



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Legal Aid | Disaster Relief | Education

United Nations Affiliated NGO

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Letter From Our Executive Director

Greetings Dear Supporters,

We at UNITED SIKHS would like to extend our warmest greetings to our supporters, colleagues, and friends around the world. 2019 was a momentous year for UNITED SIKHS, and I would like to take the opportunity to share some of our greatest accomplishments that, with your support and God's help, we were able to realize this year.



Through our main legal-aid directorate, ICHRA, we have been able to positively impact nearly a million people by advocating for the fundamental human and civil rights of minority communities. In our global humanitarian aid operation, Sikh Aid, we have served over 5 million victims and survivors of disasters, both natural and man-made. And with our new community empowerment program, CEED, we aim to help create great vibrant, resilient, self-sustaining communities bolstered by educational and training initiatives.

Amazingly, this year we led the effort to achieve one of the biggest victories for the Sikh community in recent memory: the inclusion of Sikhs as a distinct ethnicity in the U.S. 2020 census. For the first time, the Sikh community will not be undercounted, and thus underrepresented, in one of the most important documents of the U.S. government. This was the result of years of patient, hard work on the part of many dedicated activists and conscientious supporters like you.

Our humanitarian and relief work took us all over the world, from the deadly wildfires of California, to the flooded plains of India, to the raging brushfires consuming the Australian forests. In Australia, UNITED SIKHS volunteers were on the ground from the start of the disaster, delivering truckloads of vital foodstuffs, sanitation products, and medical supplies for first responders and people impacted by the fires.



UNITED SIKHS volunteers constantly put themselves in harm's way in order to help others. This year we lost several such incredible volunteers. Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal of Texas was a tireless humanitarian who traveled around the United States to help victims of natural disasters. Likewise, Charanjit Singh was an outspoken activist and long-standing volunteer in United Sikhs in Pakistan. Both of these outstanding servants of humanity lost their lives in senseless acts of hate this year. Rishiwant Singh, another invaluable volunteer, lost his life in a tragic traffic accident near Guru Nanak Ashram.

We will always remember the sterling record of selfless service these figures embodied in their work as humanitarians. They were true models of Guru Nanak's injunction to recognize humanity as one, and to help anyone who needs it, unconditionally. Going forward, UNITED SIKHS will strive to live up to their example in all of the work we do.

Once again, our sincere thanks go out to all our donors and partners for another successful year. UNITED SIKHS is a creation of our community, and we are all in this together, so please consider joining in our work as a volunteer in 2020. I hope to meet you soon.

Sincerely,

Jagdeep Singh

Executive Director, UNITED SIKHS

Who We Are

UNITED SIKHS is a U.N.-affiliated, international non-profit, non-governmental, humanitarian relief, human development and advocacy organization, aimed at empowering those in need, especially disadvantaged and minority communities across the world.

Our Mission

To transform, alleviate, educate and protect the lives of underprivileged individuals and minority communities impacted by disasters, natural or man-made, suffering from hunger, illiteracy, diseases, or from violation of civil and human-rights into informed and vibrant members of society by fostering sustainable programs regardless of color, race, religion or creed.

What We Do

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY (ICHRA)

Over 1 Million Impacted By Sikh Legal Aid
And Representation

ICHRA helps advance the economic, social and spiritual empowerment of minorities and other marginalised groups and individuals in need, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, social status, age or ability. We achieve this by protecting and enforcing the civil and human rights of minorities and marginalized groups in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT (CEED)

More Than 5000 Families Impacted

UNITED SIKHS believes in empowering individuals and groups to help them attain their full potential and become active participants in society. Empowerment occurs largely through education, training and community development projects. UNITED SIKHS aims to encourage people to participate in the decision-making processes in their local community as well as taking their place in the international arena.

SIKH AID: GLOBAL DISASTER RELIEF

Over 5 million people served in more than 35 disaster relief projects around the world

Humanitarian action is intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, as well as to prevent and strengthen emergency preparedness for when such situations occur. The Sikh Aid team provides non-partisan global humanitarian disaster relief services, which not only provide immediate aid, but also long-term rehabilitation help communities and individuals in need. The team also runs year-round projects to help eradicate poverty and works toward creating a healthier and happier world.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY (ICHRA)

UPHOLDING JUSTICE IN THE TRAGIC CASE OF PARMJIT SINGH



PARMJIT SINGH, a member of the community of Tracy, California, was senselessly murdered in an apparent hate crime while on his nightly walk, devastating his family and friends. UNITED SIKHS is legally representing Parmjit's family to ensure the assailant is brought to justice and hate crime charges are pursued by the Department of Justice and FBI to resolve this crime.

UNITED SIKHS SECURE DIGNITY FOR BOY WHO ENDURED ANTI-SIKH BULLYING

After a string of devastating incidents of bullying against a Sikh boy occurred at De Anza High School in Richmond, California, the UNITED SIKHS legal team took on the task of legal representation for the family. The Gill Family's high-school aged son was targeted repeatedly by bullies at his school due to his religious beliefs and articles of faith, including his turban and unshorn hair.



UNITED SIKHS reached out to officials at the school district to call for an apology, bullying prevention plan, and Sikh awareness training for faculty. In response, Superintendent Matt Duffy met with the Gill Family in-person to address the matter and apologize. In addition, Principal Summerlynn Sigler and teachers at De Anza High School underwent Sikh Awareness and Anti-Bullying Training with UNITED SIKHS civil rights advocates.

UNITED SIKHS LEADS SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO OFFICIALLY ADD “SIKHS” TO U.S. CENSUS

For years, the Sikh community has requested that A category under the ethnicity portion of the census be added to recognize Sikhs as a distinct group and establish an accurate count. United Sikhs helped lead a national campaignThe Office of Management of Budget should be prepared to have a separately coded category for Sikh Americans. UNITED SIKHS has received written communication last Census that the coding would be distinct to retrieve the data from the Department of Commerce, Office of Management and Budget, Census Bureau and American Community Survey. This is a critical opportunity to be counted and participate in the democratic process. Get involved by following us on social media to learn how to fill out the census accurately!



CENSUS IS SAFE

What does the CENSUS ask?

- How many people are living or staying at your home
- Their sex, age, race and ethnicity
- Whether your home is owned or rented
- Your home address

The 2020 CENSUS does **NOT** ask about:

- Immigration or citizenship status
- Income
- Social Security Number



Legal Aid | Disaster Relief | Education
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UNITED SIKHS ADVOCATE FOR SHILLONG'S SIKH COMMUNITY IN FORCED RELOCATION CASE



Sikhs across the world were both shocked and concerned when a mob attacked Sikh families and attempted to set a Gurdwara on fire in the city of Shillong, in the Northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya, in the summer of 2018. The incident has so far been unresolved and no formal, criminal charges brought forward.

To address the long-term needs of Shillong residents, the UNITED SIKHS legal team obtained evidence that supports the Sikh community's rights to the disputed land. Under constant duress, residents face threats of petrol bombs hurled at their wood dwellings and believe a government-sanctioned land survey is putting Sikhs at risk of permanently losing their homes. UNITED SIKHS will continue to provide legal representation for the Shillong residents for as long as it takes to secure their right to house and home in their community.

- UNITED SIKHS has also been providing legal representation for victims of hate crimes in the U.S., including Paramjeet Singh and Baljeet Singh
- UNITED SIKHS continues to work on behalf of victims of hate crimes, of which there were 19 committed against Sikh-Americans in 2019
- Mejindarpal Kaur, international Legal Director for UNITED SIKHS, has been leading the first organised campaign for women to do seva at the Harmandir Sahib.



SIKH AID: GLOBAL DISASTER RELIEF

UNITED SIKHS RUSHES AID TO HISTORIC FLOOD SURVIVORS

Through the Sikh Aid program, UNITED SIKHS has been working on rehabilitating the farmers of Panjab that have lost everything they had during the worst flood to hit the region in 2019. UNITED SIKHS has been able to restore 10,000 acres of land in Panjab that was destroyed by the flood waters.



Over 7000 farmers have committed suicide within the last 15 years due to the unbearable financial burden and they have left behind families that have no way of repaying loans, nor any means to earn a livelihood. With your life-saving contributions, you are helping us provide monthly pensions to their widows and children.

CYCLONE FANI RELIEF PROJECT

Cyclone Fani hit the state of Odisha on India's eastern coast on May 3, 2019, leaving several people dead. The strength of the storm has left the region in turmoil. Without the proper protection, the people are in danger to be harmed by fallen trees and debris.



As of today with Guru's grace more than **45,000+** people have been fed by our disaster relief team in India. Our volunteers from USA, Punjab and Bangalore are on the ground and helping save lives.

UNITED SIKHS 'FEED THE HUNGRY' CAMPAIGN BRINGS WINTER SOLACE TO HOMELESS IN LOS ANGELES

Over 50,000 People Served In Los Angeles



In December, UNITED SIKHS volunteers were at the Courtyard shelter to feed several homeless people as part of our 'Feed the Hungry' campaign. These efforts join the existing meal distribution members of the organization provide to more than 1,000 homeless residents every weekend in Los Angeles, Santa Ana, San Francisco and other major cities across the state.

UNITED SIKHS works with Gurdwaras to feed and clothe the needy from all communities around the world. In Los Angeles alone, over 50,000 people have been served nutritious meals through this robust program within the last 4 years.



CALIFORNIA FIRE DISASTER RELIEF

Disaster relief and fresh meals served to hundreds of fire survivors displaced across California

"Feed our First-Responders" Program provides support to dozens of sheriffs and firefighters working 24/7. Collaborating with the American Red Cross, Collette Women's Shelter and local first-responders, UNITED SIKHS donated disaster relief, including clothing and fresh meals, to more than 500+ survivors of recent fires in California.

WATER RELIEF IN UGANDA

UNITED SIKHS came to the aid of Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda by providing a drinking filter for clean water, a basic necessity which the community had been sorely lacking for years. The work goes directly to helping the community achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals on water and basic sanitation.



SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF SIKH IMMIGRANT BOY IN JAPAN: GURSEWAK SINGH

Gursewak Singh was born and raised in Japan in the Matsudo-Chiba prefecture, a quiet suburban town east of Tokyo, after his parents moved to Japan over 20 years ago to escape religious persecution. Now 19 years later he is still identified by the Japanese government as a refugee while repeatedly being denied asylum. Without access to basic needs such as health insurance or a work permit, Gursewak and his parents continue to bear this burden while constantly struggling for justice. UNITED SIKHS pays Gursewak's tuition fees and provides financial assistance to his family.

IN THE FACE OF UNPRECEDENTED WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIAN UNITED SIKHS VOLUNTEERS MOBILIZE TO HELP VICTIMS OF THE CALAMITY

As ferocious bushfires continue to rage across South Australia, the United Sikhs Australia team has mobilized to assist with the relief operation. In a national emergency that has tested the limits of the Australian government and claimed 28 lives, Sikhs are following the basic humanitarian principles of their faith to unconditionally assist those who need it most.



With the help of dedicated volunteers, the United Sikhs organization is assisting with collecting, sorting, packing and delivering the emergency supplies with water bottles, perishable and non-perishable items, household supplies and medical essentials. Volunteers have brought whole trucks full of everyday essentials such as toiletries, diapers, baby food, formula milk, canned food, rice, flour, cooking oil, long life milk, pasta, and cooking oil. United Sikhs also delivered first aid kits for in the New South Wales area to rescue burned animals in rescue shelters.

Community Education, Empowerment, and Development (CEED)

UNITED SIKHS YOUTH ADVOCATES CONVENE ON CAPITOL HILL FOR CHANGE

In commemoration of the United Nations Youth Skills Day observed during the month of July, UNITED SIKHS announced the graduation for the Class of 2019 students of the annual Advocacy and Humanitarian Aid Academy (AHAA). Ten young Sikh Americans from across the nation traveled to Washington, D.C to partake in the annual academy, a week-long engaging experience to learn more about how they can become advocates within their own communities.



CELEBRATING SIKH AWARENESS AT YUBA CITY KIRTAN NAGAR



In observance of Sikh Appreciation and Awareness Month celebrated every November as designated by the state legislature, the global non-profit humanitarian organization UNITED SIKHS commemorated the occasion with a series of special awareness events and acts of selfless service (seva), as guided by the teachings of Guru Nanak Sahib Ji, the founder of the Sikh religion whose 550th birth anniversary was celebrated this year.

CITY OF FREMONT AWARDS SIKHS WITH PROCLAMATION

In recognition of the many contributions of Sikh Americans, the Fremont City Council and Mayor Lily Mei presented a proclamation to UNITED SIKHS Trustee Tejinder Dhama, a former adviser to President Obama, before a crowd of more than 100 local community members. The proclamation was bestowed by the Fremont City Council and Mayor on Nov. 5, which the community observes as the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Sahib Ji, founder of the Sikh religion.

VOLUNTEER PHOTOS

UNITED SIKHS could not carry out the work we do without an expansive network of committed volunteers who make it all possible. Here are some photos of our volunteers in action from 2019.





UNITED SIKHS: The First Sikh-led, United Nations-Affiliated Organization



In 2007, UNITED SIKHS became a UN-affiliated, Department of Public Information non-governmental organization, and is honored to retain this title today. Requirements of maintaining this designation include taking on the responsibility of raising awareness of issues on the UN agenda in local communities, and actively promoting issues of international concern. Through our work as an advocacy, community empowerment, and humanitarian aid organization, we strive to carry out the UN's mission of viewing residents of all nations as equal citizens of the world.

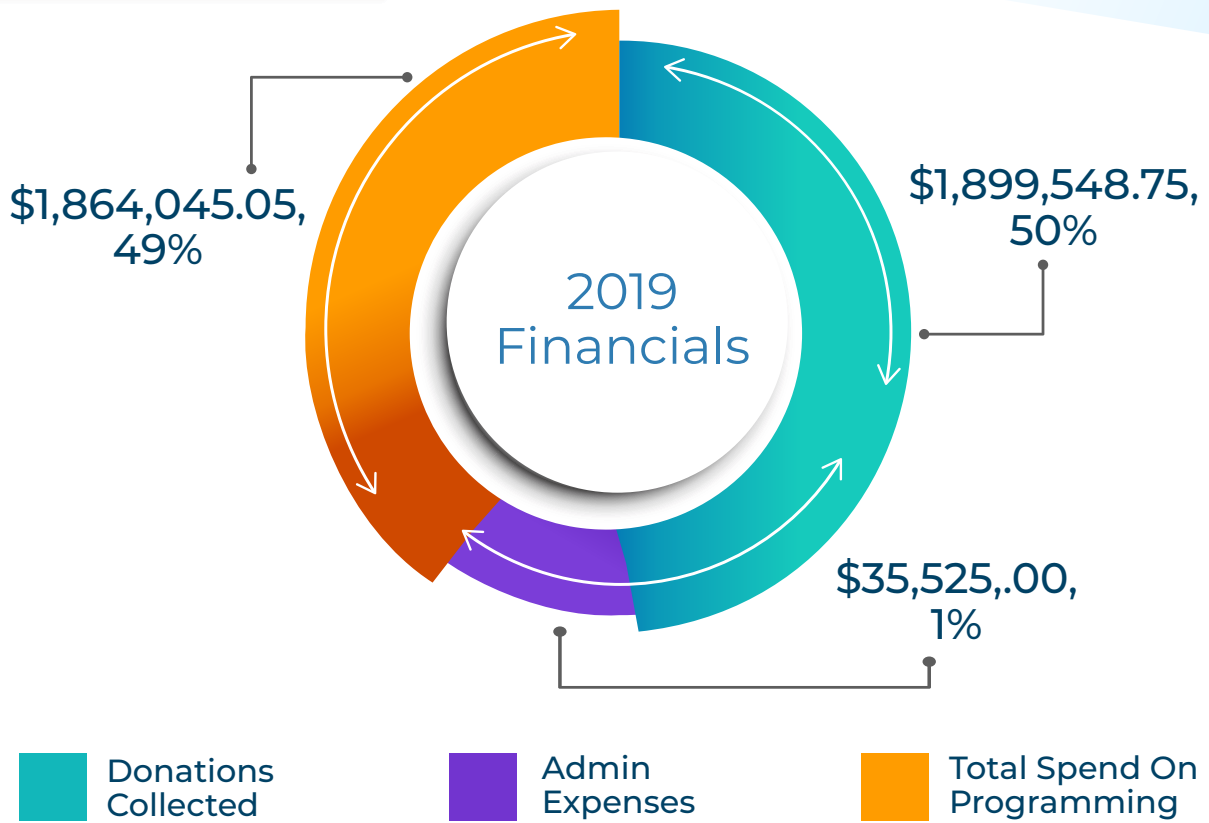
Since then, UNITED SIKHS' accredited representatives have had access to United Nations facilities and to all open meetings of the United Nations bodies, which they can attend as observers. Representatives are also invited to attend the Thursday NGO briefings organized by the Department, featuring United Nations officials, Government delegates and other experts, including NGOs.

Every major relief project UNITED SIKHS initiates works with a UN cluster, and all our humanitarian development work is carried out to advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

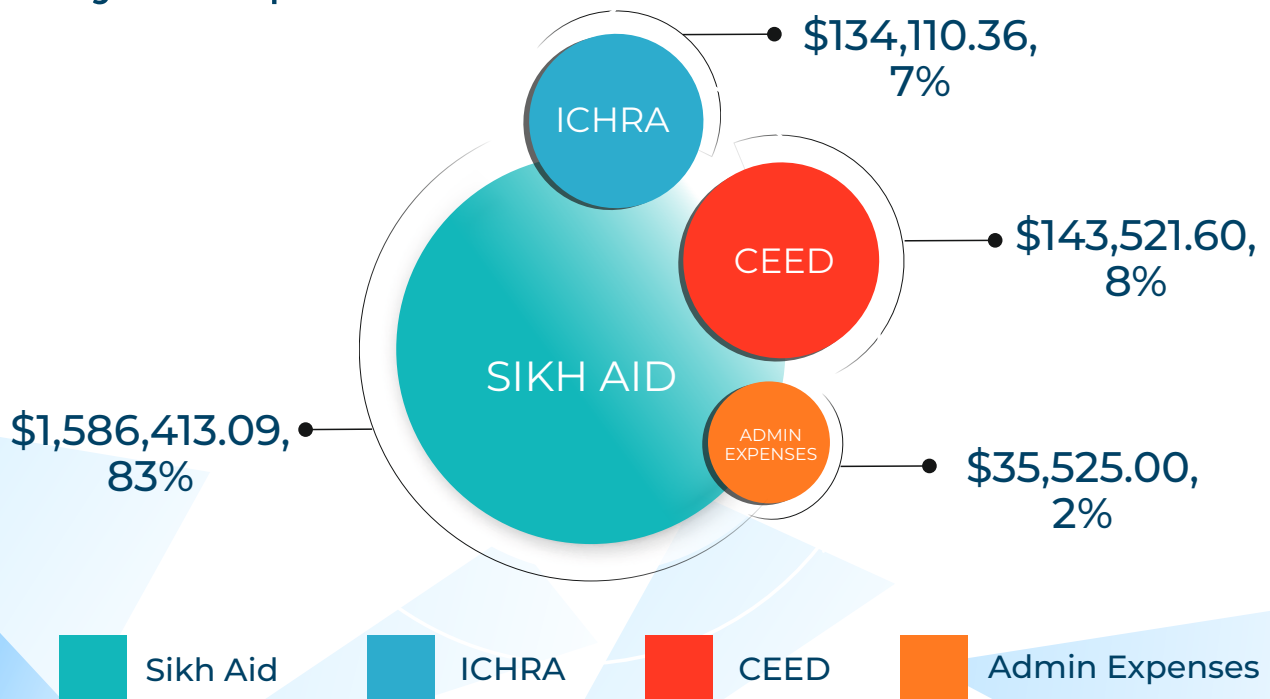
Going forward, UNITED SIKHS looks forward to deepening our relationship with the world's only true international governmental, judicial, and peacekeeping institution to better serve humanity.



FINANCIALS



Project Spend 2019



IN COMMEMORATION: STANDOUT VOLUNTEERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE

In commemoration of International Volunteer's Day, we remember the legacies of our fallen hero volunteers: Charanjit Singh, Rishiwant Singh and Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal. They are forever in our hearts.



CHARANJIT SINGH

Unidentified gunmen fatally shot Charanjit Singh as he was sitting in his grocery shop in Peshawar, Pakistan in May 2018. An outspoken peace activist and long-time volunteer of UNITED SIKHS, Charanjit often led the nagar kirtan in the streets of Peshawar during religious celebrations. Immediately following the crime, our legal team reached out to Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Peshawar Mayor Muhammad Asim Khan, U.S. Consulate, Dept. of State and Commission on International Religious Freedom to call for additional security measures to protect the Sikh community and address the human rights violation.



RISHIWANT SINGH

Last November, Rishiwant (Rishi) Singh tragically died in a traffic collision near Guru Nanak Ashram. He was fatally hit by a truck when he swerved his motorbike to avoid crashing into two children who ran into the street unexpectedly. Even in his final moments on earth, he was thinking of others first. This was also true of all the humanitarian projects he led. Known as "The Flying Singh," Rishi organized many humanitarian missions first-hand, overcoming any obstacle by air, land and sea to reach communities in need. In 2016, he was presented with The Star Golden Hearts Award in recognition of the impact of his humanitarian initiatives.



DEPUTY SANDEEP SINGH DHALIWAL

A 10-year veteran of Harris County Sheriff's Office in Texas, Deputy Dhaliwal served as the Director of Homeland Security for UNITED SIKHS. He was fatally shot while conducting a traffic stop in Sept. 2019. Remembered as a humanitarian who helped provide disaster relief to survivors of Hurricanes Harvey and Maria across the U.S., Deputy Dhaliwal had a vision of helping first-responders who are affected in the line of duty and in urgent need of emergency funds. To achieve this goal and carry on his legacy, UNITED SIKHS established The HERO Fund (Honoring Emergency Response Officers) in his honor.

SPREADING THE UNIVERSAL MESSAGE OF GURU NANAK THROUGH SERVICE

The mission to serve humanity at the core of Sikhism goes back centuries. Three hundred years ago, Bhai Kanhaiya demonstrated the seriousness of this mission by providing water not just to his fellow Sikhs, but even to enemy soldiers on the field of battle. The spirit of selfless service requires unconditional aid for all who need it, regardless of ethnic, religious, national, or racial identity.

Every year brings more challenges and greater demands for our community and for humanity at large. Fortunately, every year UNITED SIKHS grows in our capacities and our pool of extremely talented volunteers. 2020 is an especially critical year, because the U.S. census will be taking place.

Please consider getting joining the Census as a recorder! Ensuring an accurate number of Sikh Americans will provide for better governance, more protections of places of worship, the tracking of hate crimes, the recording of workplace discrimination, and preventing school bullying by having data. Census data also serves as a tool for commercial purposes and it documents our rich Sikh American history dating back to the 1880's in America. Government services, government needs, better policy and legislation for the Sikh American community will be attained if we all work to achieve an accurate count in the Census.

Otherwise, you can get plugged in at your local UNITED SIKHS chapter to get involved in relief and humanitarian work. Please go to:

<https://unitedsikhs.org/contact-us/>

and let us know that you would like to get involved. One of our representatives will be in touch promptly.

Lastly, time is a scarce resource, and it is completely understandable that not everyone has the time and energy to spare for volunteer work. The good news is that you can still help by donating! Simply visit the United Sikhs website and click on "DONATE" in the top right corner of the screen.

It is generous supporters like you that make all of this work possible. We hope that you will get involved more actively, and that our efforts continue to deserve your support going forward.

Reach new heights through service, and join our team to help spread Guru Nanak's universal message of compassion and kindness across the world.

Sincerely,
Jagdeep Singh



CENSUS IS FOR EVERYONE.



By Law: Your information is private and can not be shared.

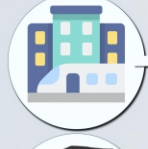
Responding to Census 2020 Will Ensure Our Fair Share of Billions in Funding for:



Schools



Public housing



Infrastructure



Head Start & much more!

Help Make Sure the Sikh Community Gets Everything It Deserves

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc. ↴

Chinese Vietnamese Native Hawaiian

Filipino Korean Samoan

Asian Indian Japanese Chamorro

Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. ↴

Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. ↴

Some other race – Print race or origin, ↴

S I K H

Completing the U.S. Census 2020 Form is Easy:

1. Under Section 9 put a check next to "Some other race - Print race or origin"
2. Write in "SIKH"



For further information please email us at census@unitedsikhs.org

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