

## National Sikh Holocaust and Shaheedi Memorial

### Preamble

Sikhism is a life affirming religion with a staunch belief in one loving non judgmental God who can be experienced without any intermediaries or rituals. Through its practice one achieves a state of mind (avastha) called Chardi Kala. In this state one learns to cheerfully accept the will of God and to reframe all situations in the positive. Thus Sikhism and Sikhs never accept victim hood.

Sikhism's non acceptance of the prevailing belief systems and corrupt practices has meant that since the time of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, there have been attempts to suppress their views, oppress their institutions and to persecute practicing individuals. In fact, even Guru Nanak Dev Ji was imprisoned by the Mogul Babur. In spite of all attempts to subvert the very belief system of the Sikhs and to eradicate them they continue to flourish as a global community. Sadly, there are simply not enough memorials to commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of the Sikhs then Khalsa.

This memorial will be built on a secure, central and accessible site in Derby . It is a modest attempt to create a legacy for the future generations. We very much hope there will be many more with innovative and inspiring designs.



## Design Concept

### **Six Black Pillars**

1. Largely due their beliefs and for political reasons, there have been at least six attempts in History to completely eradicate the Sikhs or for the losses to be so great that the community simply could not recover from it. The design is to create a traditional Punjabi Chattri style structure but with Six pillars. Each of the pillars will signify the holocaust attempt and on each pillar key episodes in that attempt will be highlighted. The Chattri will be made of black stone and will be a memorial to the countless victims of this genocide whose only crime was that they were Sikhs. The Middle of the chattri will consist of a water feature.

### **Five White Pillars**

2. The Sikhs have a strong martyrdom tradition. Thousands of Sikhs have willingly and cheerfully endured unspeakable hardship and defeated the fear of death during their campaigns for justice, rights and freedom. Their sacrifices are celebrated; This Chattri will be of white stone and have five pillars. Each pillar signifies one of the five K`'s -the articles of faith and thus the faith for which sacrifices were made. In the centre of the chattri will also be a water feature and there will be a Ek Onkar sign (one god sign) on this memorial to signify the Khalsa`s absolute unflinching faith in just one God in whose will the sacrifice ultimately takes place.

### **Khalsa Raj**

3. In spite of all historical events and circumstances the spirit of the Khalsa remains invincible. The Khalsa has shown that it simply cannot be defeated and even through death they are victorious. A huge Gateway (Fateh Darwazah) or Victory Gateway symbolizes the ultimate victory of the Khalsa. The top of the gateway will have a Khanda -the symbol of the Khalsa. On top of the Gateway will be 3 steel arrows signifying Khalsa Raj 1, 2 and 3. These Raj`s resulted from the persecutions. The 4th Raj remains an aspiration.

### **Fateh Darwazah- 8 Steps**

4. Through the Fateh Darwazah, one will be able to see 8 steps rising to a pedestal with a Khanda Batta on it. There will be water flowing along the side of the steps. The eight steps represent the 8 times in history when Sri Harmandir Sahib Ji has been invaded by regimes. They show that after each invasion, the glory of Sri Harmandir Sahib Ji has risen and that the ultimate Fateh (victory) as individuals or as a Qaum is secured through taking Amrit and being a Khalsa of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. It depicts the walking through the Gates of Victory by taking Amrit -the life goal of every Sikh. It boldly states that all our victories leading to present day existence are due to countless Sikhs having walked through the Fateh Darwaza and being an Amritdhari. The pedestal will have an Ek Onkar sign and an empty slot for the 4th steel arrow-the 4th Khalsa Raj. The message being that the fateh leading to the 4th Khalsa Raj will be attained through resolute belief in only one God, Bani of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and Amrit of the Khanda Batta.

The whole of the monument complex will be on a raised platform and it will be over one storey high. The intention is for Sangat to touch and glorify with joy. It will tell a story and inspire.

## **Cost**

Without the land cost it is expected to cost in the region of £125k. It will be built through Kar Sewa and Kirat Kamai by all Sikhs.

***Pleased donate generously for future generations***

## **Other Developments Include:**

Within this complex in order to support the National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum, a new Khalsa Gallery will be created which will house display space, cinema and a theatre. A special memorial will be dedicated to the Sikhs who through service in the armed forces have developed the reputation of the Khalsa as being a noble and fearless warrior. They were and are a Portrait of Courage. This memorial design is currently under consideration and will be placed inside the Museum in the Khalsa Gallery.

A new Punjabi School, study centre, youth club, martial arts/yoga and fitness gym and a swimming pool are due to be built in Phase 3 of the scheme.

For further details and donations please visit our website: [www.nationalsikhmuseum.com](http://www.nationalsikhmuseum.com)

Cheques payable to: **National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum**

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