

3rd October 2021

Waheguru ji ka Khalsa
Waheguru ji ki Fateh

Dear Khalsa Ji

Gurdwara Sahibs are sacred spaces and built with donations and by efforts of local Sangat.

We are blessed in Britain to have almost every Town or City served by at least one Gurdwara Sahib.

Many of the building are historic whilst others are modern built. A sizeable number of Gurdwara Sahib's have been commemorating their 50th and 60th anniversaries.

Young people often want to have their special occasions blessed at their local Gurdwara Sahib where they have grown up and become part of the wider Sangat family.

There are two developments of concern and we politely request that the management committee support the following positions:

1. The sacred Anand Karaj ceremony which is a blessing / gift should always take place at Gurdwara Sahib. The practice of having it in marquees in grounds of stately homes and similar settings should not be allowed. The Granthi's and Kirtan Jathas should decline to perform the ceremony outside of these settings.

It is important for all of us to work together to connect individuals, couples and families to the Gurdwara Sahibs so that they can be part of the greater community and be blessed in spaces where Gurbani is regularly recited.

2. These are examples periodically emerging of a person of Sikh heritage not receiving the gift of the Anand Karaj ceremony to begin their grihst Jeevan (married life). The reason seems to be either the person has lost faith or not appreciate the need for their wedding to be blessed by Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and the Sangat present on the auspicious occasion.
3. The other reason appears to be reluctance to support their non-Sikh partner in coming into Sikhi. The process is quite simple and guidance is available. From experience where effort is made the non-Sikh partners commits to travel the Sikhi path and goes through the Anand Karaj ceremony.

We urge all Gurdwara Sahib committees to hold interactive workshops and one to one sessions to prepare potential couples for entering the grihst jeevan through the Anand Karaj ceremony.

Every effort should be made to support couples and their families to better prepare for the grihst jeevan underpinned by Sikhi values.

There are example of good practice and support is available.

We humbly apologise if any of the above causes any offence but feel it important for us to continue to act collectively in the greater interest of the Panth.

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Head of Gurdwara Sahib Support Project