

SS Gurmeet Kaur Khalsa
Española, NM, USA
Candidate Statement



Personal Information

Name:	S.S. Gurumeet Kaur Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Española, New Mexico USA
Name of Spouse:	N/A
Occupation:	Consultant, Teacher, Assistant to the Bhai Sahiba
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	51 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	42 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	Level One (Grandfathered) Certified June 6, 2000 Level Two Certified December 4, 2009 Professional Level Teacher Trainer Certified August 31, 2009
Ashram Communities lived in:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Rafael, California 1969 – 1970 • Los Angeles, California 1970 – 1972, 1992 – 1994 • Pomona, California 1971 (few months) • Houston, Texas 1972 – 1974 • Espanola, New Mexico 1974 – 1988, 1997 – present • Albuquerque, New Mexico 1988 –1992, 1994 –1997
3HO/Sikh Dharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashram Secretary, San Rafael, CA

Community Positions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence Secretary to the Siri Singh Sahib, Los Angeles, CA • Ashram Secretary, Houston TX • Personal Assistant to the Siri Singh Sahib. Espanola, NM • Secretary of Intelligence to the Siri Singh Sahib, Espanola, NM • Member of the Siri Singh Sahib’s Bodyguard team, Espanola, NM and Los Angeles, CA • Assistant to the Bhai Sahiba, Espanola and Albuquerque, NM and Los Angeles, CA
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Questionnaire

1. Why do you feel called to serve on the SSSC Board?

At this stage in my life, I have more quality time and a strong commitment to be involved at this level of responsibility. The time required is important and I welcome this opportunity to serve the legacy of the Siri Singh Sahib. I will support transitioning youth and global diversity into future leadership positions, while striving to build consensus to merge the legacy and lineage of the Siri Singh Sahib, and by Guru’s grace, to support resolution of the situation with the Siri Singh Sahib’s family, so long overdue.

2. What relevant areas of experience and expertise qualify you for this position and will make you an asset to the board?

I was fortunate to have learned directly from the Siri Singh Sahib in positions to which he appointed me and have gratefully benefited from his guidance. From 1969 when he visited us in San Rafael, California where I helped start one of our first ashrams, to serving as the Siri Singh Sahib’s Correspondence Secretary and as a member of his household in Los Angeles and Espanola. I was his Personal Assistant and Secretary of Intelligence in Espanola and served as one of his bodyguards. I worked in Akal Security as a member of the business development team that helped to grow Akal, and for many years, the Siri Singh Sahib personally guided our work in his role as Chief Management Authority (CMA). In 1972, the Siri Singh Sahib asked that I promise to always stand by his wife and help take care of his children. He reminded me of this whenever he observed that I was faltering in this duty. I began serving as Bibiji’s assistant in 1972 and have continued to the present. This was primarily a seva position until 2014, when it became a contract employee position under Sikh Dharma International.

In 2004, prior to his passing, the Siri Singh Sahib directed me to work with Bibiji on a project that she was starting to provide stress relief technology to First Responders. In 2006, Bibiji founded *Create Inner Peace* to serve the needs of First Responders and asked me to serve as program Director. Working in conjunction with the Office of the Governor under then-Governor Bill Richardson and under a contract with the State of New Mexico Office of Emergency Management, Bibiji installed the program at Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) as an accredited course, during which time we both served as a members of the Baccalaureate Degree Committee in the Nursing

Department at the College. *Create Inner Peace* is based on the teachings of Kundalini Yoga as taught by Yogi Bajan. <https://www.createinnerpeace.com/> Since 2006, as the Program Director, I have continued to offer the course at NNMC and will advocate for developing more programs through our educational institutions, which are excellent vehicles for spreading the technology of Kundalini Yoga.

3. Please summarize your prior and current service to the Dharma. If you have served in leadership positions, please note them.

- Minister of Divinity of Sikh Dharma International for 42 years.
- Kundalini Yoga Teacher for 45 years.
- Professional Level Teacher Trainer for 12 years.
- Assistant to the Bhai Sahiba for 48 years.
- Director of Create Inner Peace for 14 years.
- Member of Bodyguard team to the Siri Singh Sahib, Espanola, NM, Los Angeles, CA.
- Personal Assistant and Secretary of Intelligence to the Siri Singh Sahib, Espanola, NM.
- Correspondence Secretary to the Siri Singh Sahib, Los Angeles, CA.
- Ashram Secretary, San Rafael, CA and Houston, TX.

4. Please describe your experience of the Siri Singh Sahib as a teacher and your experience of his teachings.

As my teacher, he grilled me, drilled me, healed me, and never gave up on me. My experience of his teachings was challenging and enlightening, grueling, daunting, and ultimately always uplifting. In sharing his teachings, I have been the most blessed to have experienced and observed firsthand how healing these teachings are to everyone.

a) Please describe how your personal sadhana and spiritual discipline support you to keep up.

Sadhana is my lifeline, daily anchor, my savior, my hope, my pain and agony and my joy. I believe in group sadhana and only do personal sadhana out of necessity when I am traveling; yet it is still with our group mind and the angels, so it is not really ever personal, from my perspective.

5. Please describe what the Siri Singh Sahib's saying means to you: "If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all." In practical terms:

In other words, I seek out, embrace, and listen to those who have different perspectives to my own. I strive to view the other person as myself so that I can expand my understanding, compassion and common ground in every conflict encountered. I seek opportunities to learn to expand my knowledge and listen deeply within myself, while slowing my breath and feeling my heartbeat to embrace that which is unknown to me. I strongly believe that nothing is outside me and that everything is within, knowing that healing the world begins with healing myself.

a) How would you apply this saying in your day to day service on the board?

I would deeply listen, embrace, surround, and contain. While applying the 5 sutras I would set forth the goal of finding common ground and strive to build consensus.

b) How would you apply this perspective to help our community and organizations move forward together?

I would propose that the SSSC initiate online discussion board forums based on “many-to-many” rather than “one-to-many” communications, as we have now.

6. What do you understand the Role of the SSSC to be?

The role of the SSSC—to the best of our ability—is to act in the consciousness of the Siri Singh Sahib, in our individual and combined group consciousness. While the Siri Singh Sahib lived during the end of the Piscean Age, primarily as a patriarchal and authoritarian leader, he strived to prepare us to lead in a council system in the Aquarian Age. In 1984 he asked all ashrams to transition from having a patriarchal leader to a council system of leadership, and before his passing, he created a council system of leadership to enable us to guide our future.

While it has been a bumpy journey toward getting to where we are now and not perfect, the Aquarian Age of information demands that we continue to evolve our system of council leadership—especially communications management—to effectively serve our future generations and create environments that generate growth and prosperity. In my experience as his Correspondence Secretary, the Siri Singh Sahib emphasized the importance of responding to every letter, every call, every note, every gift, and every card. In the early days before the Internet, before computers, before email, the Siri Singh Sahib sent personalized responses on his personal letterhead to everyone who called him or wrote to him, and he imparted dignity, inclusivity and respect in his communications to everyone. He constantly asked his students and everyone to write to him, and in the very beginning he even gave out his phone number at Guru Ram Das Ashram in Los Angeles. He would often personally answer the phone to speak with his students. **He listened to everyone, and he responded to everyone.** Communications management was hugely important to him. In our role as the SSSC, I believe we need to be strongly focused on enhancing and improving thoughtful communications management among our global Sangat.

a) How do you see the SSSC carrying out that role on a Practical level?

On a practical level, the SSSC can continue the Siri Singh Sahib’s legacy of listening to everyone by expanding communications reach and management, inclusive of modern forms of electronic communications. To be relevant and impactful in contemporary society, the SSSC can lead the way toward bridging and strengthening our relationships among our global Sangat by developing opportunities to share

information and perspectives on discussion board forums in a many-to-many format. Establishing this level of transparency can impart values of good will and hospitality that can only lead to vibrant and inclusive growth and prosperity. This can be effectively done while including checks and balances that assure honoring the integrity of confidentiality of the SSSC on matters where it is essential. The SSSC role would be to spearhead and oversee the effort to be carried on by the Khalsa Council and non-profits as discussion board facilitators. Out of necessity, during our *Siblings of Destiny* era, we utilized a simplified many-to-many communications format. Currently, some members of KRI are using a many-to-many communications model called Sutra to develop an updated version of *The Aquarian Teacher* level one manual. This type of process will develop organically in our communities, even without the SSSC's leadership. To best serve this inevitable process as the most effective leaders, the SSSC can get in front of the process now and initiate developing and providing platforms for many-to-many discussion board forums.

b) How do you see the SSSC carrying out that role on a Spiritual level

On a spiritual level, the SSSC is challenged to take an active role in interfaith work, as well as to continue to develop relationships with India and our worldwide Indian Sikh community. Spirituality pervades across religious and cultural boundaries and finding common ground in service with other spiritual organizations—Sikh and non-Sikh—brings greater service and visibility and education about Sikhs to the most people.

7. As an SSSC Trustee you are accountable to the Sangat.

a) Describe how you would like to build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC?

I would endeavor to demonstrate to our Sangat that the SSSC wants to know their concerns and ideas, their challenges, their plans and solutions, their visions, their hopes and dreams for the future. To more effectively reach underserved areas, I believe that the use of online discussion forums could play an effective role toward building upon inclusivity of those who would otherwise not have an opportunity to contribute. This initiative could begin with sending out surveys to solicit and compile issues and concerns that are most important to the Sangat. Participants would be required to provide relevant identification and agree to communication policies and practices that form a respectful online setting. As an instrument for healthy growth, the SSSC could follow-up by creating many-to-many discussion board forums by topic. It would be important to collaborate with the Khalsa Council and non-profits so that the Ministers in the various sections of the Khalsa Council the non-profits can facilitate forum topics corresponding to their areas. This will also enhance the Khalsa Council's ability to be relevant, in touch with their Sangat members needs, and enable using Khalsa Council meetings to collaborate in developing solutions to those needs. Our relationship to the Sangat can be further enhanced through motivating Sangat members to contribute financially to programs, which will happen naturally as they experience participating and being a part of developing them in discussion forums.

b) Describe how you will personally deal with the pressure of accountability while maintaining your spirit of service?

When there is pressure to deliver, my experience is that the third sutra works wonders: Start and the pressure will be off.

c) Describe how you traditionally respond in a crisis or high-tension situation?

By God's grace, meditation has become a habit and I am able to be calm and focused in a crisis. I breathe, strive to understand with compassion, vibrate the cosmos.

8. The SSSC practices inclusion, transparency, and accountability.

a) What experience do you have incorporating these practices into your personal and professional life?

b) How would you incorporate them into our Organizations?

- a) Create Inner Peace actively solicits feedback from our students and other teachers in our program. I believe in utilizing our group mind to grow and evolve, while enhancing the experience of participating and contributing by our students and teachers.
- b) Through expanding our communications management as the SSSC, I believe we can more effectively utilize our group mind, while enhancing inclusion, transparency, and accountability.

9. How do you see the 3HO/Sikh Dharma family of Nonprofit and For-profit organizations serving humanity in these times?

a) What do you see as the three (3) greatest challenges facing the Dharma (Sikh Dharma-3HO and the family of For-profit and Nonprofit entities)? What would you do as a Trustee to overcome these challenges?

- 1) Build the legacy to become known for our service worldwide.
- 2) Evolve the legacy—in the consciousness of the Siri Singh Sahib—to bring youth and diversity and lineage into the primary leadership of the legacy and merge the legacy and the lineage as one.
- 3) Create transparency through opportunities for our global Sangat to participate in forums to illuminate issues and contribute to developing solutions.

b) What skills, tools, and techniques can you bring to the SSSC Board of Trustees to help us move toward the vision you described above?

I will bring the qualities I strived to develop and practice while the Siri Singh Sahib was living, and since his passing, continue to practice in service to our Sangat, the Office of the Bhai Sahiba and Create Inner Peace. I will bring commitment, clarity, neutrality,

strength and patience to work for the best interests of our greater community.

10. Board service regularly requires 10 to 20 hours per month (or more) in evening and weekend board and committee meetings. These meetings are generally held at 8:00 pm Eastern time (20:00 hours). In addition, there are three Face-to-Face meetings per year (two in New Mexico following the International Khalsa Council Meetings (end of April and end of September) and a third in January or February in Los Angeles or one of our Ashram communities). The Face-to-Face meetings are two days in April and September and three days in January/February. *Note: One day of each Face-to-Face meeting period is always on Monday.*

a. Can you fulfill these requirements?

Yes.

b. If so, how will you balance these requirements with your other personal and professional responsibilities?

As a consultant, yoga teacher, and Assistant to the Bhai Sahiba, I am fortunate to have flexibility in scheduling my work. I will accommodate the meetings of the SSSC Board, as needed.

c. What do you anticipate being the most difficult part of serving as a Trustee on the SSSC Board?

Striving to achieve consensus in decisionmaking.

11. Are you related by blood or marriage to an officer, director, employee, or paid contractor of any of the constituent organizations (nonprofit or for-profit) including all subsidiaries?

a. If yes, to whom are you related, how are you related to them, and what is their position?

No.