green Valley Police Station as Austral comes under them...will inform the Federal Member Mr. Laurie Ferguson Mp for Austral." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"You are a confused person and people like you, and there are many, who are misguided by the spell of their self-imposed conceit and vanity (of being an Amritdhari) and are suffering from a disease, in psychology it is called COFD, "Compulsive Obsessive Faith Disorder" for which there is no cure, because they live in the confused world of their own and are in conflict with everyone else. You don't know who you are or who is a Sikh...Remember by shaving a man's head, giving him a new name and wrapping him in strange clothes won't change his persona. A skunk will smell the same by any other name. By simply taking Amrit one doesn't become a Sikh, it requires much much more than that." National Sikh Council Email 8 Feb 2012.

"People [like you] have penchant for hate and prejudice filled with bitterness against those who reject the philosophy they promulgate. People [like you] are canker worms, woodworm in the Sikh society who are destroying the Sikh Nation from within pretending to be the well wishers of the Sikh Nation, their intentions are questionable." National Sikh Council Email 27 Feb 2012.

"...personally don't know this person, as such people often change their real names, to bring them some respectability under guise of religious preacher in white robes, so that no one could dig out their questionably muddy past and true self, from their factious name. A skunk smells the same by any other name so does a criminal, a criminal remains criminal no matter what saintly robes he put on. But in this computer age one can find out the complete history if one had been involved in a criminal activity or paedophilia." National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"[Council states they are]...going to dig deep into the past life history of this person as to what sort of saintly person he is, as to why he has put untrue and false allegations...have spread...feelers but...need your help if you have any information about his past activities, as am told that there are many, and if he is the same person...will appreciate." National Sikh Council Attachment Email 22 April 2016 regarding Facebook

Action Plan

These issues cannot be taken lightly. The Council is professing to represent Sikhs nationally both within the community as well as the mainstream. Their actions have damaged Sikh sentiment locally and globally, as multiple media articles have reported on their actions. We urge you to **withdraw your membership** by completing and signing the letter



DAMDAMI TAKSAL AUSTRALIA

attached. We request you to also forward us a copy (australiansikhs16@gmail.com), so we can keep as record. Should you have any questions or wish to meet in relation to this letter and its contents please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

AMRIK SINGH
Amrik Singh



AKAAL FAUJ

P.O Box 4194
Marayong, NSW, 2148

7th May 2016.

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

Dear Representatives,

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With regards,

Amandeep singh Warraich.

Public officer.

Akaal Fauj Incorporated.

EMAIL AKAALFAUJ@OUTLOOK.COM | WEBSITE AKAALFAUJ.ORG



AKAAL FAUJ

P.O Box 4194
Marayong, NSW, 2148

13th May 2016.

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NSW 2179
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News Feed



Dr. Arshdeep

Journalist, Penquinn

Journalist, Penquinn

Yesterday, I attended a celebration of the 311th New Year Day -
celebrated at **Austral Gurdwara**, 3108 Highbury Rd, Cammerlangh.
Mandeep Singh Suri gave a broad fabricating account of the
current evidence Australian-Indian relationship. His
grandfather wrote a failed poem about the 1947 British massacre
of Jallianwallah.

Sania Singh Sandhu provided an historical overview of the 1947
formation of the Sikh self defence Shalwa Bheerwada and the
role of British in the Sikh religious leaders.

#SikhAustralia #HappyVaisakhi



**from Daily Sikh Updates and public pages on Facebook

7) **Alcohol and belly dancers**

The Council has a **track record of serving alcohol, entertaining guests with semi-covered dancing girls** (belly dancers) at their organised events with the aim of protecting the Sikh religion and preventing any negative criticism. In stark contrast, the Sikh representative bodies of US, Canada and UK are protecting, promoting and enhancing the Sikh religion by performing kirtan and other Sikh ceremonies at the parliament and Downing Street to commemorate historical events and achievements. Why is Australia's representation of the Sikh culture vastly



AKAAL FAUJ

different? These low standards are passed on to the next generation and wider community with these anti-sikh activities done in presence of many youth, as well as dignitaries and officials.



*from Sada-e-Watan Sydney and Sikh Council of Australia Public Facebook Page

8) Attack on Muslims, Indians and Sikh Groups (Taksaal)

The Council quoted "...had never heard of what this **bloody Takhsal** word means but...continued and said you cannot do cultural program in the Gurudwara...we are in no way under them or any SGPC as it is Australia and not India." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"This a wakeup call for all of us **they want the Sikhs**, who have gained respect from Australian and the Australian governments, **to be termed as terrorist like the ISIL.**" National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"If they are successful in their endeavour **we will be hated as the Muslims are being hated.**" National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"They are the **Indian Talaban**...cannot call them **Sikh talaban** because a Sikh never attacks you from behind, he comes face to, any other name will suits them well." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.



AKAAL FAUJ

9) **Foul offensive language and conspiracies against individuals who speak out on anti-sikh practices. Accused of being “radicals”, “fundamentalists”, “skunk”, “cancer worms”, no prior dialogue**

The Council quoted “...all those untrue remarks about...views...[on] Sikhism, are of those who have been **misguided and brain washed by the fundamentalists.**” National Sikh Council Attachment Email 22 April 2016.

“... behaving [in a way] it appears that [they are a] **racial elite**, amongst a specific exclusive ethnic group of people, an offshoot of Sikhism such as Sants and Dehra Walas.” National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

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“...appeal to all those 98% silent majority of the Sikhs in Australia who believe and follow the teachings of S.G.Granth. Sahib and reject the teachings of **fundamentalists**, off shoots of Guru Nanak’s Sikhism, the Sant Babas and Dehrawala, to stand up...” National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

“...registered...complaint and...also attached a copy of the Tribune news, **“India shares Information on Sikh Radicals with Australia”**. Have informed...Local State and Federal members so that they could talk to the FBI, before it gets too serious...also rang to the Green Valley Police Station as Austral comes under them...will inform the Federal Member Mr. Laurie Ferguson Mp for Austral.” National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

“You are a confused person and people like you, and there are many, who are misguided by the **spell of their self-imposed conceit and vanity (of being an Amritdhari)** and are **suffering from a disease, in psychology it is called COFD, “Compulsive Obsessive Faith Disorder”** for which there is no cure, because they live in the **confused world of their own and are in conflict with everyone else**. You don’t know who you are or who is a Sikh...Remember by **shaving a man’s head**, giving him a new name and wrapping him in strange clothes won’t change his persona. **A skunk will smell the same** by any other name. By simply taking Amrit one doesn’t become a Sikh, it requires much much more than that.” National Sikh Council Email 8 Feb 2012.

“People [like you] have penchant for hate and prejudice filled with bitterness against those who reject the philosophy they promulgate. People [like you] **are canker worms, woodworm in the Sikh society** who are destroying the Sikh Nation from within **pretending** to be the well wishers of the Sikh Nation , their intentions are questionable.” National Sikh Council Email 27 Feb 2012.

“...personally don’t know this person, as such people often change their real names, to bring them some respectability under guise of religious preacher in white robes, so that no one could dig out their questionably muddy past and true self, from their factious name. **A skunk smells the same by any other name** so does a criminal, **a criminal remains criminal no matter what saintly robes he put on**. But in this computer age one **can find out the complete history if one had been involved in a criminal activity or paedophilia.**” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

“[Council states they are]...**going to dig deep into the past life history of this person** as to what sort of saintly person he is, as to why he has put untrue and false allegations...**have spread...feelers** but...**need your help if you**



AKAAL FAUJ

have any information about his past activities, as am told that there are many, and if he is the same person...will appreciate." National Sikh Council Attachment Email 22 April 2016 regarding Facebook

Action Plan

These **issues cannot be taken lightly**. The Council is professing to represent Sikhs nationally both within the community as well as the mainstream. Their actions have damaged Sikh sentiment locally and globally, as multiple media articles have reported on their actions. We urge you to **withdraw your membership** by completing and signing the letter attached. We request you to also forward us a copy (australiansikhs16@gmail.com), so we can keep as record. Should you have any questions or wish to meet in relation to this letter and its contents please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Amandeep Singh Warraich

Public Officer.

Akaal Fauj.

Sikh Federation of Australia,

Re: Gross Misrepresentation of Core Sikh Values

15th May 2016

National Sikh Council of Australia

170 Ninth Ave

Austral

NSW 2179

Australia



Dear Representatives,

SFA wishes to inform National Sikh Council of Australia that their actions are strongly against Sikh beliefs and values. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation, breaching the Sikh code of conduct. These have hurt Sikh sentiment and we would be recommending other institutions to not become your members.

With Regards,

Balwinder Singh Gill

President SFA

Sikh Federation of Australia

Re: Misrepresentation of Core Sikh Principles,

15th May 2016



Dear National Sikh Council of Australia members,

We wish to convey the views of the Sikh community **strongly opposing** National Sikh Council of Australia (the Council). In this document we will highlight key points that have come to light both recently and in the past that vividly demonstrate that there is a **huge misrepresentation of Sikh principles** by the Council. We want to keep this professional, without any personal vendetta against any individuals. It should be noted the Council claims to have the following aims and objectives:

As the apex body for the Sikh community in Australia, the aims and objectives of NSCA are to:

- Act as a principal coordinating and negotiating body, with other organisations (including local, state or federal government agencies) for and on behalf of the Sikh community and its member organisations in Australia.
- Take necessary steps and act to protect any negative or irreverent criticism of the Sikh community, Sikh religion or its member organisations, by any other organisation(s) or individual(s) in public forums or media.
- Make representations to the wider Australian community (including government agencies), directly or through the media, in matters relating and affecting the Sikh community or its member organisations.
- Consider, advise and make recommendations to the Government on matters concerning and affecting the Sikh community and its member organisations.
- Liaise with the other ethnic communities in Australia.
- Do all of the above on behalf of the NSCA member organisations.

<http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/explore-nsca/aims-objectives>

Their professed mission is:

To provide a united platform for the Sikhs in Australia for the purposes of liaising with the Government and non-Government agencies, with the aim of promoting the aims and objectives of its members towards a National Sikh Agenda.

<http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/explore-nsca/mission>

They have appeared in mainstream media (SBS, SMH, ABC, 2GB radio, etc.), community media, universities, government departments, parliament (submissions), with state and federal MP's, community and business leaders. They also liaise with employees and officials on advising Sikh beliefs with messages declared such as "main", "apex", "peak" and "umbrella" representative body that "represents over 75thousand Sikhs" Australia wide circulated by them.

With regards to members (shown on right), it is stated "Currently there are 22 members of Sikh Council of Australia and the numbers are growing as the community feels the need to unite" with

State	Members
ACT	1 Canberra Sikh Association Inc. Canberra (Gurdwara Sahib, Canberra)
NSW	2 Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society Inc. (Woolgall, Griffith) 3 Gurb Nihal Sikh Temple, Woolgoolga (Gurdwara Sahib, Woolgoolga) 4 Newcastle Sikh Association Inc. (Sheffield) (Gurdwara Sahib, Newcastle) 5 Rampawalia Welfare Association of Australia Inc. Blacktown 6 Sikh Association of Sydney Inc. Ryvesby (Gurdwara Sahib, Ryvesby) 7 Sikh Cultural & Sports Association Sydney Inc. (SCSAS) 8 Sikh Khalsa Mission Inc. Quakers Hill 9 Sikh Mission Centre Sydney Inc. Austral (Gurdwara Sahib, Austral) 10 Sikh Scouts Australia Inc. 11 Sikh Youth Australia Inc. 12 Sikh Youth Camps Australia Inc. 13 Simran House Minto (Gurdwara Sahib, Minto) 14 Sydney Punjabi Society Inc. West Penrith Hills 15 Waheguru Simran Society Inc.
NT	None
QLD	16 Brisbane Sikh Temple (Gurdwara Sahib, Brisbane)
SA	17 Riverland Sikh Society Inc. Gillespie SA (Gurdwara Sahib, Gillespie) 18 Sikh Society of South Australia Inc. Adelaide SA (Gurdwara Sahib, Adelaide)
TAS	None
VIC	19 Sikh Naujawan Melbourne 20 Sri Gurb Granth Sahib Inc. Keyborough (Gurdwara Sahib, Keyborough) 21 Sri Gurb Nanak Satsang Sabha Inc. Blackburn (Gurdwara Sahib, Blackburn)
WA	22 Sikh Association of Yesleri Australia 23 Sikh Gurdwara, Bayswater Perth

the names listed on the website. <http://www.sikhcouncil.org.au/membership/current-members>

We would like to raise the following nine concerning issues for your urgent attention:

Sikh Issues with Council known publicly

- Sikh Turban (Dastaar) is a Cultural Tradition and not related to Sikh religion
- Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans
- Attacks on Langar pangat on floor, including it is "filthy" and "unhealthy"
- Dumalla turban is "talaban turban"
- Questioning if hair (kesh) for a Sikh is needed
- Bhangra on vulgar songs at Gurdwara
- Alcohol and belly dancers at representative events
- Attack on Muslims, Indians and Sikh Groups (Taksaal)
- Foul offensive language and conspiracies against individuals who speak out on their anti-sikh practices. Accused of being "radicals", "fundamentalists", "skunk", "cancer worms" - with no prior dialogue

1) Sikh Turban (Dastaar) is a Cultural Tradition and not related to Sikh religion

The Council quoted "...explaining that the turban is a cultural tradition for Sikhs and has nothing to do with religion... [They have told] people that Sikh men do not cut their hair, and the turban is a way of keeping it under control." Sydney Morning Herald April 6, 2014.

2) Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans

School students should not be allowed to carry the kirpan, says the Sikh Council of Australia, the apex representative body of Sikhs in the country, about the dagger worn as an article of faith by baptised Sikhs... [The Council] told IANS, "Kirpans should not be allowed at schools at all. The wearer or the initiate must understand its (kirpan's) significance, utility and consequences if used for any purpose other than what it is meant for. Now the question of student wearing this kirpan in the school, does he understand the significance or its utility?" "The council is of the view that although it's an article of the Sikh faith and if some family wants his 10 or 12 year old to be initiated, they can leave the kirpan at home and go to school, come back and wear it. The reason being it can be harmful to the wearer. Suppose two or three boys get together and remove his kirpan, they can harm him,"... [they added]. Dec 26, 2007 IANS and also featured on 2UE radio station.

"Yesterday [a Council representative] had a call from [two Singhs who] both identified themselves as "baptised Sikhs" and raised concern about... [the Council's clarification on this issue. It appeared that the two Singhs] either did not understand... [the] answer correctly or did not hear the interview personally... [The Council] posed the same question, "Don't you remove your Kirpan before boarding a plane" [One] said, "yes but I then put a small kirpan pendent around my neck". and [the other] said, "yes but with a great pain" whatever that means. But the question is either you remove it or you don't remove there is no in between. If you can remove it before boarding a plane or entering a building then what is the harm in asking a child to remove it before going to school and wear it when you come back." National Sikh Council Email 8 December 2007.

The above is a highly inappropriate example: one related to high security and the other affecting everyday school going children?

3) Attacks on Langar pangat on floor, including it is “filthy” and “unhealthy”

The Council quoted “But when the religious dust settles down from the eyes of these Sikh Talabans, their mental capacity starts to work and then they realise that eating while sitting on the floor is filthy and unhygienic , and even the diehard floor sitters start to realise that they were wrong because they were religiously misguided by the fake Sant Babas and Dehrawalas. They decided to abandon sitting on the floor while eating Langer in Gurudwara and started eating Langer while sitting in the chair.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

“...civilised way of eating food is sitting in the chair and that eating Langer while sitting on the floor is filthy, unhygienic and against the Australian Occupation Health and Safety Act”. National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

“Here is one of those religiously blind persons, the floor sitter, who has been advocating on his Face book that to sit in the chair while eating Langer is against the Sikh religion.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

“...got intuition from God and realising how silly he has been for years eating Langer sitting on the floor which is unhealthy and unhygienic way of eating blessed sacred Langer.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

“There is a disease called religious” myopia” or religious blindness and most religions fanatics are unfortunate victims of this disease but they take it as the sign of the glory of God for their idiocy. They claim to have direct line to God to talk to and interpret Gurubani. The religious dust almost blinds them to the extent that they cannot see other peoples point of view. These misguided people, because of the religious blindness, cannot see the part which culture plays in the faith.” National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

“Paroxysm and convulsion the celebration of Vaisakhi has created in the guts of so called the self proclaimed Custodian of the Sikh faith and agents of God who force others to sit on floor to partake Langer but feel no qualm to partake Langer sitting on tables in Gurudwaras where everybody eats sitting on the table.” National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016

4) Dumalla turban is “talaban turban”

The Council quoted *"Can you recognise this fellow with Talaban turban eating Langer while sitting in the chair, Have a guess?"* National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr



2016.

"He also has a number of facial facades which he changes according to the situation he is in, some time he is clean shaven, then wears respectable turban, then with Nehang type turban and then Sikh Talaban turban, he has many other faces." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

5) Questioning if hair (kesh) for a Sikh is needed

The Council asked *"It is worth pondering upon as what difference growing of long hair will make to his relationship with the Almighty God?. And whether in this age it is necessary to continue to follow the centuries old culturally specified traditions in order to follow the tenets of Sikhism or to become a Sikh ?"* National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"... barking back on the era when one could not think of the present modern day gadgets/ inventions which can send a man to Moon and safely bring him back to earth, which were unknown to them. He wants to drag us back into stone age." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

6) Bhangra on vulgar songs at gurdwara

Photos and videos were posted on social networks showing bhangra being performed inside the Austral Gurdwara Sahib in Sydney, Australia. Gurdwara is a place of worship and not entertainment, there are many other venues where such an event could have taken place. Several inappropriate (vulgar) songs were heard being played inside the Gurdwara. According to a source, Guru Granth Sahib Ji's Parkash was only 10 Metres from where the bhangra was being performed.

Many sources, including individuals and the media highlighted the dilution of the Sikh religion due to the mixture with Punjabi culture the completely violated the Sikh Code of Conduct. The organisers called it a “Cultural Event”, but Gurdwara is most certainly not a place where you perform bhangra. The message and the history of Vaisakhi are meant for Sikhs to obtain lessons and contemplate on what took place in 1699. The event appeared more of a party than religious to celebrate the founding of the Khalsa Panth.



News Feed

Facebook Post 1:
 Kaurie Singh
 Thursday, 11 October 2018 at 10:00am
 Vaisakhi, the Sikh New Year, is celebrated in Gurdwaras, temples and community centres. It is a time to reflect on the founding of the Khalsa Panth in 1699 and to celebrate the Sikh Code of Conduct. The event is a time to reflect on the founding of the Khalsa Panth in 1699 and to celebrate the Sikh Code of Conduct.

Facebook Post 2:
 Bala Singh
 Bala Singh is a member of the 1699 Committee of the Sikh Council of Australia. He is a member of the 1699 Committee of the Sikh Council of Australia. He is a member of the 1699 Committee of the Sikh Council of Australia.



**from Daily Sikh Updates and public pages on Facebook

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Action Plan

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Yours Sincerely,

Balwinder Singh Gill

President Sikh Federation of Australia



26 BORONIA AVENUE CRANBOURNE VIC-3977

Sikhvolunteers.australia@yahoo.com.au

www.sikhvolunteersaustralia.org

<https://www.facebook.com/sikhvolunteers.australia>

Contact+61430340381

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Australia
NSW 2179
Australia

9th May 2016

Dear Representatives,

We wish to inform that National Sikh Council of Australia that their actions are strongly against Sikh beliefs and values. There have been a number of Sikh principles misrepresented by your organisation, breaching the Sikh code of conduct. These have hurt Sikh sentiment and we would be recommending other institutions to not become your members.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gurumukh Singh Mehra".

Gurumukh Singh Mehra(Secretary)

Sikh Volunteer Australia Incorporated

Mobile-+61430341381



Sikh Samaritans Australia Inc.

ABN : 579 6817 4667

National Sikh Council of Australia
170 Ninth Ave
Austral
NSW 2179
Australia

7th May 2016

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.....
Gurdeep Singh Bajajgwal
(0466 394 316)

E : sikhsamaritansaustralia@gmail.com

: Sikh Samaritans Australia



Sikh Samaritans Australia Inc.

ABN : 579 6817 4657

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With regards to members (shown on right), it is stated "Currently there are 22 members of Sikh Council of Australia and the numbers are growing as the community feels the need to unite" with the names listed on the website.

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	10. Sikh Scouts Australia Inc. 11. Sikh Youth Australia Inc. 12. Sikh Youth Camps Australia Inc. 13. Dharma House Metro (Queensland Sikh, Metro) 14. Sydney Punjab Society and Vaid Parramatta Hill 15. Vaidhepur, Dharma Society Inc.
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QLD	16. Brisbane Sikh Temple (Queensland Sikh, Brisbane)
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TAS	None
VIC	19. Sikh Temple in Melbourne 20. Sikh Gurdwara Temple Inc. (Melbourne) (Queensland Sikh, Melbourne) 21. Sri Gurdwara Darshan Gurbani Inc. (Blackburn) (Queensland Sikh, Blackburn)
WA	22. Sikh Association of Western Australia 23. Sikh Gurdwara, Scarborough Point

E : sikhssamaritansaustralia@gmail.com

f : Sikh Samaritans Australia



Sikh Samaritans Australia Inc.

ABN . 579 6617 4697

We would like to raise the following nine concerning issues for your urgent attention:

Sikh Issues with Council known publicly

- Sikh Turban (Dastar) is a Cultural Tradition and not related to Sikh religion
- Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans
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The Council quoted "...explaining that the turban is a cultural tradition for Sikhs and has nothing to do with religion... [They have told] people that Sikh men do not cut their hair, and the turban is a way of keeping it under control." Sydney Morning Herald April 6, 2014.

2) Children should not be allowed to wear kirpans

School students should not be allowed to carry the kirpan, says the Sikh Council of Australia, the apex representative body of Sikhs in the country, about the dagger worn as an article of faith by baptised Sikhs... [The Council] told IANS, "Kirpans should not be allowed at schools at all. The wearer or the initiate must understand its (kirpan's) significance, utility and consequences if used for any purpose other than what it is meant for. Now the question of student wearing this kirpan in the school, does he understand the significance or its utility?" "The council is of the view that although it's an article of the Sikh faith and if some family wants his 10 or 12 year old to be initiated, they can leave the kirpan at home and go to school, come back and wear it. The reason being it can be harmful to the wearer. Suppose two or three boys get together and remove his kirpan, they can harm him,"... [they added]. Dec 26, 2007 IANS and also featured on 2UE radio station.

"Yesterday [a Council representative] had a call from [two Singhs who] both identified themselves as "baptised Sikhs" and raised concern about... [the Council's clarification on this issue. It appeared that the two Singhs] either did not understand... [the] answer correctly or did not hear the interview personally... [The Council] posed the same question, " Don't you remove your Kirpan before boarding a plane" [One] said, "yes but I then put a small kirpan pendant around my neck" and [the other] said "yes but with a great pain" whatever that means. But the question is either you remove it or you don't remove there is no in between. If you can remove it before boarding a plane or entering a building then what is the harm in asking a child to remove it before going to school and wear it when you come back." National Sikh Council Email 8 December 2007.

The above is a highly inappropriate example: one related to high security and the other affecting everyday school going children?

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5) Attacks on Langar pangat on floor, including it is "filthy" and "unhealthy"

The Council quoted "But when the religious dust settles down from the eyes of these Sikh Talabans, their mental capacity starts to work and then they realise that eating while sitting on the floor is filthy and unhygienic , and even the diehard jloor sitters start to realise that they were wrong because they were religiously misguided by the fake Sant Babas and Dehrawalas. They decided to abandon sitting on the floor while eating Langer in Gurudwara and started eating Langer while sitting in the chair." National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"...civilised way of eating food is sitting in the chair and that eating Langer while sitting on the floor is filthy, unhygienic and against the Australian Occupation Health and Safety Act". National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"Here is one of those religiously blind persons, the floor sitter, who has been advocating on his Face book that to sit in the chair while eating Langer is against the Sikh religion." National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"...got intuition from God and realising how silly he has been for years eating Langer sitting on the floor which is unhealthy and unhygienic way of eating blessed sacred Langer." National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"There is a disease called religious" myopia" or religious blindness and most religions fanatics are unfortunate victims of this disease but they take it as the sign of the glory of God for their idiocy. They claim to have direct line to God to talk to and interpret Gurubani. The religious dust almost blinds them to the extent that they cannot see other peoples point of view. These misguided people, because of the religious blindness, cannot see the part which culture plays in the faith." National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"Paroxysm and convulsion the celebration of Vaisakhi has created in the guts of so called the self proclaimed Custodian of the Sikh faith and agents of God who force others to sit on floor to partake Langer but feel no qualm to partake Langer sitting on tables in Gurudwaras where everybody eats sitting on the table." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.



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4) Dumalla turban is "talaban turban"

The Council quoted *"Can you recognise this fellow with Talaban turban eating Langer while sitting in the chair,*



Have a guess?" National Sikh Council of Australia First Press Release 28 Apr 2016.

"He also has a number of facial facades which he changes according to the situation he is in, some time he is clean shaven, then wears respectable turban, then with Nehang type turban and then Sikh Talaban turban, he has many other faces." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

5) Questioning if hair (kesh) for a Sikh is needed

The Council asked *"it is worth pondering upon us what difference growing of long hair will make to his relationship with the Almighty God? And whether in this age it is necessary to continue to follow the centuries old culturally specified traditions in order to follow the tenets of Sikhism or to become a Sikh ?"* National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.

"... barking back on the era when one could not think of the present modern day gadgets/ inventions which can send a man to Moon and safely bring him back to earth, which were unknown to them. He wants to drag us back into stone age." National Sikh Council of Australia Second Press Release 30 Apr 2016.



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6) Bhangra on vulgar songs at gurdwara

Photos and videos were posted on social networks showing bhangra being performed inside the Austral Gurdwara Sahib in Sydney, Australia. Gurdwara is a place of worship and not entertainment, there are many other venues where such an event could have taken place. Several inappropriate (vulgar) songs were heard being played inside the Gurdwara. According to a source, Guru Granth Sahib Ji's Parkash was only 10 Metres from where the bhangra was being performed.

Many sources, including individuals and the media highlighted the dilution of the Sikh religion due to the mixture with Punjabi culture the completely violated the Sikh Code of Conduct. The organisers called it a "Cultural Event", but Gurdwara is most certainly not a place where you perform bhangra. The message and the history of Vaisakhi are meant for Sikhs to obtain lessons and contemplate on what took place in 1699. The event appeared more of a party than religious to celebrate the founding of the Khalsa Panth.

7) Alcohol and belly dancers



**from Daily Sikh Updates and public pages on Facebook

News feed



8) The Council has a track record of serving alcohol, entertaining guests with semi-covered dancing girls (belly dancers) at their organised events with the aim of protecting the Sikh religion and preventing any negative criticism. In stark contrast, the Sikh representative bodies of U.S, Canada and UK are protecting, promoting and enhancing the Sikh religion by performing kirtan and other Sikh ceremonies at the parliament and Downing Street to commemorate historical events and achievements. Why is Australia's representation of the Sikh culture vastly different? These low standards are passed on to the next generation and wider community with these anti-sikh activities done in presence of many youth, as well as dignitaries and officials.



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**from Gadar-e-Watan Sydney and Sikh Council of Australia Public Facebook Page

9) Attack on Muslims, Indians and Sikh Groups (Takhsal)

The Council quoted "...had never heard of what this **bloody Takhsal** word means but...continued and said you cannot do cultural program in the Gurudwara...we are in no way under them or any SGPC as it is Australia and not India." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"This a wakeup call for all of us they want the Sikhs, who have gained respect from Australian and the Australian governments, to be termed as terrorist like the ISIL." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"If they are successful in their endeavour we will be hated as the Muslims are being hated." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

"They are the Indian Talaban...cannot call them Sikh talaban because a Sikh never attacks you from behind, he comes face to, any other name will suits them well." National Sikh Council Email 20 April 2016.

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