



For Immediate Release

25 October 2012

Forging Modern Connections to Sikh Political History

London—Over four days, from 18-21 October, Sikh Research Institute (SikhRI), in partnership with local Sikh organizations in the UK, presented a variety of seminars around London and Leicester, attracting more than 400 attendees over the course of the tour. The topics covered were tailored to the experiences and interests of UK Sikhs.



The first event, titled “Religion in Modern Society,” was hosted by Nishaan, a collective of London Sikh Societies. Gurbavel Kaur of London said that she enjoyed the thought-provoking talk: *“This talk brought up a great deal of questions I have and I’m definitely motivated to look into the deeper meaning of Sikhi. This talk has also motivated me to research into the main source, the Guru Granth Sahib Ji.”*

Tejvir Singh of London also attended “Religion in Modern Society” and commented that the experience helped him to redirect the teachings of the Guru into his own daily conduct: *“The lecture has had a thought-provoking effect on what I can do with my Sikhi and how I can benefit others. It has made me think about Sikhs and how they created revolution and how as Sikhs we should not be attached to dogma but always growing through evolution.”* On 19 October, a full crowd came out for “Governance & Politics of the Sikh Gurus,” which was sponsored by the PriceWaterhouseCoopers’ Sikh Diversity Network. Sarnjit Kaur attended the talk and said that the content resonated for her in her personal and professional life. *“I found the presentation inspirational and it will help implement theory with practice in work situations as well as personal. The presenter has a great ability to put forward examples of theory very well.”*

The next day, SikhRI presented “Singh Sabha Lahir,” which was sponsored by Singh Sabha Park Avenue Southall, and “Sikh Civil Rights Movement,” at Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Park Avenue and sponsored by National Sikh Youth Federation (NYSF). Shamsheer Singh, an NSYF organizer from London, who attended “Sikh Civil Rights Movement,” said that he found it to be an amazing presentation and that it was *“beautiful to see the Guru’s concepts and philosophy articulated in a refreshing and relevant manner.”*

To round out the tour events, Harinder Singh, Chief Programming Officer, presented “1984 and You,” at Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara. The talk was sponsored by activist group Leicester Sikh Alliance (LSA), and attendees said the way the topic was articulated resonated with them, in that it encouraged hyper-local responses, as well as drawing global attention on the events of 1984. *“The lecture really helped me to understand what happened in 1984, but further still, contextualize what happened and bring it into my reality, living in Leicester. I now feel that I am in a better position to respond as an individual to the events of 1984 within my locality,”* said Amandeep Singh, a member of LSA.



SikhRI is extremely grateful to the local sponsors and organizers who put their time and energy into making the week’s events a reality. As SikhRI makes more regular trips to the UK, organizers and staff are pleased to see an increase in engagement and attendance from locals, who say they feel a sense of duty to learning more about Sikhi for themselves, and as ambassadors and activists in their greater communities.

“2012 was a year of activism for Sikhs across the world and UK Gurdwaras played a key role in raising voices against injustices in Panjab and throughout India,” said Jagdeep Singh, SikhRI’s UK coordinator. *“This year’s visits by SikhRI have shown that Sikhs in the UK are passionate about embodying Sikhi values of justice, equality and freedom and it is truly a pleasure to bring programming and resources to engage that passion.”*

PR Contact: Jagdeep Singh: Jagdeep.Singh@SikhRI.org | +44.780.811.7228

###