

SPEAKERS BIOS

17th VAISAKHI AT WESTMINSTER

23 APRIL 2023



Bhai Sahib, Bhai (Dr) Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG

Chairman of British Sikh Consultative Forum (BSCF). Spiritual Leader & Chairman Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha & Nishkam Group of Organisations

Bhai Sahib is the third in the line of spiritual leaders serving the transnational, Sikh faith-based organisation, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ), which is dedicated to practising and promoting Nishkam (selfless) service, endeavouring to nurture good human beings through the practice and propagation of the faith. We promote the values of shared responsibility, love, altruism, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation.

The Nishkam Group of Organisations actively engages in vision and partnership building in fields such as education, civic, employment generation, healthcare, community regeneration, heritage conservation and infrastructure development.

Summary:

- Recipient of the official Bhai Sahib title from the Jathedars (senior-most leaders) of the five most sacred Sikh Takhts (seats of authority) in India, for selfless service in cultivating understanding and practice of the Sikh faith and leading major heritage conservation projects.
- Recipient of the Shiromani Panth Ratan ('jewel of the global Sikh community') award for his dedicated and selfless leadership in completing the heritage conservation of the five most sacred Sikh Takhts, the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple, Amritsar) and other Gurudwaras in India, as well as his contributions to sharing the practice of Sikh principles on a worldwide level.
- Patron of the ground-breaking Sikh ethos multi-faith Nishkam Schools Trust, which operates 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools, as well as 2 privately funded nurseries.
- Chair and Trustee of the proposed Museum of World's Religions UK (MWR UK) and Co-Convenor of the proposed International Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation.
- One of the fifty Co-Presidents and a Trustee of Religions for Peace (RfP) International.

- Officer of Her Majesty the Queen's British Empire (OBE).
- Recipient of the 2017 Global Thinkers Forum Award for Excellence in Peace and Collaboration; the 2016 African Interfaith Harmony Award of the Year, United Religions Initiative-Africa; the Juliet Hollister Interfaith Award from the Temple of Understanding, New York; the Guru Nanak Interfaith Award from Hofstra University, New York; and the GCGI Award for Public Service in the interest of the Common Good from the Globalisation for the Common Good Initiative.
- Three honorary doctorates from UK universities for interfaith and peacebuilding work.
- Retired Civil and Structural Engineer with 27 years of practice across three continents in the fields of engineering, town planning and housing, appropriate local materials research and policy formulation.

Dr Jasdev Singh Rai, MBChB (Liverpool). MA Politics (SOAS).

General Secretary, British Sikh Consultative Forum (BSCF). Works as Otolaryngologist and Honorary Director of Sikh Human Rights Group (since 1989). The organisation has consultative status with United Nations.

He is visiting Clinical Professor on Human Rights at the American University of Sovereign Nations, Arizona; the General Secretary of the British Sikh Consultative Forum and Chair of the Worldviews of Nature Project.

He has led several SHRG teams at United Nations conferences around human rights, transnationals, environment and diversity.

Has championed Sikh values and civilisation in international forums. Written and published academic papers on ethics, gender foeticide, anti-terrorism, freedom of conscience, conflict resolution and Sikh philosophy.

Has written three books including Universalism and Ethical Values of Environment for UNESCO and Anekantavada, Indian Pluralism. jasdev@shrg.ne

Dr Sadhu Singh. MBE, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc., PhD, M.I.E.E., C.Eng.

Director, British Sikh Consultative Forum. Dr Sadhu Singh has been actively working as a volunteer in several capacity roles in the Sikh community and the general charity sector.

He is the Vice-Chairperson of the British Sikh Consultative Forum and holds several leading positions in other charities. These include:

- Chairman of 'The Council of Asian Culture & Education.'
- Chairperson of 'The Ethnic Minority Council' in Wolverhampton.
- Governor of 'Guru Nanak Sikh School' London.
- Chairperson of 'The Council of Sikh Gurdwaras' Wolverhampton.
- EMC Representative on Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
- Member of 'The Inter-Faith' Group in Wolverhampton.

Dr Sadhu Singh was instrumental in setting up the Guru Nanak Sikh School, Hayes.

Jagdish Kaur – Joint General Secretary, Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Southall

Jagdish Kaur brings over a decade of experience as a finance professional, commencing her journey at PwC before assuming her current role in an asset management company.

Jagdish also serves as the Joint General Secretary at Sri Guru Singh Sabha, where she championed the creation of Hariavali Gardens, a community green space tailored to meet the needs of the elderly.

Furthermore, Jagdish played a pivotal role in establishing groundbreaking projects like the world's first Sikh Children's Library and the publication of regular internal audits known as the State of the Sabha reports.

These endeavours underscore her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to transparency and advancement.