



**GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL**  
VOICE OF SIKHS WORLDWIDE

# GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL

International Voice of The Sikhs

UK Registered Charity # 1186311

## GLOBAL SIKH COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE 21 JUNE 2023

### SIKH REHAT MARYADA IS PANTHIC APPROVED

#### Action requested against Dr Amarjit Singh Chawla

The Global Sikh Council (GSC) expresses great concern over the attempt by Dr Amarjit Singh Chawla, a former secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), and current Board member, to undermine the validity of the Sikh Rehat Maryada. He absurdly suggests that this Code of Conduct for all Sikhs, ratified and published by the SGPC in 1945, was never finalized. His motive for doing so is to re-edit carefully considered SGPC guidance for the Sikh Panth, to accommodate the anti-Sikh maryada of deras to which he is closely aligned.

The Sikh Panth understands deras, taksals, sant samaj and all sampardayi organizations have never accepted the SRM. The GSC recognizes their stance as their right in accordance with their beliefs. What is totally unacceptable is that Dr Chawla should use his position as a current SGPC Board Member to undermine the integrity of the SRM and attack its legitimacy. He is clearly working against the interests of the Sikh Panth, and we call on Advocate S Harjinder Singh Dhami president SGPC to consider his dismissal.

#### **History and Authenticity of the Sikh Rehat Maryada (SRM) 1945**

- 1) The genesis of the SRM was on 15 March 1927 through the setting up of a sub-committee to mobilise the Panth towards its formulation. Nine years later, on 12 October 1936, the General Meeting of SGPC gave it their approval. It was finally printed and made available for wider circulation on 3 February 1945.
- 2) On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, Gyani Gurbachan Singh Jathedar the Akal Takhat issued a Press Release clarifying:
  - a. The SRM is approved guidance for all Sikhs.
  - b. SGPC is the publisher of the SRM. It is the Maryada of the Sikh Panth.

**Given the controversy that has been created by Dr Chawla in concert with some deras, the GSC calls upon:**

- 1) **THE SIKH PANTH** to remain vigilant and ensure their local Gurdwaras and institutions continue to operate on the principles that are laid out in the SRM.
- 2) **The President SGPC** issue a statement emphasizing that the SRM is the formally approved Guidance for both Sikh individuals and all Sikh Organisations.
- 3) **THE JATHEDAR OF AKAL TAKHAT** to issue a condemnation of the disruptive and anti SRM activities of Dr Chawla and others who have collaborated with him.

Lady Singh, Dr Kanwaljit Kaur  
President

Dr Karminder Singh  
Chair Religious affairs

S Jagir Singh  
Chair Legal Affairs

**President:** Lady Singh (Dr Kanwaljit Kaur OBE)  
Tel: +44 (0) 7716 497376  
Email: kaursingh3@aol.com

**Secretary:** S Harsaran Singh  
Tel: +91 97876 51702  
Email: gscsecretariat9@gmail.com

#### **Member Organizations From:**

Afghanistan Australia Bangladesh Bahrain Belgium Canada Dubai (UAE) France Germany Holland Hong Kong  
India Indonesia Ireland Italy Kenya Malaysia Mauritius Myanmar Nepal New Zealand Pakistan Portugal South Africa  
Spain Switzerland Tanzania Thailand UK Uganda USA