



UK GURDWARA ALLIANCE

DEDICATED TO SERVE

14 September 2025

Rt. Hon. Shabana Mahmood

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Dear Shabana

UK Government response to Anti-Sikh hate crimes

The UK Gurdwara Alliance is a UK-wide Gurdwara body that was launched and welcomed by Ministers in Parliament on 1 July 2025 at the 20th anniversary event for the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs. It provides a collective voice for over 250 Gurdwaras on matters that concern us all.

We write to express our profound shock, distress, and outrage at the horrific racially motivated sexual assault and rape of a young Sikh woman in Oldbury, West Midlands. This brutal attack while she was on her way to work is an appalling manifestation of the growing racial hatred and violence faced by the Sikh community.

This attack has come within weeks of an unprovoked racist attack on two elderly Sikh taxi drivers in their 60s and 70s in Wolverhampton that was videoed and covered by the media. Our congregations are increasingly reporting racist abuse, especially those who are most vulnerable, but are not reporting these hate crimes to the police as they have no confidence any action will be taken, especially in the current political climate.

Whilst the West Midlands Police are doing all they can to identify the perpetrators of the brutal racist sexual attack and rape so there can be arrests, charges and prosecutions for this vile crime **we are deeply concerned with the low priority given by the Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to Anti-Sikh hate crimes** that have a joint responsibility in this area.

This incident in Oldbury in broad daylight is a tragic reflection of the increasingly hostile and unsafe environment created by the rise in racially motivated abuse and attacks on Sikhs in the UK. Most Sikhs, are visibly identifiable by our articles of faith and appearance and have been vulnerable worldwide since 9/11.

The Conservatives following the EU Referendum recognised increased hate towards people of faith and the two Departments led by the Home Office published in July 2016 a Hate Crime Action Plan.¹ However, the plan was heavily criticised by Sikh community organisations when the Home Office author divulged the case study on the machete attack on a Sikh dentist in North Wales was airbrushed out of the draft plan by Number 10 as the Conservatives wanted to only focus on Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Anti-Christian hate crime.

Sikh organisations were repeatedly promised by the Faith Minister (Lord Bourne) at that time at Sikh Roundtable meetings that the same mistake would not be repeated in the refresh two years later. However when the refreshed plan was published in October 2018 it only referred to Antisemitism and Islamophobia. It was so embarrassing for the Faith Minister that Sikh Roundtable meetings² that took place three times a year that he chaired with recognised Sikh community organisations stopped seven years ago. Lord Khan, the Labour Faith Minister who has recently been replaced was repeatedly asked to resurrect these meetings but we have been waiting for over 14 months.

To make matters worse Keir Starmer as the Labour Leader made a video in April 2022³ on Vaisakhi recognising successive governments had failed to address Anti-Sikh hate in the same way as Antisemitism and Islamophobia and promised a Labour government would put this right.

We live in very vulnerable times in a climate of intolerance and racial aggression. This has intensified fears within our community and undermines the principles of respect, equality and security that all citizens deserve.

Despite wall to wall media coverage we note with deep disappointment you have made no public comment as Home Secretary unequivocally condemning the brutal racist attack and rape of the young Sikh woman last Tuesday. We need you to show public solidarity with the victim and the Sikh community. You represent the neighbouring constituency and as a Muslim woman will understand the abhorrent nature of this crime better than most.

A few weeks ago the media asked for comments from the Home Office and MHCLG on the racist attack of two elderly Sikh taxi drivers but were met with silence. This time around silence from you and the Home Office following the racist sexual attack last Tuesday is unacceptable. **We hope when you answer Parliamentary Questions tomorrow for the first time as**

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f8db94a8fa8f56ad07d1152/2016_Hate_Crime_Action_Plan.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/mhclg-sikh-roundtable-group>

³ <https://x.com/SikhFedUK/status/1958091373409710117>

Home Secretary you will use the opportunity to publicly condemn the racist sexual attack in Oldbury.

Political leadership is required to confront and combat hatred, racism and sexual violence, making clear that such acts will not be tolerated in any form. We ask all politicians, regardless of party, to unite in protecting the vulnerable and fostering a safer, more inclusive society.

Labour Ministers have for over a year been sitting on the APPG for British Sikhs report and recommendations on Anti-Sikh hate produced in October 2020⁴ that was ignored by the Conservatives. Community feelings are running very high and Sikhs across the country joined by others may be forced to peacefully protest outside Downing Street after Donald Trump's official visit. The aim of the protest will be to remind Keir Starmer of his specific promise to the Sikh community and ask why his Ministers have been ignoring Sikh community concerns and not setting out their plans to address Anti-Sikh hate.

We stand firm in our commitment to justice, peace and the dignity of all people. We ask for your prompt attention and strong measures to address Anti-Sikh hate crimes.

This letter is being copied to Rt. Hon Steve Reed.

On behalf of over 250 UK Gurdwaras

Co-ordinating Gurdwaras in the UK Gurdwara Alliance from the West Midlands

- Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick, High Street, Smethwick
- Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, Sedgley Street, Wolverhampton
- Guru Nanak Parkash Gurdwara, Harnall Lane, Coventry

⁴ <https://www.sikhfeduk.com/assets/files/APPG-Anti-Sikh-Hate-Crime-Report-2020.pdf>