

# SS Gurujot Kaur Khalsa

## Herndon, VA, USA

### Candidate Statement



#### Personal Information

Name:	Gurujot Kaur Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Herndon, VA
Name of Spouse:	Satwant Singh Khalsa
Occupation:	Secretary General/CEO, Sikh Dharma International & International Khalsa Council
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	50 years (since 1970)
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	46 years (since 1974)
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	Yes. Level I, Grandfathered-in in 2003
Ashram Communities lived in:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffalo, NY (1970 - 1971);</li> <li>• Washington DC/Herndon, VA - (1971 - Present)</li> </ul>
3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3HO/SD Ashram/Regional Secretary - 1972 - 1979</li> <li>• Ordained as a Minister - 1974</li> <li>• Member of the Khalsa Council - 1978 to present</li> <li>• Ashram Co-director-1980 until Council system began in 2002</li> <li>• Director of Khalsa Women's Training</li> </ul>

	<p>Camp – 1987 – 1994 (7 yrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of SD of Virginia Administrative Council – 2002 - Present</li> <li>• Member of Board of Directors of Sikh Dharma of Virginia – 2003 - 2009</li> <li>• Member of Board of Directors of 3HO of Virginia – 1975 – 2010</li> <li>• Chief Facilitator of Khalsa Council – 2000 - 2009</li> <li>• Secretary General/CEO of Sikh Dharma International – 2009 – Present</li> <li>• Member of Siri Singh Sahib Corp. Board of Directors: 2012 - Present</li> </ul>
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**Questionnaire**

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

I have served on the Siri Singh Sahib Corp Board for the past 8 years, and it has been a great blessing to serve our Dharmic family and the legacy of our beloved teacher. I have a sincere love for our community, and a heartfelt commitment to carrying on the legacy of the Siri Singh Sahib’s teachings. I feel a deep sense of duty to continue to assist in creating a stable foundation of leadership and structure that will serve our Dharma for generations to come.

The Siri Singh Sahib Corp, as a leadership body for our Dharma, is still in its formative stage. While much progress has been made over the past 8 years, we are still very much in the process of developing the systems and processes for how, as a collective Dharma, we all work together; how the SSSC can best support the non-profits and for profits, how we can support our Sangat members and communities around the world, and how we can serve humanity now and in the future.

I feel called to continue doing this divine work. By the Grace of God and Guru, and if it is the will of the Sangat, I would be honored to continue serving as a member of this Board.

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

During the past 8 years serving on the SSSC board, I believe I have been a valuable member and asset to the board. The following are some of the qualities, skills and experience that I offer in service to our Dharma:

- Trustworthiness - To me, the greatest quality that I look for in potential members of the SSSC board is trustworthiness. I hope that my service to our Dharma and to the Sangat over the past years has proven my trustworthiness, integrity and constancy in serving the mission of the Siri Singh Sahib.
- Love of our Dharma and the Sangat – I have a deep love for our Dharma and our Dharmic family. I am very dedicated to serving our Dharma, and to building community and unity.
- Compassion and Caring – I believe that treating people with compassion, kindness and respect is essential to being a leader and a giver.
- Organizational skills – I have extensive organizational and administrative experience, including: strategic planning, prioritizing duties, delegating responsibilities, follow-up of tasks, and delivering outcomes
- Problem-solving – I am experienced in tackling difficult problems and finding solutions.
- Team building and community building – I have extensive experience in working with the Sangat, creating avenues of participation and inclusion, building spirit, building trust, and organizing teams to work on various issues of concern.
- Communication skills – I recognize the importance of on-going communication, keeping the Sangat informed of the activities of the Board and receiving input from the Sangat.
- Facilitation skills – I have experience with neutrally dealing with sensitive issues and finding the place of agreement within divergent perspectives.

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

- 3HO/SD Ashram/Regional Secretary – 1972 – 1979
- Ordained as a Minister - 1974
- Member of the Khalsa Council – 1978 to present
- Ashram Co-director–1980 until Council system began in 2002
- Director of Khalsa Women’s Training Camp – 1987 – 1994 (7 yrs.)
- Member of SD of Virginia Administrative Council – 2002 - Present
- Member of Board of Directors of Sikh Dharma of Virginia – 2003 - 2009
- Member of Board of Directors of 3HO of Virginia – 1975 – 2010
- Chief Facilitator of Khalsa Council – 2000 – 2009

- Level I Kundalini Yoga Teacher – Grandfathered-in in 2003
- Secretary General / CEO of Sikh Dharma International and the International Khalsa Council – 2009 – Present
  - During the years of 2009 – 2012, as the Secretary General of SDI, I was an active leader in the legal effort to regain control of the Dharma. During those years we established Sikh Dharma Worldwide and the Siblings of Destiny to carry on the work of the Siri Singh Sahib and to keep our Sangat united and informed.
  - Following our legal victory, from 2012 until the present, I have been an active leader in rebuilding Sikh Dharma International and the International Khalsa Council, rebuilding trust and healing the spirit of our Dharmic community, and promoting the collaboration and unity of all of our legacy organizations.
- Member of Siri Singh Sahib Corp. Board of Directors: 2012 – 2020
  - I was elected to the SSSC Board in 2012 and re-elected in 2015.

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

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

My relationship with the Siri Singh Sahib is one of inexpressible gratitude. As my spiritual teacher, he has guided every aspect of my life. He brought me to the feet of the Guru and showed me a path to fulfillment and grace. He awakened my consciousness, he opened my heart and he touched my soul. Through his teachings, he continues to bring light, hope and inspiration to the world. It is my blessing to serve him through living his teachings and carrying on his mission.

a) My spiritual discipline and my relationship with the Guru and the Guru's bani are my touchstone, and bring me inner guidance, direction, and the spirit to keep up! Bana, Bani, Simran and Seva have been my spiritual foundation for the past 50 years. I love that through my Bana, I can represent to the world the image of a graceful and noble woman. The Bani of the Guru opens my heart and fills me with bliss. I love singing and listening to the divine music of the Guru's word. I am grateful for the practice of Simran (meditation) and the technology to experience the infinity of my soul. And I am so grateful to live a life of Seva and to be able to serve a higher purpose. I am blessed that every day, through my work for Sikh Dharma, I can dedicate my work to the Guru, and serve and share our sacred dharmic teachings with the world.

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:

- a) How would you apply this saying in your day to day service on the board?
- b) How would apply this perspective to help our community and organizations move forward together?

This beautiful saying of the Siri Singh Sahib is a universal and simple truth that God lives in each of us, and to truly experience God, one must see and recognize the God in each person; the Infinity in each person, the Divinity in each person. We are all One and we are all God.

- a) The SSSC board is a large board of 17 people. There are many opinions and perspectives on any issue or topic. To function effectively, we must remember to recognize the God in each other, listen with a neutral mind, appreciate the diversity of perspectives, and respect the wisdom that flows through each person. When we can truly do that, we are functioning at the level that is required of the Siri Singh Sahib Corp, and we can reach a collective and elevated decision and take action.
- b) As a spiritual family, let's choose to see the God in each other. Let's lift each other up and build our foundation on trust, respect and love.

6. What do you understand the Role of the SSSC to be? How do you see the SSSC carrying out that role on a:

- a) Practical level
- b) Spiritual level

My understanding of the role of the Siri Singh Sahib Corp is to serve and safeguard the legacy of the Siri Singh Sahib's mission. It is to protect and preserve the teachings, the values and the assets of our Dharma. It is to support the non-profit and for-profit entities that carry on the mission of the Siri Singh Sahib. It is to listen to, serve, support and elevate the Sangat and the communities around the world. And it is the sacred duty of each member to embody these teachings and values to the best of their ability, exemplifying trustworthiness, integrity, compassion and service.

- a) On a practical level, I feel that the SSSC needs to keep a broad vision of our Dharma to insure that our non-profit entities are serving the mission of the Siri Singh Sahib, that our communities around the globe are thriving, that our businesses are growing and expanding, and that as a united Dharmic family, we are serving and uplifting people.

- b) On a spiritual level, I envision the SSSC board to be a body of inspirational leadership, exemplifying the values and virtues of our Dharma, and promoting unity and support throughout our dharmic entities and our global Sangat.

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

- a) How you would like to build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC?
- b) How you will personally deal with the pressure of accountability while maintaining your spirit of service?
- c) How do you traditionally respond in a crisis or high tension situation?

- a) As SSSC members, we are accountable to the Sangat to be trustworthy and to act in the purity of our consciousness for the growth and betterment of the Dharma.

To build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC, it's essential that the SSSC fosters communication and interaction with the members of the Sangat. We must listen, and strive to understand the needs and challenges of our global community, and offer leadership, support and service. Being present at our Dharmic events, such as Solstices, Yoga Festivals and Khalsa Council meetings is very important. As a board, we should discuss additional ways we can interact and strengthen our relationship with the global Sangat.

- b) We are blessed to serve the legacy of the Siri Singh Sahib and the Guru's mission. As long as we do it with the purity of our heart, with integrity and grace, we are fulfilling our duty to the Sangat and to God and Guru. Keep up and you will be kept up!
- c) In a crisis or high-tension situation, it is my nature to be a leader, and to assess how I can be of greatest service in the situation. In a crisis I become very centered, focused and alert. I call on Guru Ram Das for support, and I go into action mode. Depending on the situation, I am comfortable taking a leadership role, and I can mobilize and organize teams of people to deal with the situation, or I am comfortable playing a supporting role, if there is sufficient leadership to deal with the situation already in place.

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

- a) What experience do you have incorporating these practices into your personal and professional life, and
- b) How would you incorporate them into our Organizations?

- a) Since the formation of the SSSC board, we have all been educated about the good governance practices of inclusion, transparency and accountability. Through my experience as a member of the Siri Singh Sahib Corp, and also working for a legacy non-profit, I have seen the growing need to incorporate all of these practices to build and maintain trust and connection with our Sangat.
- b) I believe all of our organizations are making great strides in incorporating these practices into their way of operating. We have truly become a global organization with tremendous growth from all around the world. It's essential that our organizations are open and inclusive, and welcoming of diversity and varying perspectives. In my work with the International Khalsa Council, we encourage dialogue about current issues, problems and concerns within our Dharma, in a safe environment for honest and open communication.

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?
- 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?

The Siri Singh Sahib was a man of great vision and he dedicated his life to serving and uplifting humanity. The body of teachings of Kundalini Yoga he brought to the world, and the sacred Sikh teachings he introduced to the Western mind have the ability to lift the spirit and elevate the consciousness. He taught everyone to see God in All and to relate to the divinity of their soul. The non-profit organizations he created are continuing to uplift and inspire people through our yogic and dharmic technology, and they bring hope and inspiration to people around the globe. Our businesses fund the work of our non-profits and provide financial support for spreading the mission of the Siri Singh Sahib, and job opportunities for our youth.

- a) The three greatest challenges/focuses I see are:

1. Leadership Transition and Succession Planning - Inspiring the next generations to step into the leadership of the Dharma. Connecting with the next generations and providing them opportunities for growth and leadership.
2. Developing a long-term vision and strategic plan for our Dharma that supports and insures the continuance of our Dharmic mission and values. Promoting unity and collaboration among our entities to successfully continue serving our collective mission; providing financial stability for the future; Inspiring our youth and taking care of our aging population.
3. Being known for our Service – The Siri Singh Sahib gave us the hukam to be known for our service. Developing a strategic plan for coordinating our service around the world.

b) I have a deep love for our Dharma and our Dharmic family. I am very dedicated to serving our Dharma, to building community, and to building spirit and trust. I believe that acting with integrity and grace, and treating people with compassion, kindness and respect is essential to our service on the SSSC Board and will build trust and unity. The Siri Singh Sahib's last words to us were to "Live for each other".

We need to reach out our next generations, as they are our future. I am very committed to finding ways to engage our next generations in our leadership.

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?
- b. If so how will you balance these requirements with your other personal and professional responsibilities?
- c. What do you anticipate being the most difficult part of serving as a Trustee on the SSSC Board?

a) Yes, I can fulfill these requirements, and have been consistently doing so for the past 8 years. Serving on this board is a blessing and a duty to our

Sangat and to our beloved teacher. It is my priority to always attend the board meetings and to fully participate in all ways.

- b) I have been serving as the Secretary General/CEO of Sikh Dharma International since 2009, so I am very immersed in serving the legacy of the Siri Singh Sahib. I believe this has been a complimentary relationship to my service on the SSSC board. I am whole-heartedly dedicated to the mission and service of our non-profit and for profit organizations.
- c) From my years of serving as an SSSC board member, I think the most difficult part for me is seeing how much is needed to truly provide leadership and support to all of the legacy organizations and our global Sangat, and not yet feeling that we have the structure and processes in place in order to serve those needs. I do believe we are making progress, but there is still much work to be done to serve the future of our Dharma.

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?

I am married to Satwant Singh Khalsa, who is serving as the Executive Director of the Siri Singh Sahib Corporation.