

**Global Sikh Council**  
**Meeting 18-20 March 2016**  
82-88 Rue De Etoil  
Bobigny France

**Summary of minutes.**

**Present at the meeting: (In alphabetical Order)**

Bibi Gursimran Kaur (Canada)  
Bibi Manjinder Kaur (United Sikhs)  
Bibi Sonia Singh (Sweedden)  
Lady Kanwaljit Kaur (NSO, UK)  
Lord Indarjit Singh (NSO UK)  
S. Anoop Singh (Switzerland)  
S. Avtar Singh (Italy)  
S. Balvinder Singh (France)  
S. Dalbir Singh (Italy)  
S. Davinder Singh (Holland)  
S. Davinder Singh Eari (Nairobi, Kenya)  
S. Dharamveer Singh (France)  
S. Gulbarg Singh (ASC, US)  
S. Gurdeep Singh Kundan (Switzerland)  
S. Gurdial Singh (VSC of France, France)  
S. Gurjinder Singh (France)  
S. Gurlabh Singh (Spain)  
S. Gurmeet Singh (France)  
S. Harcharan Singh Dhillon (Belgium)  
S. Jagjeet Singh (Sikhi Sewa Society, Italy)  
S. Jagraj Singh (Everythings13, UK)  
S. Jasvir Singh (France)  
S. Karamjit Singh Thind (NSO, UK)  
S. Kashmir Singh (Youth Procession, France)  
S. Kewal Singh (France)  
S. Kirpal Singh Nijher (US)  
S. Kulwinder Singh (France)  
S. Labh Singh (Spain)  
S. Loharh Singh (??)

S. Major Singh (France)  
S. Manjit Singh (Sikh Missionary, Spain)  
S. Mastan Singh (Italy)  
S. Pritpal Singh (France)  
S. Ranjit Singh (Portugal)  
S. Satnam Singh (UK)  
S. Shamsheer Singh (France)  
S. Shingara Singh (United Sikhs)  
S. Simran Singh (India)  
S. Surinder Singh (UK)  
S. Tar Singh (Italy)  
S. Virender Singh Mann (Dastar Action)  
AND others who joined on second day.

S. Gurdial Singh Ji (France), the host, welcomed all the guests. He shared the issues facing the Panth and urged the Sikhs to unite and make the Global Sikh Council a strong voice of the Sikhs worldwide.

S. Gulbarg Singh shared the background of the Global Sikh Council and shared that as a result of continued efforts starting 2010, the first meeting held in Sydney, Australia in Feb-March 2014 was attended by representatives from four countries and the second meeting held in London, UK in July-August 2015 and was attended by representatives from ten countries. Gulbarg Singh shared the outcome of the meetings in brief. Gulbarg Singh then briefly explained the structure of the organization from membership to selection of Board to selection of Executive Committee and appointment to various roles.

Gulbarg Singh introduced the members of the ad-hoc executive committee formed at the last GSC meeting and explained that being the ad-hoc committee their term ended at that point and they tendered their resignations at that time and mentioned that the rest of the meeting will be chaired by the host, S. Gurdial Singh Ji.

S. Karamjit Singh Ji was assigned to moderate the meeting. S. Gurdial Singh Ji thanked the ad-hoc committee members for their efforts in organizing this meeting and started the proceedings.

Various members present introduced themselves and shared their views. Summary of statements on current situation and suggestions for future is included below. The list is organized by Categories as below:

### **Current Situation and need of the time:**

- Sikhs are divided among themselves on petty issues.
- Sikhs need to shed the differentiations based on castes etc.
- The fights in Gurdwara Sahibs turns youth off from Sikhi.
- The Sikh community has made great progress in financial sector abroad. However the youth education in Sikhi is suffering.
- Sikhi education is missing from Sikh homes due to lack of knowledge and priority on the part of the parents.
- Gurdwaras need to be treated as School of the Sikhi and the leadership needs to be well educated in Sikhi. That is not the criteria for selection of managements in our Gurdwaras and as a result the Gurdwara managements hardly know much about Sikh philosophy. Sikhs spend millions of funds on the buildings and skimp on the pay for the Granthi Singh, the teacher, who is going to teach us Sikhi.
- The ritualism, rejected by Guru Nanak Sahib, has crept back into Sikhi and Sikh Gurdwaras / centers are being turned into business centers. Number of Akhand Paths, specially simultaneous Akhand Paths, reading are turned into nothing but money making mechanisms for Gurdwara managements.
- Participation from female gender is very dismal. They need to be encouraged to join hands in the Sikhi march.
- Sikh youth, ill educated in Sikhi, is turning away from the Sikh way of life. Sikhs need to reverse this trend with effective education using the modern media.
- The Sikh Pracharaks in Gurdwaras are unable to address the needs of the youth. It appears that Sikh Youth camps are one effective communication method with the youth.
- The education of Sikhi should not only be limited to the Gurdwara Sahibs but also pursued in other aspects of life.
- Teaching / Learning and speaking of Punjabi is essential for the Sikhs in their regular conversation at home and outside.
- Best place to teach Sikhi to the next generation is at home. Sikhs need to address this starting with their homes and in the Gurdwaras in the villages back home.
- Sikhs are represented in negative light in the Indian movies and media. It is suggested that GSC make better use of the internet, modern media, and movies to build Sikh image and counter such attacks.
- Sikhs need to hold workshops on each subject so Sikhs themselves can be educated in Sikhi.
- The Ragi Jathas or anyone else reciting KACHI BAANI should not be allowed in any Gurdwara Sahibs. Portugal has implemented such a policy in their Gurdwaras.

- Sikhs should not get deceived by the outer dress of the visiting Pracharaks, knowing the inner thoughts of the visiting Pracharaks is more important. One might look at the United Sikh web site for letters issued by RSS to know their agenda. Not only RSS but there are other organizations attacking the Sikh values.
- In Diaspora Sikh must also be very careful of the non-Sikh individuals / organizations that are courting Sikh girls and luring them with money and lavish gifts.
- Various Sikh organizations world over have passed resolutions e.g. France, US etc to condemn the desecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and to disallow any representatives of the current Sikh governing party of Punjab or any other leader who is under the influence of anti Sikh organizations, from speaking on Gurdwara stage. All Sikh organizations need to pass such resolutions and implement them in their Gurdwaras/organizations/communities.
- Sikhs need to participate and contribute to projects outside Gurdwara to live true Sikhi life and show the world the true meaning of a Sikh character.
- Sikh Philosophy, when shared with Interfaith groups, is highly applauded. Sikhs need to share Sikh Philosophy with non Sikhs.
- Guru Nanak Sahib's message is beacon of light for the world and must be shared with the whole world, which can be achieved by living a Sikhi life.
- Nanakshahi calendar is being used in all Government offices in UK. Sikhs need to have it implemented in other countries as well. Sikh representatives must push for implementation of Nanakshahi Calendar in their Gurdwaras as well.
- Sikhs need to use their economic power and bycott the anti-Sikhi products/services being pushed by those who wish to destroy Sikhi. This can be better achieved via strengthening GSC and use of its influence.
- Gurdwaras alone are insufficient to inform world population about Sikhi. Sikhs need to open Museums for public visitation.
- The donation of a machine to the Hospital in Italy, resulted in a big news in the papers and gave a good publicity to Sikhs there.

#### **Currently available Services:**

- The Everythings13 organization is effectively using YouTube media for Sikhi Parchaar in addition to posters, fliers, and leaflets in multiple languages. Everythings13 works with youth and does not get involved with Gurdwara managements as they are generally older folks mainly from India and cooperation from them is a challenge. The organization also have 6 month training courses held in UK for the interested youth. One may visit their website, <http://www.everythings13.org/>, for detail information.

- Sikh Seva Society has been serving the Sikh Panth for last five years. They have published 15 books in Italian Language. These books are available free of cost. Their activities include Dastaar competitions to promote Sikhi image.
- United Sikhs, a worldwide organization, serving Sikh needs in just about all areas, was of great help in the Dastaar case in France. One may visit their website, [unitedsikhs.org/](http://unitedsikhs.org/), for details of their many services.
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#### **Projects in Process:**

- Sikh Community in Kenya is in process of building a Sikh University, 77 Acres of land has already been donated by a Sikh. They need intellectuals with experience in starting up universities. S. Karamjit Singh Thind offered his services.
- NSO UK is working on a project named, "Contributions of Sikhs to save France" especially in WW 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Help is solicited from the Sikh community, especially from France Sikh Community, for this project.
- Sikh Saroop awareness project by American Sikh Council, can be copied by Sikh Community world over. Its major components are free of cost Dastaar tying on the heads of every desiring visitor, sharing Sikhi message when the Dastaar is being tied, and distribution of Sikhi brochures, leaflets, Tri-folds, and other literature.
- Langer week project is a very successful project in ??

#### **Global Sikh Council (GSC):**

- GSC background with start of the thought in 2010, efforts during the first years resulting in the first meeting in Australia and the second one in London UK was shared in details. Basic structure of GSC, how voice of each individual is heard and any dominance by any individual or any one country is avoided. The bottom up structure starting with selection of the Board members and the Executive committee with only one member from each country makes it possible to recruit quality over quantity into the SEVADAR JATHA. The functioning is guided by the message of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib and Sikh Rehat Maryada of 1945. Some of the past decisions including acceptance and propagation of the Nanakshahi Calendar as originally proposed by Pal Singh Purewal with fixed dates for all the Gurpurabs were mentioned. Also shared was the GSC website, [Globalsikhcouncil.org/](http://Globalsikhcouncil.org/), for further details.
- A world wide Sikh organization was needed for a long time and it is nice to know GSC is now in place. Sikhs did not benefit from the Sarbat Khalsa meet in of November 2015 in Amritsar.

- All attendees representing their country's National level Sikh Organizations emphasized the need to strengthen the GSC by recruiting more members and pledged to joined GSC during the meeting.
- Listening to everyone's voice is important for an organization to be successful and GSC has the bottom up structure to achieve that objective.
- GSC has the right bottom up structure and can turn into Sarbat Khalsa with participation of the Sikh community from every country.
- It is important for an organization to have a good Constitution and recruit intellectuals, business people, youth, and passionate workers. For its success GSC must seek out such resources right from now.
- The knowledge, organization, and tools are required to make any project a success. No project can succeed in absence of any of these three parts. Sikh community must set its priorities and address these areas.
- If GSC does not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of the member organizations it will not be able to stop the wrongs activities in the member organizations.
- GSC needs dedicated intellectuals to serve its cause. It is not a part time responsibility.
- GSC has a lot of work cut out for it starting from the education of the Sikhs in Sikhgi and the public in Sikhi image. GSC needs to effectively use the media. Sikhs need to stop running after leadership roles and work towards enhancing the Sikhi image in the world.
- The GSC General Body meetings should be held every six months to expedite the achievement of GSC objectives.
- GSC should function as umbrella organization supporting the efforts of the other organizations that are already in place.


#### Suggested Projects:

- Making Bilingual Sikh Prahcaraks available in Diaspora:
- Gurmukhi learning materials geared towards the youth in diaspora. Taking into account the social and cultural aspects of the country.
- Sikhi Image awareness: Manjit Singh Portugal took the responsibility,
- Use of common Sikhi vocabulary: e.g. Gurdwara in place of Sikh Temple, Dastaar in place of turban. Use of EK OANKAR as Sikh Spiritual symbol and KHANDA as the Khalsa Panth Symbol.
- Propose an influence committee for GSC; GSC Should have fundraising dinners and invite the office bearers and give them respect so the rest of the Sikhs start to give respect to GSC.

Following proposals were adopted by consensus of all the Sikh representatives Present.

- Putting all differences aside, individuals and organizations (political or otherwise) are requested to unite under one banner of *One Granth, One Panth*.
- GSC supports all individuals and organizations who promote the teachings of the Guru Granth Sahibs and the guidance of the 1945 Sikh Rehat Maryada and no other Granth or Scripture.
- GSC Condemns the sacrilegious actions of those responsible for the desecration of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and supports and applauds all those working to bring the perpetrators to justice.
- All individuals and organizations working with anti-Sikhi organizations and its affiliates, against the interests of the Sikhs, should be publically exposed and boycotted.
- GSC voices its concerns over some of the recent politically inspired edicts from the Akal Takht. The GSC believes that the politically appointed office bearers have no right to issues such edicts.
- GSC strongly recommends to the Sikh Community worldwide, the acceptance and use of the Nanakshahi Calendar (1999 version) as originally accepted by SGPC as well.

**GSC adopted following seven projects for persual in the forth coming year:**

- Develop a training programs to train bi-lingual Sikh pracharaks proficient in the language of the country in which they preach, in understanding of the message of Gurbani. S. jagraj Singh Ji UK volunteered to lead the project team.
- Develop Gurmukhi Learning text Books in line with Local and National environments.
- Facilitate inclusion of Gurmukhi language and Sikh Philosophy courses in High school and University curricula all around the World. Also support and facilitate the setting up of a Sikh University in Kenya.
- Strive at the International level to achieve resolution to Sikh issues in France and Belgium. Lord Indarjit Singh Ji volunteered to lead the project with help from S. Gurdial Singh Ji and others.
- Work towards promoting an understanding and awareness of Sikh appearance and identity among World communities.
- Implement use of Nanakshahi Calendar by the Gurdwaras / Sikh organizations world over. S. XXXX of Spain volunteered to lead the project.
- Promote the usage of authentic Sikhi terminology/vocabulary e.g. Gurudwara in place of Sikh Temple, Dastar in place of Turban, use of  as the Sikh faith Spiritual Logo .

**General Body Meeting:**

S. Gurdial Singh Ji thanked all the GSC members for their presence and opened the meeting.

Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Ji thanked S. Gurdial Singh Ji and Bibi Surjit Kaur Ji for their efforts in organizing this meeting and for their hospitality.

S. Gulbarg Singh Ji addressed the current GSC Board members and presented GSC membership applications received from the Sikh Organizations representing Sikh community from following seven countries:

- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Kenya
- Portugal
- Spain
- Switzerland

The current Board members present at the meeting unanimously approved their membership applications and welcomed the new members and their representatives.

**Following resolutions were adopted by the GSC General Body:**

- All deliverables from the GSC sponsored projects, even if produced by another organization, will be first approved by GSC before they are released to the public under GSC name. This applied to the projects accepted at the all hands meeting earlier.  
The resolution was approved unanimously.
- Some members have proposed amendments to the GSC Constitution / By-laws. These proposals can be read at this point however it is essential to share them with all the GSC members and seek their input and approval in next few months. The acceptance will be with consensus.  
The resolution was approved unanimously.
- GSC General Body meeting should be held every six months.  
The suggestion was accepted unanimously.
- Next six monthly GB meeting was proposed to be held on first weekend on September 3-4, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.  
The resolution was accepted unanimously.
- Next annual General Body meeting was proposed to be held on weekend of March 25-26, 2017 in Malaysia.  
The resolution was accepted unanimously.

**Selection of Board Members:** Following fifteen members were selected to serve on the Board by consensus.

In alphabetical order of the first names, they are:

- S. Ajmer Singh Gill, *Australia*
- S. Dalbir Singh, *Italy*
- S. Davinder Singh, *Germany*



- S. Davinder Singh Eari, *Kenya*
- S. Gulbarg Singh, *USA*
- S. Gurdeep Singh Kundan, *Switzerland*
- S. Gurdial Singh, *France*
- S. Gurpreet Singh, *India*
- S. Harcharan Singh, *Malaysia,*
- Sardarni Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh, *United Kingdom*
- S. Labh Singh, *Spain*
- S. Ramesh Singh, *Pakistan*
- S. Pritam Singh Aulakh, *Canada*
- S. Ranjit Singh, *Portugal*
- S. Surender Singh, *Dubai*

**The Board appointed following members to the Executive Committee and the Executive Members accepted the following roles among themselves:**

- President: S. Gulbarg Singh, USA
- Vice President: Lady Kanwaljit Kaur Singh, UK
- Secretary: S. Davinder Singh Eari, Kenya
- Treasurer: S. Dalbir Singh, Italy
- Media & PR: S. Gurdial Singh, France

S. Gurdial Singh JI thanked all the participants and adjourned the meeting.

Submitted for correction by:

Gulbarg Singh.