

Sikhs For Labour

Proud to be Sikh, Proud to be British, Proud to be Labour

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Sikhs for Labour 2023 Annual General Meeting

Monday 3rd April 2023

At the deadline for submission of constitutional amendments and motions, one constitutional amendment and four motions were received. These are detailed on the following pages.

Proposers shall have up to three minutes to propose their constitutional amendment / motion. The Chair will take speakers for and against to speak for up to two minutes. The Chair shall determine the number of speakers who shall be called to speak and this may be limited due to time constraints of the meeting. Where the Officers are not the proposers, they shall have the right to respond to any motion at the conclusion of the debate.

Constitutional Amendment

Title: Sikh Homeland

Proposed by: Gurinder Singh Josan

Sikhs for Labour recognises:

- importance of Sikh homeland in Sikh discourse and history and to many in the community;
- the community is not a homogenous community with strong proponents on all sides;
- UK is a democratic society which values freedom of speech, expression and peaceful campaigning.

Sikhs for Labour notes:

- stance taken by many established Sikh organisations over many years, recognising whilst the UK is a global power it has minimal ability to influence pursuit of a Sikh homeland in a third country;
- need to build influence of the numerically small Sikh community in the UK;
- stance taken in this regard by Sikh Council UK in 2011 by adopting: 'Policy Framework 6 – Role in issues, events and campaigns associated with the Indian Sub-Continent' and wording contained therein, "It was decided during the consultation phase of the Sikh Council that the Council would remain silent on the issue of Sikh homeland and this remains the case."
- the same adopted by the Supreme Sikh Council UK on its more recent establishment.

Sikhs for Labour agrees:

- to add new clause 2.6, "Sikhs for Labour in all its deliberations and across all its structures shall remain silent on the issue of a Sikh homeland."

Motion 1

Title: Casey Report

Proposed by: Pam Randhawa

Sikhs for Labour is deeply concerned by Dame Louise Casey's report into the Metropolitan Police. The report has shed light on the manner in which officers from various faith communities including Sikh officers have been subjected to religious and racial bullying and intimidation. Accounts about someone trimming a Sikh officer's beard because another officer thought it was funny, while another's turban was put in a shoebox, are shocking and despicable.

We call upon all PCCs across the country and all police forces to conduct urgent investigations into any similar behaviour which may be taking place amongst their own officers and take robust action where there is.

We also call upon the Mayor of London in his role within MOPAC to take drastic action and ensure that such acts do not take place again, as well as imposing severe penalties upon any officers who bully or intimidate others based on protected characteristics such as their faith, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

Finally, we call upon all police forces to ensure there is proper diversity and inclusion training for all officers which includes strong and effective faith literacy.

Motion 2

Title: Sikh Representation

Proposed by: Vijay Riyait

There are over 530,000 Sikhs in the UK according to the most recent census, making up 0.8% of the British population. However, there are only 2 Sikh MPs (0.3%) and 1 Sikh Peer on the Labour benches in Parliament.

Sikh representation needs to improve within the Houses of Parliament, as well as at the local and regional/national government levels.

Sikhs for Labour calls for a proactive approach towards improving the representation of Sikhs within politics at all levels. The Labour Party is called upon to provide strong support to Sikh candidates in the future, as well as ensure that the diversity of the Sikh community is appropriately reflected throughout local, regional and national government levels.

In addition, Sikhs for Labour calls for more robust monitoring, recording and publishing of diversity data by the Labour Party including across all BAME communities and to ensure proactive measures are put in place to increase all BAME representation at all local, regional and national government levels.

Motion 3

Title: Supporting of the rights of BME women impacted by domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

Proposed by: Sukhvinder Kaur

As members of Sikhs for Labour, we are committed to promoting equality, justice, and solidarity in our society. We recognize that Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women are disproportionately impacted by domestic abuse (DA) and violence against women and girls (VAWG). BME women often face multiple barriers to accessing support services and may be reluctant to report abuse due to cultural and social stigmas.

We propose a motion in support of the rights of BME women impacted by domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

The motion calls for the following actions:

- 1. Sikhs for Labour will campaign to proportionately consider the needs and experiences of BME women impacted by domestic abuse and violence against women and girl to highlight to policymakers the importance of providing culturally appropriate and accessible support services.*
- 2. Sikhs for Labour will work to increase awareness and understanding of the unique challenges faced by BME women in relation to domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, through training and education for party members and elected representatives.*
- 3. Sikhs for Labour will strive to advocate for policies and legislation that address the root causes of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, including gender inequality, discrimination, and poverty.*
- 4. The Labour Party to commit to working towards a society that is free from all forms of violence and abuse, including domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.*

We urge all members of the Sikhs for Labour to support this motion and work towards a society that is safe, just, and equitable for all women and girls.

Motion 4

Title: Sikh Related Issues

Proposed by: Nav Kaur Johal

I would like to propose a motion that resolves to:

- Ensure that Sikhs for Labour will produce joint timely statements on Sikh related issues
- Will meet with Federation of Sikh Organisations/Sikh Organisations to understand the consensus view on Sikh media stories. It is important Sikhs for Labour works with multiple organisations.
- To lobby the Labour Party on taking our view and representation in parliament
- Holds meetings (online or in person) during any Sikh issues where members can voice/share their opinions/concerns,