

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

Officers Report

Sikhs for Labour was established in 2014 and is a Labour Party 'Friends of' group. Since being established, Sikhs for Labour has:

- held numerous campaign days around the country in local, parliamentary, PCC and mayoral elections and during the EU referendum.
- held events at Labour Party conference including our popular annual fruit langar seva.
- lobbied for improved Sikh representation at all levels within the Party and in all public bodies.
- been a focal point for Labour Party engagement with the Sikh and Punjabi community.

Our strength and ability to influence change is directly related to the support we receive from Labour Party members, activists and representatives. We hope you will join us and help us build our voice within the Party.

Sikhs for Labour is open to all members of the Labour Party. We are proud to have Sikh and non-Sikh members and supporters and we particularly welcome all those of Sikh, Punjabi and Indian heritage to join us.

2022 has seen Sikhs for Labour grow from strength to strength.

In January, our Vice Chair Gurinder Singh Josan became Chair of the Complaints and Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the NEC

In February, we had our first campaign day in 2022 in support of Paulette Hamilton in the Birmingham Erdington by-election.

In March, we campaigned again from Paulette Erdington on the day of the by-election to get out the vote, and in doing so we helped her to become the first ever black MP for Birmingham.

April was an extremely busy month, as we held several campaign days in the run up to the local elections. Our 'super Sunday' campaign day in Sandwell and Birmingham, focusing on Charlemont with Grove Vale ward, Willenhall South ward and Old Warley ward. We had a Birmingham campaign day, focussing on Birmingham Edgbaston ward, Kings Norton South ward and Perry Barr ward. We also had an East London campaign day, focussing on Weavers ward in Tower Hamlets, Canning Town North ward in Newham, and South Woodford ward in Redbridge. Our Coventry campaign day focussed on Holbrooks ward, Earlsdon ward, and Cheylesmore ward. Our final campaign day of the month was in Derby, focussing on Abbey ward and Littleover ward.

Our website was officially launched on Vaisakhi 2022.

For Vaisakhi 2022, we accompanied Labour Leader Keir Starmer and others to Croydon Gurdwara, where he learned about the Khalsa and spoke with the local sangat.

In May, our focus on the local elections continued, with a campaign day in Wolverhampton in Spring Vale ward, Blakenhall ward, Penn ward and Wednesfield South ward. We also had a campaign day in West London and Slough, focusing on Northfield ward in Ealing, Feltham North ward in Hounslow, Uxbridge ward in Hillingdon, and Wexham Lee ward in Slough. On May's election day, we were very proud to see the re-election of Onkar Sahota to the London Assembly, as well as Satvir Kaur breaking the glass ceiling and becoming the first female Sikh council leader in the UK and the first person of colour to become Leader of Southampton County Council.

In June, we held a campaign day for the Wakefield by-election, and we returned on polling day at the end of the month to see Simon Lightwood become the new MP for the constituency.

In July, Satvir Kaur became the PPC for Southampton Test, and Harpreet Uppal became the PPC for Huddersfield. Both are formidable politicians who will make great additions to the House of Commons, and we can't wait to organise campaign days to support both of them in the run up to the next General Election.

In August, Pearleen Sangha was appointed as Labour's London Regional Director, becoming the first person of a Sikh background to take on the role of Regional Director within the Party.

In September, our Vice Chair Gurinder Singh Josan was re-elected to the NEC, whilst Kindy Sandhu and former MP and first ever Sikh minister Parmjit Dhanda were elected to the NPF.

At Party Conference, Sikhs for Labour received a coveted award for 'Best Practice' from the Party. We also organised a members' dinner attended by MPs David Lammy, Tan Dhesi, Preet Gill and many other leading figures from the Party. We also carried out our annual fruit langar and had fantastic engagement from Labour members more widely.

In October, we saw Jas Athwal become PPC for Ilford South, and we are very much looking forward to organising campaign days to support him in becoming the first Sikh MP in London. We also saw Baggy Shankar selected as PPC for Derby South, and again, we

will be planning a campaign day to help get him into the House of Commons as is most deserved.

In November, we were proud to see our longstanding member and supporter Kuldip Singh Sahota appointed as the first turban wearing Sikh peer on the Labour benches.

In December, we organised a campaign day for the City of Chester by-election in support of Samantha Dixon, and once again, we were proud to get another Labour candidate elected as MP. We also saw Jeevun Sandher become PPC for Loughborough, and he is another person to the ever growing list of candidates that we will be supporting in the next General Election.

Sikhs for Labour Officers Report

3rd April 2023