
THE SIKH NETWORK

Connecting & representing Sikhs around the Sikh Manifesto & UK Sikh Survey

Sikh Network survey reveals sharp rise in Anti-Sikh hate across the UK

London – 17 July 2026

The Sikh Network has today published the findings of a nationwide survey revealing a deeply concerning rise in Anti-Sikh hate crimes since **14 May 2026**. The survey examines the period following the commencement of the trial of **Vickrum Digwa** for the murder of **Henry Nowak**.

Completed by **more than 1,000 Sikhs from across the United Kingdom**, the survey paints a troubling picture of growing hostility, fear and declining confidence in policing.

The findings reveal that **40% of respondents have personally experienced or witnessed an Anti-Sikh hate crime** during the survey period, with **more than 500 individual incidents** reported.

Almost **90%** of respondents believe Anti-Sikh hate has increased since mid-May, with **61%** describing the increase as **significant**. More than **two-thirds** believed this rise coincided with politicians publicly and inappropriately questioning the sacred **Kirpan**, creating an environment in which prejudice has become more socially acceptable.

The impact on everyday life has been profound. **53%** of respondents, particularly elderly Sikhs, said they no longer feel safe, while **84%** reported taking additional precautions and **two-thirds** have changed their daily routines.

The survey also provides an insight into the nature of the abuse:

- Nearly **50%** involved verbal abuse during everyday activities.
- Just under **25%** related to online abuse.
- Almost **15%** involved harassment and intimidation.
- Nearly **10%** involved vandalism, physical assaults or grievous bodily harm.

Perhaps most concerning is the lack of confidence in the criminal justice system. Although **60%** of respondents said they know how to report a hate crime, **only 6%** of incidents were reported to the police. **Seven in ten respondents** said they lacked confidence that the police would take Anti-Sikh hate crimes seriously.

A spokesperson for the Sikh Network said:

“These findings should concern everyone. No community should feel less safe because of public discourse surrounding their faith. The overwhelming message from respondents is that Anti-Sikh hate has increased significantly in recent weeks, and many believe irresponsible public commentary has contributed to that climate.”

“Equally worrying is the collapse in confidence in reporting hate crime. When victims believe nothing will happen if they come forward, incidents go unreported and offenders go unchallenged.”

“We urge the Government, police forces and parliamentarians to recognise the seriousness of these findings, engage directly with the Sikh community and take meaningful action to rebuild trust, improve reporting and challenge Anti-Sikh prejudice wherever it occurs.”

Ends

Thankyou

The Sikh Network

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