



UK GURDWARA ALLIANCE

DEDICATED TO SERVE

UK Gurdwara Alliance Parliamentary launch

- Government told to change the way it engages with the Sikh community
- Charity Commission accused of being outdated and failing to understand the ever increasing challenges faced by Gurdwaras
- Government and officials warned of risk of political interference by engaging with individuals under the influence of the Indian government

London – 1 July 2025

The UK Gurdwara Alliance has been officially launched in Parliament today at an event to mark the 20th anniversary of the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs.

The UK Gurdwara Alliance is a UK-wide Gurdwara body providing a collective voice for over 200 UK Gurdwaras. 25 leading Gurdwaras across 12 regions are responsible for consulting and co-ordinating all Gurdwaras in their region and across the UK. The 25 leading Gurdwaras include:

- The Central Gurdwara (Khalsa Jatha) London, the first ever Gurdwara in the UK
- Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick, the first Gurdwara in the West Midlands and the largest in the UK
- The iconic Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, Gravesend in the South East
- Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Newcastle that is the largest Gurdwara in the North East
- Central Gurdwara Glasgow, the largest Gurdwara in Scotland

Bhai Gurpreet Singh Anand, the President at Central Gurdwara (Khalsa Jatha) London told Ministers, MPs and Peers gathered that the UK Government must change the way they engage with the Sikh community.

He said: "The UK Gurdwara Alliance provides an ideal platform for government to engage on faith related matters and issues directly impacting on Gurdwaras and their Sangat (Sikh congregation)".

Bhai Kuldeep Singh, the former President at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick told those gathered that "Gurdwaras up and down the country at the local level are recognised by MPs, councillors, local authorities, the police, schools, health bodies and other local decision making bodies as the key Sikh institutions with a massive reach to the community. The UK Gurdwara Alliance has been established at the national level to address a disconnect that exists between central government and Gurdwaras."

The UK Gurdwara Alliance will complement and support Sikh community organisations with grassroots connections that have a high public profile and have been lobbying on Sikh issues for more than two decades.

One of the first actions taken by the UK Gurdwara Alliance was to call out the Charity Commission to better understand and work differently with Gurdwaras.

Bhai Kuldeep Singh said: "The Charity Commission's current approach to Gurdwaras is outdated and out of step with the growing challenges these institutions face. It continues to rely on advice from individuals who lack the necessary understanding and experience of how Gurdwaras operate and the responsibilities involved in running them effectively.

Bhai Mohinder Singh of the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha attended the APPG event and during his speech welcomed the establishment of the UK Gurdwara Alliance emphasising the importance of Gurdwaras being on the frontline.

The UK Gurdwara Alliance will also be liaising with the Akal Takht and institutions like the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) in Amritsar, Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) and similar organisations across the globe responsible for the management of Gurdwaras across the globe.

Lord Wajid Khan, the Faith Minister addressed those attending the 20th anniversary of the APPG for British Sikhs. He reflected and mentioned many of the issues raised at the event and said he had listened to the concerns raised by the UK Gurdwara Alliance about government engagement. He warmly welcomed Ramesh Singh Arora, the Minister for Minority Affairs in the Government of Punjab.

Ramesh Singh Arora, the Minister for Minority Affairs in the Government of Punjab and the President of the PSGPC came to the UK to especially attend the 20th anniversary of the

APPG for British Sikhs and the launch of the UK Gurdwara Alliance. He spoke at the launch and said:

“The UK Gurdwara Alliance is an excellent initiative by Gurdwaras. Having a collective voice for over 200 UK Gurdwaras is extremely powerful. This will be helpful for not only UK Government engagement, but will improve links between Gurdwara bodies across the globe.”

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