



Sikh Federation (UK)

Never flinch from performing righteous deeds

Gurdwaras can not only have Khalistan plaques they are also free to continue with Parchar on Khalistan as an independent Sikh State

London – 9 August 2025

The Indian authorities and those that are pro-Modi are furious with the recent decision and climbdown by the Charity Commission to drop its objection to the Khalistan plaques at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Slough. The Indian media has responded by suggesting the UK is pandering to Khalistani elements.

Five years after a BJP campaign targeting Sikh MPs and the Charity Commission receiving a complaint by a pro-Modi India Today journalist the Charity Commission insisted in December 2024 "the trustees (at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Slough) are required to remove the Khalistan banners from the Charity's property" within 3 months by 10 March 2025. The Charity Commission continued the trustees: "risk being in breach of their legal duties as trustees in the administration of the Charity" and "failure to comply could be considered misconduct and/or mismanagement."

The Charity Commission following intense community, political and legal pressure in the last 6 months has now been forced to formally drop its objection to the Khalistan plaques. Many in the worldwide Sikh community, especially those familiar with this five and half year battle see this as an important victory for the Sikh community as the Indian authorities have been active in trying to demonise the word "Khalistan" and target Sikh activists in the Diaspora campaigning for an independent Sikh State.

There has been Indian propaganda through an Indian High Commission sponsored TV programme where the two pro-Modi presenters have attacked by name, Gurdwaras, organisations and individuals that were all mentioned by Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Slough as supporting them. In the TV programme they have tried to muddy the waters by putting out disinformation to create confusion.

To address this Indian propaganda it is important to note the following important facts:

1. On **14 September 2022** a three hour face to face meeting took place between trustees of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Slough with Charity Commission officials at the Marriot Hotel in Langley. Dabinderjit Singh, from the Sikh Federation (UK) and a local resident was requested to attend the meeting by the trustees. He explained the Sikh concept of Miri-Piri, the link between the large "Raj Karega Khalsa" sign engraved on the Slough Gurdwara stage with the Khalistan plaques. The right to self-determination as a basic human right, freedom of speech and expression were also touched upon.
2. On **15 November 2022** the Sikh Federation (UK) arranged a broader meeting with senior officials at the Charity Commission responsible for regulation at Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall with Gurdwara representatives from across the UK, including London, the South East, West

Midlands and East Midlands. The meeting covered the need for the Charity Commission to improve its understanding of the role of Gurdwaras and not simply see them as charities. This meeting again covered the Miri-Piri concept and the significance and importance of Gurdwaras displaying photos and paintings of Sikh Shaheeds as part of our history.

3. On **6 March 2023** the Charity Commission sent a detailed 6-page letter in response to many of the issues raised in the 15 November 2022 meeting. The Charity Commission stated it is deliberately not prescriptive, but helpfully made reference to "the types of political activities that religious organisations can undertake . . . to advance the Sikh faith and in relation to the Sikh concept of Miri-Piri." For example, the Commission specifically stated "It's not uncommon for religious leaders to comment on political issues" and "if members of a particular faith were being persecuted (anywhere in the world) . . . those being persecuted would likely be able to comment on this."
4. We can reveal for the first time that on **24 August 2023** the Charity Commission in a letter to Sri Guru Singh Sabha Slough set out "it is not preventing the Charity's congregation, nor the Slough Sikh community from discussing or holding views about the Khalistan movement" to establish an independent Sikh State.

Dabinderjit Singh, the Lead Executive for Political Engagement at the Sikh Federation (UK) said:

"Most sensible people understand the significance of the Charity Commission climbdown on the "Khalistan plaque" issue."

"Today we are addressing the false Indian propaganda and being forced to share details of the wider victory for those campaigning for an independent Sikh State, Khalistan."

"All Gurdwaras have been officially given the green light not only to have prominent Khalistan signs, but the Charity Commission has confirmed religious leaders can comment on political issues and talk openly about the persecution of Sikhs in India and elsewhere and allow the Sangat to promote the Khalistan movement for an independent Sikh State as they now accept and understand the Miri-Piri and Raj Karega Khalsa religious concepts."

"These details will infuriate the Indian government and their stooges who are no doubt lobbying the UK Government."

Today the Sikh Federation (UK) has submitted a complaint to Ofcom about the MATV programme broadcast on Friday 8 August at 8.30pm. We encourage Sri Guru Singh Sabha Slough, other Gurdwaras, organisations and individuals named, including three Sikh MPs as well as concerned Sangat to make Ofcom complaints.

ENDS

Jaspal Singh
Lead Executive
Sikh Federation (UK)