

## **Policy Number 8: Supreme Sikh Council UK and Affiliate member Organisations**

### **Code of conduct on communications.**

The principles outlined in this Policy document are for all SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK members and affiliated organisations in relation to making any representations through various media outlets or statements concerning SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK, its affiliate member activities, non-member organisations and individual members of the community.

#### **Context:**

The Sikh Council UK is a platform whereby diverse community organisations and Gurdwaras can come together and through constructive debate achieve consensus on issues of common and Panthic interest, The operating principles of the Council are those based upon the Sarbat Khalsa Traditions.

The Council is a place for good where people can come together and no-one should be left out in spite of the challenges. However, it is recognised that there will be differences of approach and style, historical differences between organisations and personality clashes between individuals. The aim of the Council is to be professional and fair in its communications and remain impartial in its conduct.

The member organisations are also encouraged to remain professional, cooperate with each other and encourages non-members to join the common platform which is the Sikh Council UK. Furthermore, members are encouraged to be vigil against those whose communications and activities may seek to undermine member and non-member organisations and key individuals thus leading to divisions and disharmony.

The overarching aim of the following principles is to ensure community cohesion, reduce distractions and protect integrity of the Council.

Any SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK member asked or otherwise, representing the SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK via any communication channel including Gurdwaras, Sikh & non-Sikh Media, Radio, Paper Press, Internet and Social Media must follow the agreed principles set out by the General Assembly as below:

#### **Affiliated members and Council representatives:**

- Shall not criticise or undermine any affiliated organisation either directly or indirectly.
- Shall not provide any negative personal view or opinion relating to any affiliated organisation either directly or indirectly.
- Shall notify and discuss any communication with at least one of the following: Secretary General, Chair of the Policy and Strategy Group, Spokesperson and/or the Assistant

Spokes Person prior to any representation to ensure they have the latest position and facts related to any issue.

- If a member organisation is active on the topic area, wherever possible acknowledge it. If the position of the member organisation is different to that of the Council simply acknowledge it without judgement or criticism. It is acknowledged that the representative may not be fully aware of the contributions of the affiliated member but in broad terms recognise the member organisation.
- Must be very clear in acknowledging any SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK affiliated organisations that have supported or contributed to the achievement or continuous efforts of any SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK activities.
- Defend the SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK as the leading democratic and umbrella organisation representing the UK Sikh community and be clear when talking with non-affiliated organisations.
- Defend and correct any individuals or organisations who may challenge the SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK or its affiliate organisations when discussing roles or the work programme of SUPREME SIKH COUNCIL UK.

### **Non member organisations:**

#### **The Council representatives and non members:**

- Shall avoid criticising work of non-member organisations. However, if the Council has a particular position determined for strategic reasons that is at variance, then it would be expressed, ideally without criticising the individuals or the organisation.
- Encourage non-members to join the collective and consult/involve the Council in the first creations rather than expect Council support once decisions have been made.
- Acknowledge any positive contributions of the non-member organisations without undermining the work of the Council or its member organisations.