



World Sikh Council – America Region (WSC-AR)

A representative body of Sikh institutions of America founded under the patronage of Siri Akal Takhat Sahib

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2005

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Member Gurdwaras:

1. Gurdwara Sahib Fremont, Fremont, CA
2. Guru Nanak Sikh Mission, Livingston, CA
3. Sikh Gurdwara of LA, North Hollywood, CA
4. Sikh Gurdwara Riverside, Riverside, CA
5. Colorado Singh Sabha, Denver, CO
6. Guru Singh Sabha of Augusta, Augusta, GA
7. Sikh Study Circle of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
8. Sikh Religious Society of Chicago, Palatine, IL
9. Sikh Society of South, New Orleans, LA
10. Sikh Gurdwara of Michigan, Rochester Hills, MI
11. Sikh Society of Michigan, Madison Heights, MI
12. Guru Nanak Foundation of Jackson, MS
13. Sikh Gurdwara of North Carolina, Durham, NC
14. Garden State Sikh Association, Bridgewater, NJ
15. Guru Nanak Sikh Society of Delaware Valley, Sewell, NJ
16. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Glenrock, NJ
17. Sikh Sabha of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, NJ
18. Sikh Cultural Society Inc., Richmond Hills, NY
19. Sikh Cultural & Edu. Society of Western NY, Buffalo, NY
20. Sikh Religious Society of Dayton, Dayton, OH
21. Guru Nanak Found. of Greater Cleveland, Richfield, OH
22. Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Society, Bedford, OH
23. Guru Nanak Religious Soc. of Central Ohio, Columbus, OH
24. Philadelphia Sikh Society, Millbourne, PA
25. Tristate Sikh Cultural Society, Monroeville, PA
26. Mid South Sikh Sabha, Memphis, TN
27. Sikh Center of Gulf Coast, Houston, TX
28. Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Richardson, TX
29. Sikh Gurdwara of North Texas, Garland, TX
30. Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Fairfax, VA
31. Sikh Association of Central Virginia, VA
32. Sikh Religious Society of Wisconsin, Brookfield, WI

Other Sikh Institution Members:

1. Siri Guru Granth Sahib Found., Anaheim, CA
2. Sikhs Serving America, Topeka, KS
3. Sikh Youth Federation of North America, White Plains, NY
4. Sikh Educational & Religious Foundation, Dublin, OH
5. Sikh Youth Federation of USA, Toledo, OH
6. Academy of Guru Granth Studies, Arlington, TX

2010 Religious Affiliation Survey will Include Sikh Population at County Level

The World Sikh Council – America Region (WSC-AR) is pleased to announce that the 2010 Religious Congregations Membership Study (RCMS) will include a county-by-county population of Sikhs in the United States of America.

Since the publication of the 2000 RCMS, which only included a listing of Sikh organizations at the county level, WSC-AR has worked with the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB) and the Glenmary Research Center (GRC) to expand the Sikh organization census reporting to include the Sikh population at the county level.

Dr. Tarunjit Singh, Secretary General of WSC-AR, attended the 71st Annual Meeting of ASARB on Oct 4 – 5, 2005 at the headquarters of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Louisville, Kentucky. During the meeting, WSC-AR affirmed Sikh representation in the 2010 survey and participated in a panel discussion on “Data Collection and Dissemination in Four Religious Bodies: Issues and Challenges.”

“Since the US Bureau of Census is currently prohibited by law from asking a question on religious affiliation, it is critical for WSC-AR to take a leadership role on behalf of the US Sikh community to work with inter-religious organizations that collect, publish, and disseminate religious affiliation data,” said Mr. Amolak Singh, Chairperson of WSC-AR.

“The expanded participation and inclusion of Sikh population figures at the county level in the 2010 religious survey is an example of how Sikhs are being increasingly woven into the fabric of America,” said Dr. Anahat Kaur, Vice-Chairperson of WSC-AR.

It is estimated that about 500,000 Sikhs live in the US but no breakdown of Sikh population at the county or state level is currently available.

Every ten years, ASARB compiles the RCMS, providing the most comprehensive portrait of religious affiliation of people in every state and county across the United States. The RCMS is available in book and CD-ROM format from the Glenmary Research Center. RCMS data at the county and state level can also be retrieved through the American Religion Data Archive.

During the visit to the ASARB conference, the Secretary General of WSC-AR also met briefly with Bishop Thomas Hoyt, Jr., President of the National Council of Churches and Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church's Fourth District (Mississippi and Louisiana), Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk (highest elected official) of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Dr. Jay T. Rock, Interfaith Coordinator, Presbyterian Church (USA), and Mr. Rafat L. Zaki, Coordinator for Central, South, and Southeast Asia for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

In the last few months, the WSC-AR has participated in several inter-religious projects, activities, conferences, and events to promote interfaith understanding and respect. These include:

- TRUST Handbook: Venturing Religious and Community Life Award, Published by the Boy Scouts of America, August 2005: Collaborated with the National Religion Committee of Boy Scouts of America to review the draft Sikh chapter along with the entire book draft and provided suggestions for changes. The final published handbook is intended for older youth (14-21 years). For more information, please visit <http://usscouts.org/advance/venturing/Trust.html>.
- North American Ecumenical and Interfaith Staff (NAEIS) annual conference, July 9-12, 2005, Indianapolis: Attended the conference and met with the President of the European Council of Churches to discuss the turban issue in France and the backlash against European Sikhs following the London bombings. More information on NAEIS can be accessed at <http://www.naeis.org/home.cfm>.
- United Religions Initiative (URI) - North America Interfaith Network (NAIN) annual conference, August 12-16, 2005, Las Vegas: Attended the conference and participated in a panel discussion on "A Moment of Gratitude." More information on NAIN: <http://www.nain.org/> and URI: <http://www.uri.org/>.
- Religions for Peace (RFP) – USA Executive Strategic Retreat, September 19-20, 2005, Stony Point, NY: WSC-AR is a member organization of RFP-USA. The Vice-Chairperson of WSC-AR attended the retreat. A representative of WSC-AR is involved with the planning of the RFP-USA's Gathering of National Religious Leaders envisaged for January 2006. More information on RFP-USA can be accessed at <http://www.rfpusa.org/>.
- Interfaith Prayer Service, Interfaith Center of New York, September 13, 2005: WSC-AR co-sponsored by invitation the interfaith worship service on occasion of the opening of the 60th General Assembly of the United Nations.
- International Day of Peace Vigil, September 21, 2005: WSC-AR co-sponsored by invitation an international day of peace across the world to engage the world community in a day of global cease-fire and non-violence.
- Critical Moment in Interreligious Dialogue, World Council of Churches, June 7-9, 2005, Geneva, Switzerland: WSC-AR attended by invitation the landmark conference organized by the World Council of Churches to explore the connections between action and dialogue. One hundred thirty representatives of virtually all the major faiths communities from across the world participated. WSC-AR Secretary General moderated a panel discussion on action and dialogue. More information on the conference can be accessed at <http://www.oikoumene.org/interreligious.html>.

WSC-AR is a representative and elected body of Sikh Gurdwaras and institutions in the United States. Its members include 32 Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) and 6 other Sikh institutions across the nation. The Philadelphia Sikh Society of Millbourne, PA recently joined WSC-AR as a member organization following the meeting of WSC-AR at its Gurdwara on October 1-2, 2005.