



Sikh Education Council



Annual
Review
2023-2024



Chair message



I am grateful to the volunteers of the Sikh Education Council for their continued hard work this year. I am especially pleased to see their personal development in appreciating Gurbani and applying it to their lives, the fruit of which no doubt can be seen in the quality of work and service we have provided.

Sikh Studies course

continues to go from strength to strength with over a hundred students completing year one and over thirty students completing year two modular studies.

Punjabi language

work that we undertake is vital to the Sikh community and in that regard I hope we build on this year's excellent International Conference and Punjabi Learning Academy CPD.

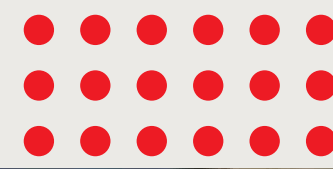
General Shabeg Singh

lecture inaugurated in May 2023 provides an insight into present and impending developments in strategic defence, international security, and democracy, on a global scale.

Sikh network events

were valuable endeavours that we hope to develop so they benefit those who attend, helping them network and engage more actively with the Sikh way of life.

Sikh Studies course



October 2023 - March 2024

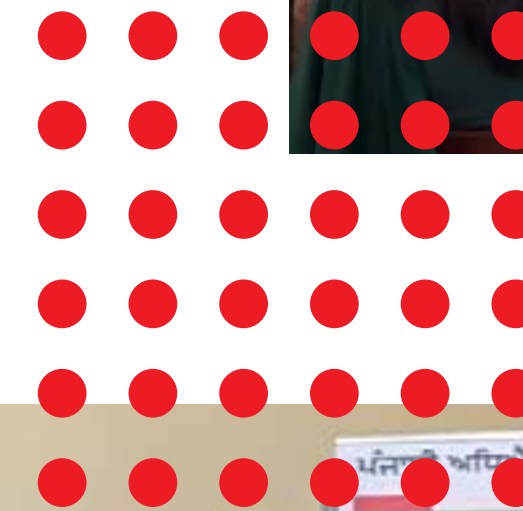
Year 1 Sikh Studies is a 15 week journey on the Sikh way of life. Students are introduced to the history, culture and ideology of the Sikhs.

In 2023, we had over 120 attendees complete the course with classes at the University of Cambridge and Royal Holloway (University students only), and at the London School of Economics and in Southampton (open to all).

The course concluded with a workshop for Week 15 at the end of March that saw seventy-five attendees from all sittings come together to discuss ways forward for the Sikh people. There were two sessions held, both in central London locations, at Asia House (University students only) and the October Gallery (open to all) respectively.

Punjabi Learning Academy

Serving Punjabi-language teachers with Continued Professional Development



This year we held two Continued Professional Development (CPD) events aimed at Punjabi-language teachers through our Punjabi Learning Academy. We were in the East Midlands and west London with nine speakers across both events providing insights into the latest resources and best practice.

International Punjabi Conference

Bringing together academics, scholars and enthusiasts who share a commitment to Punjabi

The International Punjabi Conference is an annual event instigated and continued to be managed by the Sikh Education Council, now with a range of stakeholders and partners. Taking place in the UK every summer, the conference brings together international speakers to present papers on the Punjabi language to an audience of academics, experts, and Punjabi enthusiasts.



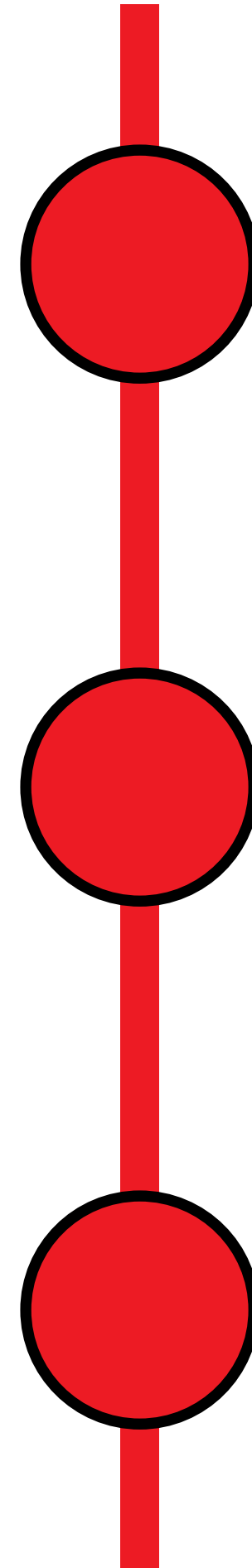
In 2023, the International Punjabi Conference was held at the Falcons Primary School in Leicester on Saturday 28 July and Sunday 29 July with over a dozen speakers presenting their respective papers. More information can be found at the dedicated website: panjabi.uk

Gurdwara Darbars

Sangat + Pangat

It is incredibly important to us that our patrons, fellows and students have the opportunity to collectively engage in Sangat and Pangat. Whilst we all do this in our own local communities, coming together as the Sikh Education Council provides us the opportunity to commemorate those personalities from the Sikh way of life who, although not forgotten, aren't remembered for their immense contributions that have made us who we are.

We book our Gurdwara Darbars like any other member of the Sangat, making full payment of the programme and providing everything required for Langar, including our volunteers as sevadars in the kitchen and Darbar.



General Hari Singh Nalwa barsi

Akhand Paath was held from Friday 28 April 2023 to Sunday 30 April 2023 at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall (Park Avenue). Kirtan was performed by the Gurdwara sevadars followed by a speech from vice-President Bhai Kulwant Singh Bhinder.

Bhai Maharaj Singh barsi

Darbar was held on Saturday 8 July 2023 at Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Hitchin. Sukhmani Sahib was read followed by katha from Giani Tarvedi Singh and langar.

Bhai Sukha and Bhai Jinda barsi

Sehaj Paath bhog was held on Saturday 14 October 2023 at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Hitchin. Kirtan was performed by Gurdwara sevadars, Kavishri was performed by the jatha of Simranjeet Singh Parwana, followed by langar.

Our academic publications, the ‘International Journal of Sikh Studies’ and ‘Sikh Sunehan’ continue to be printed from previous years’ editions where we were forced to pause during the Covid lockdown. We aim to have caught up by this time next year.

Publications

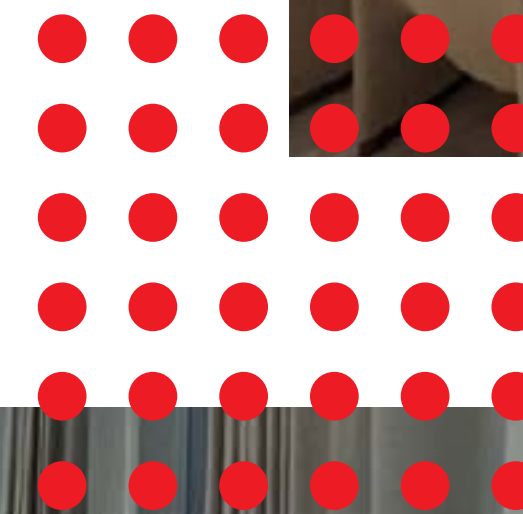
The Sikh Education Council has published a number of works since our inception forty years ago, comprising books, journals and reports. In the last year, our aim to publish a series of books that help advance the field of Sikh Studies in a number of areas came to fruition as we published two Punjabi-language books: ‘**Qaumvaadh**’ by Dr Jasvir Singh and ‘**Yog Darshan**’ by Dr Hardev Singh.



Dr Jasvir Singh, right, pictured with peers at the launch of his book ‘Qaumvaadh’; Punjabi singer and icon Satinder Sartaaj receiving his copy of the book.

Engaging Sikh networks

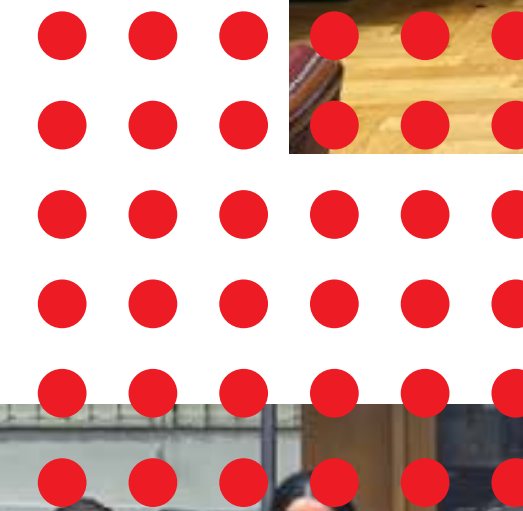
A series of introductory events were held at our Central London offices with Sikh networks who represented professional services, finance and the public sector.



The objective of these meetings was to understand the goals and challenges Sikh networks face and what drives their members to volunteer their time. We are following this in 2024-2025 by providing support to them through solutions to some of the most pressing needs.

Case study workshops

We launched the first in a series of case studies that can be used by a range of Sikh professional and student groups to provoke thoughtful discussion and solve problems.



The first case study centres around a fictional small Gurdwara in the UK and the issues it faces. The two workshops we hosted as a trial were well received, firstly by London-based professionals who were invited to attend, and then by students from the Cambridge University Sikh society.

SikhSocs.com

We have continued our support of University Sikh societies as a stakeholder in SikhSocs.com

In September 2023, we held our annual ‘Sikh Society Skills Day’ - an event where committee members from University Sikhs Societies can gain the skills needed to plan and effectively run their organisations for the year.

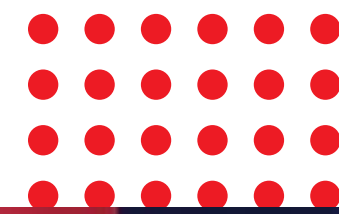
This was followed up with the provision of freshers packs which we donated to Sikh Socs who requested them to be distributed to their members.



On Sunday 3 March 2024, we held the SikhSocs.com inter-University sports day. This was the second time that we hosted this annual competition for students, providing an opportunity for them to network, socialise and of course compete in football, badminton and netball.

Maharani Jind Kaur

Student Award

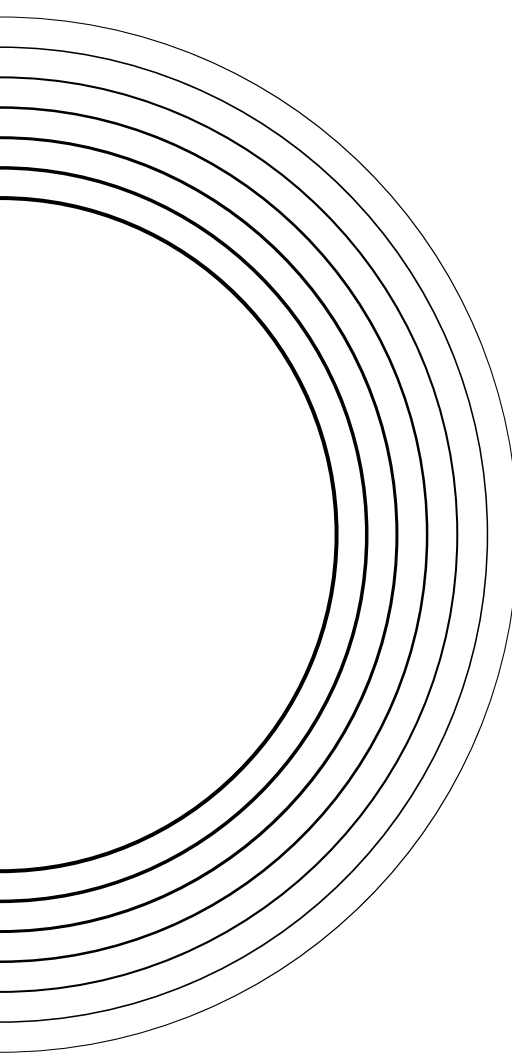


The Maharani Jind Kaur student award was awarded in 2023 to Gurshaun Singh who was completing his undergraduate studies at UCL that summer. Runners-up were second year students Sehaj Kaur from LSE, and Prabhpreet Kaur from the University of Warwick. The essay question they answered was: 'How significant is the role played by an intelligence agency for the growth of an emerging power?'

Congratulations to all three! They were awarded financial prizes by our partner **naujawani**, specifically £2000 as the first prize, and £500 to each of the runners-up.

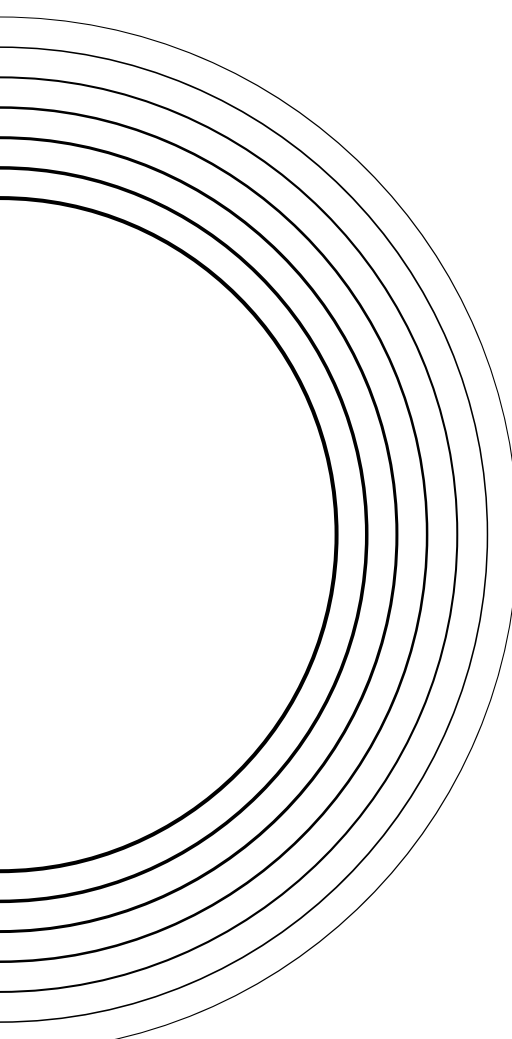
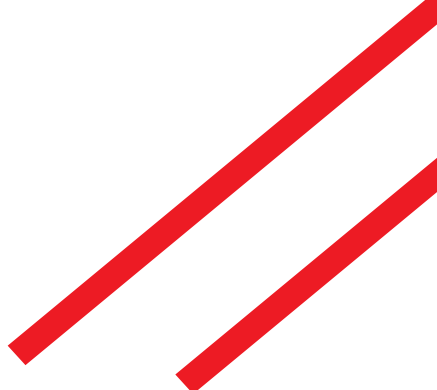



Partnering at Events

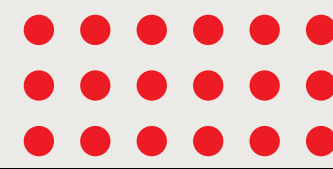
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1. Sponsoring and supporting a seminar at University College, Chunni Kalan on 'Gurmukhi' held on Wednesday 20 March 2024.
 2. Facilitating multiple 'childrens activity days' through the arts at Gurdwareh in east London, west London, and North Hertfordshire.
 3. Curating displays on the 'Shaheedi of the Shotte Sahibzade' and 'Bhagats of Guru Granth Sahib' at Singh Sabha Southall.

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4. Partnering on the 'Changing Global Order' conference at the University of Oxford with Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara Leicester.
 5. Organising and delivering a 'Sports + Seva day' for children and young people at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Hitchin.
 6. Delivering speeches and showcasing our mobile exhibitions on the events of 1984 at two events for 'Project Forty'.

Featuring at Events

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1. Delivering a lecture at the barsi for Baba Phula Singh Akali at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall (Park Avenue).
 2. Engaging with competitors and supporters at the annual shaheedi football tournament on the topic of 1984.
 3. Delivering lectures on Bhai Maharaj Singh at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall (Park Avenue) on Saturday 1 July 2023.
 4. Leading the content planning and delivery of classes and assemblies at Singh Sabha Southall's summer camp in July 2023.
 5. Delivering a lecture on General Hari Singh Nalwa at Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Letchworth on Saturday 14 October 2023.
 6. Delivering the monthly Anand Karaj course at Singh Sabha Southall in January 2024.

Project and event updates



Unexpectedly, we only held one quarterly seminar in 2023-2024. Our spring 2024 seminar was held in central London on Sunday 24 March where two SEC fellows presented on 'Sikh resources in education'.

We continued to deliver our bespoke Anand Karaj prep course to support young Sikhs in preparing for their wedding, engaging a dozen couples.

We launched the General Shabeg Singh annual lecture which will now take place on the last Thursday of May to honour the respected personality from our recent past. The lecture provides an insight into present and impending developments in the areas of strategic defence, international security, and democracy, on a global scale. The aim of the guest speaker is to instigate deeper thought on the specific element that they have chosen to focus on in that year's lecture and to highlight ways forward for the world community.

Internal activities and events



- 15/3/2023: two members of Team SEC participated in the Adidas Terrex Trail Run.
- 30/4/2023: SEC debating contest held in Southall won by Jaskiran Kaur!
- 2/7/2023: SEC's internal football and netball tournament held in Hertfordshire.
- Summer 2023: Team SEC netball sessions held across Southall, Cranford, and Northolt.
- 28/10/2023: Team SEC compete at dodgeball tournament in the Midlands.
- 31/10/2023: annual laser tag day in Letchworth Garden City attended by over fifty SEC people!
- 28/1/2024: SEC gaming competition held in Letchworth Garden City won by Taren Singh!
- 11/2/2024: SEC annual meal held in Southall was attended by a hundred volunteers and patrons.
- 24/3/2024: SEC Hola Mohalla chess tournament held in central London won by Tanveer Singh, with the inaugural junior title won by Ekam Singh!



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