



Sikh Federation (UK)

Never flinch from performing righteous deeds

New Foreign Secretary urged to make progress on three key issues or Labour risks losing the support of the Sikh community

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The Sikh Federation (UK) earlier today wrote to Yvette Copper, the newly appointed Foreign Secretary pressing her to urgently address three key issues as part of Labour's reset where David Lammy was silent or dragging his heels. She has been told "the British Sikh community need to see progress on these three issues or there is a danger Labour will lose the Sikh vote".

The issue the new Foreign Secretary needs to address urgently is for Labour to honour the promise by the Labour leadership of a judge-led public inquiry into UK involvement in the attack on the Golden Temple Complex in June 1984 and anti-Sikh measures under Margaret Thatcher. The letter states:

"We waited patiently for six months for action from the Labour leadership and government when they came to power to honour a promise they made in Opposition. However, since January 2025 we have gradually increased pressure through Labour MPs and mainstream media coverage. We now have the confirmed support of nearly 100 Labour MPs, including Ministers, with many asking for their details to be kept confidential."

The letter accuses David Lammy of adopting a wall of silence while there has been no opposition from Labour MPs. The new Foreign Secretary has been warned the Sikh community plan to increase pressure on Labour MPs having introduced a "no platform" policy for Labour MPs who remain silent. The letter also forewarns when Parliament returns after the Conference Recess pressure will also come from several opposition parties that have confirmed their full backing for a judge-led public inquiry over the Summer.

The second issue where the Sikh community has requested reassurance from the new Foreign Secretary is confirmation she will do much more to seek the release and return of Jagtar Singh Johal. Whilst the Prime Minister and her predecessor raised Jagtar's case with their Indian counterparts the letter expresses disappointment David Lammy failed to robustly follow up and call for his release when Jagtar was acquitted on 4 March 2025 when the first case against him eventually came to court. The other cases against Jagtar Singh Johal are based on the same evidence.

David Lammy confirmed in July to personally focus on securing the release of Jimmy Li and Jagtar Singh Johal and to provide a monthly update. This followed a letter from five All Party Parliamentary Groups and around 120 Parliamentarians at the end of April where the Sikh Federation (UK) did much of the chasing to secure signatures. The letter to the new Foreign Secretary requests confirmation she will continue with this arrangement from a community perspective before Jagtar's 8th anniversary of arbitrary detention on 4 November.

The third issue where Yvette Copper will be familiar in her previous role as Home Secretary is transnational repression by the Indian government targeting Sikh activists. This issue has become more significant in recent weeks as India has publicly aligned with Russia and China against Western nations. The letter to the new Foreign Secretary states:

"The Joint Human Rights Committee in its report on Transnational repression in the UK published on 30 July 2025 named India as one of twelve countries of concern. Around one-fifth of the submissions published by the Committee mentioned the threat of the Indian government to Sikh activists in Britain."

The government is expected to respond to the report by the end of September. The letter to the new Foreign Secretary points out Sir David Alton, the Chair of the Committee would have written to David Lammy after the Committee's report was published about the need to follow up on the confidential 32-page submission by the Sikh Federation (UK).

ENDS

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Sikh Federation (UK)