



KHALSA CENTRE



95 Upper Tooting Road, London, SW17 7TW Website: www.KhalsaCentre.org.uk
Dining Hall: 020 8767 3196 Office: 020 8672 1226 Email: office@khalsacentre.org.uk
Registered Charity No.: 289347

Under Interim Management by virtue of Charities Act 2011

Message from the Interim Manager

At the Members meeting on Saturday evening, 14th December I explained that I had been appointed Interim Manager of the Khalsa Centre by the Charity Commission essentially in order to determine who were the members, call an election of the Executive Committee of Trustees and hand back management and administration of the charity to the new Trustees. I set out the process leading to that election: completing an accurate Register of Members, the nomination of suitable members for election and the importance of electing Trustees who would work in the interests of the Gurdwara so that it operated for the benefit of the local community and to promote the Sikh faith.

My team and I were saddened on Saturday to see such deep divisions between some members and I have to say that we feel that a few people are spoiling the Gurdwara and its future for everyone. It has come to my attention that some people have been encouraged to object to the process of identifying members. The reason for identifying members is to ensure that the members are adherents to the Sikh faith and not "ghost members" who have no interest in the prayer and community support offered by the Gurdwara so **it is essential for the validity of the whole process that members are properly identified.** For this reason **every** person who wishes to become a member of the Gurdwara **must provide photo ID and proof of their address or *in exceptional circumstances, if no photo ID is available, sufficient paper identification to prove to the ID Checkers who they are.***

It has also been drawn to my attention that some people have been asked to become members and then vote in one way or another. This is not a fair process and, if it is followed, I fear that the result will be that the Gurdwara will continue to be dysfunctional. I must ask in the strongest possible terms that egos and personal interests are put aside and that members should, if they care about the Sikh faith and what The Khalsa Centre is able to do for the local community, nominate people (including ladies and people under 35 as suggested in the Charity's Constitution) who will move the Centre on from the mess it is in at the moment and work for the benefit of all.

If I find further evidence that the election process has been deliberately undermined in the way that has been suggested, I shall in my report to the Charity Commission recommend that the Khalsa Centre is considered for closure as a charity, though I feel that this would be a tragedy for the Sikh Community in Tooting.

I therefore ask of each of you, please:

- 1 If you wish to be a member and entitled to vote but have not yet completed your application form, please do so and send it to Ellen Carey at Stone King LLP – you have until 10am on Tuesday 31st December 2013 to do this.
- 2 To have your identity checked as soon as Ellen Carey confirms receipt of a valid application – the last day for identity checks at the Gurdwara will be Wednesday 8th January 2014.
- 3 To consider whom you would nominate as Trustees (bearing in mind that suggestions in the Constitution that at least 20% of the Trustees should be ladies and that about half should be under 35) – you have until 12 noon on Wednesday 15th January to send Ellen Carey your nomination form.
- 4 That you should come to the Khalsa Centre at 10am on Sunday 16th February with your photo ID (or exceptionally with paper ID if that has been agreed by the ID Checkers) to vote for the candidates who have been nominated.

Michael King
Interim Manager, Khalsa Centre
Stone King LLP, 16 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BS

18th December 2013

ਜੇ ਕੀਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਖੱਤ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਹਿਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤੁਸੀਂ Ellen Carey ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝੋਦਤ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ
EllenCarey@StoneKing.co.uk or 16 St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BS