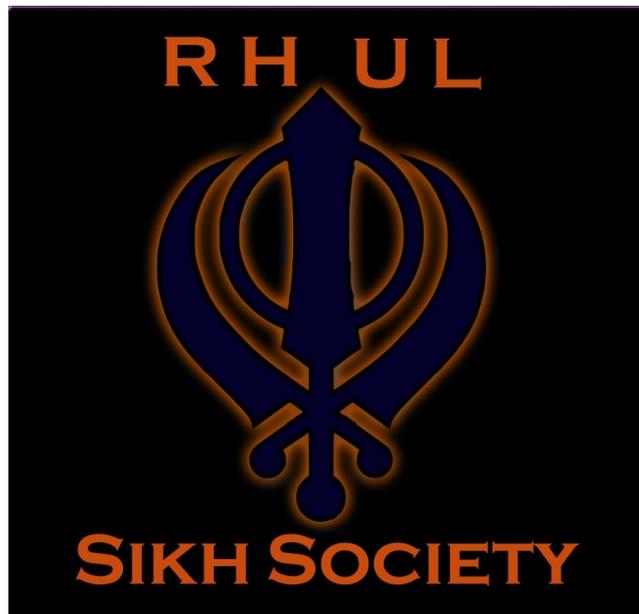


# Royal Holloway University of London Sikh Soc



**Annual Report  
2011-2012**

**The Royal Holloway University of  
London Sikh Society  
promotes activities that appreciate the  
culture, history and ideology  
of the Sikh way of life.**

## **OUR VISION**

*To create awareness of Sikhi within and outside Royal Holloway University and to give Sikh students support during their time here.*

## **OUR VALUES**

Integrity, equality, morality, kindness, persistence, activism, spirituality.

## **OUR AIMS**

To open Sikhi up to both Sikhs and non-Sikhs in the university, increasing awareness and promoting the multi-cultural society we live in today; to provide an opportunity for students to discuss their thoughts and ideas in an open manner free from judgement or bias and voice their ideas freely; and, to build on the work done in previous ways and come up with new and innovative ways of engaging the university population.

## INTRODUCTION

After the hard work done in setting up RHUL Sikh Society in the 2010-2011 year, we were going into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year with high hopes and ambitions.

This was the first time we had a stall at freshers' fayre, which gave us a great opportunity to get our name out there immediately and we had a few sign ups on the day. We then had our first event; the Cha & Samosa welcome party which was very well attended, including many people from positions within the Students' Union.

We also managed to develop a mobile site at the beginning of the year as well as continuing our actual website, unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances and time constraints we weren't able to use these as much as we would have liked too, but they were still valuable tools.

We were also invited to be part of the newly created *Nishaan* group and attended events regularly throughout the academic year, with a strong core of our society members attending regularly. For the first time, we also engaged with international students which was hugely encouraging, giving them a place where they could come and have their concerns listened to and also socialise outside of their classrooms.

Collaborations with other faith societies was a regular occurrence. We were invited by the Islamic Society and Catholic Society to speak and join in with their events, as well as developing a strong relationship with the chaplaincy team within the college. The *Love Holloway, Hate Racism* project was initiated by us and this time we invited other groups and societies to get involved, holding a love music hate racism function night and a very good panel debate with speakers from trade unions, Unite Against Fascism, Sikhs Against the EDL as well as students from the college.

Again we were nominated for various awards at the Students' Union's annual society ball and all though didn't win any this time around, we were spoken very highly of and the hard work of the entire committee and its members was highlighted.

## MEMBERSHIP & OFFICERS

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

All committee members were elected by the society at the end of the previous academic year.

### **SOCIETY OFFICERS**

Amarbeer Singh – President  
Tarandeep Singh Panesar – Secretary  
Manmeet Singh - Treasurer

### **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Number of paid members: 21  
Average attendance for weekly sessions: 14  
Cost of membership: £7

STUDENT SERVICES

## **ACADEMIC STUDIES**

Did not manage to get any done this year.

## **WORKSHOPS**

This year we took a slightly different stance and looked at how Sikh principles can be applied to modern day issues that we face, such as the EDL and also looked at festivals such as Bandi Chorr Divas and Vasakhi. A lecture was also given by one of our own society members, a first for the society.

## **ASSISTANCE**

This year was the first year we had a budget from the SU, allowing us to broaden the type of events we did. We did a huge amount of collaboration work, both inside and outside Royal Holloway. As mentioned earlier, we also managed to engage with international students which was a first and hope to build on this for next year.

## ACTIVITIES

### **SPORT**

We again held our annual charity basketball tournament, doubling last year's total to around £250, collaborating with the RHUL Basketball team and again drawing a very big and diverse crowd. We also had a Love Football, Hate Racism tournament at the end of the year to cap off the Love Holloway, Hate Racism campaign we had run from the beginning of the year.

### **ARTS**

None this year

### **WELL-BEING**

Basketball tournament, lots of charity and volunteering work throughout the year.

## SOCIAL LIFE

### **FRESHERS WEEK**

This was the first time we had a stall at freshers' fayre and this proved very successful as it allowed us to get our name out there immediately and also provided a very good networking opportunity with other societies and clubs.

### **CELEBRATIONS**

This year, after a huge amount of persuasion and a great amount of help from our sabbatical officers, namely Katie Blow, we were able to celebrate Bandi Chorr Divas on campus and also arranged a Gurudwara trip to the local Slough Gurudwara. As there was no official Hindu Society at the time, they asked us for some help and we provided them with support and assistance in setting up and running their event too.

### **EXCURSIONS**

There were many trips held for collaborations as part of Nishaan, as well as social outings to restaurants and other activities.

## CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS

### **MAJOR EVENT**

Our two biggest events were our cross campus events. The first one being the basketball tournament (as previously mentioned) and the Love Holloway, Hate Racism campaign which gathered a huge amount of publicity. Unfortunately we were unable to do another Guru Ka Langar as we did last year due to health and safety issues that had cropped up.

### **ACTIVISM**

With the changes being made in society and the rise of the EDL and the far-right, this was an issue we tackled head on, launching a collaborative campaign and holding different types of events around this, as well as encouraging students to be active not just within the society, but also within their student union.

## COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS

### **MODES**

We setup a website and a mobile site which had been one of our main forms of communication previously, however this year it probably wasn't utilised as effectively. We've also had a facebook page and email mailing list, but most communication to do with events has been done by word of mouth; we found this was the most effective way. We sent out regular emails and facebook messages to our members with details of events and made sure we kept a regular track of our events on the website. We also used the SU to publicise our events and put posters up around campus for our bigger events.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### **WITHIN Royal Holloway University**

Again been a very successful year in terms of engaging with the student population. Awareness of the Sikh Society is always increasing, and we need to make sure this momentum continues in to next year, and beyond.

### **NATIONAL BODY**

Got involved with other London Sikh Socs through *Nishaan*.

### **EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Worked with Save The Children and all proceeds from the basketball tournament went to them. The tournament was sponsored by Domino's Pizza who provided us with prizes. Also other organisations such as trade unions, UAF, SAEDL.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

# SUMMARY

On top of our income from paying members, we were given a budget of £300 by our SU.

Income from memberships: £147

Expenditure: £170

Expenditure used on: Cha & Samosa party, prizes for basketball tournament, subsidized tickets for Societies Ball.

## THE FUTURE

This year built on the successes of last year and increased awareness of the Sikh Society throughout the campus. Although there were things that could have been done better, the entire committee and core members put a huge amount of effort in and I'm very pleased that those members are going to be next year's committee. I'm sure they'll be able to continue to spread the idea of engaging all students and making our events open, accessible and inclusive.

My personal experience within the Sikh society has been great, one where I have been learning all the time. We should definitely use the momentum we have going in to September so we can hit the ground running. In retrospect, it got very difficult to run the society towards the end of second term when deadlines were looming, so my advice for the incoming committee is make sure you are in constant communication with each other, not just for ideas but also support and also be sure to utilise the support available from within the SU as well.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!