

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7100

To direct the Attorney General to establish a task force on anti-Sikh hate and discrimination.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. VALADAO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to establish a task force on anti-Sikh hate and discrimination.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sikh American Anti-
5 Discrimination Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE ON ANTI-**
7 **SIKH HATE AND DISCRIMINATION.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Sikhi is a monotheistic, pragmatic, inde-
10 pendent and sovereign world religion that was

1 founded by Guru Nanak in the 15th century in the
2 Punjab region.

3 (2) Sikhs are commonly identified by the wear-
4 ing of turbans, long beards or mustaches, karas
5 (iron bracelets) on their wrists, or kirpans. Kirpans
6 are mandatory Sikh articles of faith carried by
7 Amritdhari (initiated) Sikhs at all times. The word
8 “kirpan” comes from two Punjabi words: “Kirpa”
9 means an act of kindness, a favor and “Aan” means
10 honor and self-respect. While some Sikhs wear a
11 combination of these items; others may be seen with-
12 out a turban or facial hair.

13 (3) Anti-Sikh hate and discrimination refers to
14 any act, practice, policy, or conduct that denies, re-
15 stricts, or infringes upon the rights of individuals
16 based on their actual or perceived Sikh faith, iden-
17 tity, ancestry, or expression. This includes incidents
18 or crimes targeting Sikhs, individuals perceived to be
19 Sikh, Gurdwaras (Sikh houses of worship), Sikh or-
20 ganizations, and property. It encompasses various
21 forms of violence, threats, and harassment that are
22 primarily motivated by religious or racial hostility,
23 bigotry, hatred, or prejudice against Sikhs.

24 (4) Sikhs have experienced bias-based violence
25 since their arrival in this country more than a cen-

1 tury ago. From the 1907 Bellingham Riots to the
2 surge in hate crimes following the September 11th
3 attacks, Sikhs have experienced targeted violence in
4 the United States for generations. While some in-
5 stances of anti-Sikh violence have been linked to
6 mistaken identity, there are several documented
7 cases where Sikhs have been specifically targeted
8 due to their faith or other aspects of their identities.

9 (5) One of the most violent manifestations of
10 anti-Sikh hate and discrimination in the United
11 States occurred on August 5, 2012, when a white
12 supremacist gunman with neo-Nazi ties carried out
13 a mass shooting at a Gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wis-
14 consin, killing six worshippers and injuring others; a
15 seventh victim later died in 2020 from injuries sus-
16 tained in the attack. This targeted assault, one of
17 the deadliest assaults against a house of worship in
18 the history of the United States, remains a stark ex-
19 ample of the extreme and violent forms anti-Sikh
20 discrimination can take.

21 (6) On August 5, 2025, the Federal Bureau of
22 Investigation (hereinafter known as the “FBI”) re-
23 leased its annual report on hate crime statistics for
24 2024, showing that Sikhs remain the third-most tar-
25 geted religious group in the United States, despite

1 comprising less than one percent of the national
2 population. This disproportionate targeting under-
3 scores both the prevalence and severity of anti-Sikh
4 hate and discrimination nationwide.

5 (7) The true scope of anti-Sikh hate crimes in
6 the United States is likely greater than Federal sta-
7 tistics indicate, as hate crime reporting is not feder-
8 ally mandated and many jurisdictions fail to submit
9 annual data. Highlighting this gap, on November
10 15, 2023, the former Director of the FBI noted in
11 a hearing before the House Homeland Security
12 Committee that hate crimes against the Sikh com-
13 munity, among others, are “chronically under-
14 reported”.

15 (8) On December 12, 2024, the White House
16 released the U.S. National Strategy to Counter
17 Islamophobia, which acknowledges that greater ef-
18 forts at combating anti-Sikh bias and hate must be
19 made to better protect members of the Sikh commu-
20 nity. The strategy emphasized the need for increased
21 awareness, understanding, and action to combat
22 hate speech and discriminatory practices.

23 (9) Hatred and violence targeting the Sikh
24 community in the United States may also originate
25 from, or be supported by, foreign entities and gov-

ernments and can take the form of transnational repression. The FBI has warned the Sikh community about such targeting by foreign governments. This phenomenon was underscored when the Department of Justice indicted two individuals for involvement in the attempted assassination of a Sikh American in 2023. Such developments underline the ongoing and varied forms of hate and violence that Sikhs continue to face.

(10) On June 3, 2025, following the prosecution and conviction of an individual for making violent threats against employees of a Sikh American advocacy group, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet Kaur Dhillon addressed the issue of hateful rhetoric against Sikh Americans and stated, “The Department of Justice has no tolerance for hate-fueled threats of violence in our country.”.

(11) Anti-Sikh hate and discrimination comes in many forms and includes—

(A) physical violence and hate crimes, which can include acts of assault, shooting, vandalism, arson, or other criminal conduct intended to cause bodily injury, death, or destruction of property, where such conduct is directed at Sikh individuals, or Sikh places of worship

1 (Gurdwaras), institutions, properties, or organi-
2 zations;

3 (B) harassment and intimidation, which
4 can include the making of violent threats,
5 verbal abuse, hate speech, or other communica-
6 tions that incite, call for, justify, or promote vi-
7 olence, as well as conduct that places a Sikh in-
8 dividual or organization in reasonable fear of
9 bodily injury or damage to property;

10 (C) stereotyping and vilification, which can
11 include dissemination of false narratives that
12 target Sikhs with a dehumanizing intent, collec-
13 tively blaming or defaming the Sikh people or
14 portraying the Sikh community in ways that
15 normalize prejudice and incite hostility toward
16 Sikh identity and Sikh expression;

17 (D) civil rights violations, which can in-
18 clude the denial of equal treatment, protection,
19 or opportunity in employment, education, or
20 government services, including the adoption or
21 enforcement of policies, rules, or practices that
22 prohibit, restrict, or penalize the wearing of
23 Sikh articles of faith, or otherwise interfere
24 with the free exercise of religion; and

1 (E) transnational repression, which can in-
2 clude acts of harassment, intimidation, surveil-
3 lance, coercion, threats, or violence, directed at
4 United States-based Sikhs, that are conducted
5 by or on behalf of a foreign government.

6 (12) Sikhs in the United States endure per-
7 sistent discrimination, harassment, and violence in
8 their daily lives, facing a unique combination of hate
9 violence, prejudice, religious discrimination, and
10 transnational repression. Addressing this requires a
11 dedicated task force focused specifically on com-
12 bating anti-Sikh hate and discrimination in all its
13 forms.

14 (b) TASK FORCE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the At-
17 torney General shall establish a Task Force on Anti-
18 Sikh Hate and Discrimination (hereinafter known as
19 the “Task Force”).

20 (2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

21 (A) draft a definition of anti-Sikh hate and
22 discrimination for the Department of Justice to
23 assist in prosecutorial decision-making and col-
24 lecting statistics on offenses under section 249
25 of title 18, United States Code; and

1 (B) develop an educational program that
2 may be disseminated to local and Federal law
3 enforcement agencies, elementary schools and
4 secondary schools, and institutions of higher
5 education on Sikh and identifying anti-Sikh
6 hate and discrimination.

7 (3) REPORT.—

8 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Task Force
9 shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary
10 of the House of Representatives and the Senate
11 an annual report including an overview of—

12 (i) hate crimes against a Sikh victim;

13 (ii) any action brought against a per-
14 petrator of a hate crime against a Sikh vic-
15 tim;

16 (iii) any ongoing threats and trends in
17 hate against Sikhs, from transnational re-
18 pression and other sources; and

19 (iv) any efforts undertaken by the De-
20 partment of Justice to combat anti-Sikh
21 hate and discrimination.

22 (B) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—Every five
23 years, the Task Force shall submit to the Com-
24 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives and the Senate a report summa-

1 rizing the annual reports under subparagraph
 2 (A).

3 (4) TRANSLATION.—The Task Force shall
 4 translate any public resources or materials released
 5 by the Task Force into Punjabi.

6 (5) COLLABORATION.—The Task Force shall
 7 meet, on a quarterly basis, to collaborate with mem-
 8 bers of the Sikh community and Sikh organizations.

9 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This Act shall be con-
 10 strued to require the Attorney General to adopt the defini-
 11 tion of anti-Sikh hate and discrimination developed under
 12 subsection (b)(2)(A) for all relevant purposes.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND SECONDARY
 15 SCHOOLS.—The term “elementary schools and sec-
 16 ondary schools” shall have the meaning given such
 17 term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 18 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19 (2) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
 20 The term “institutions of higher education” shall
 21 have the meaning given such term in section 101 of
 22 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 23 1001).

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