



## Public Statement on the Sikh Gurdwara attack in Derby

The Leicester Council of Faiths, which brings together faith leaders and representatives from the various faith communities of Leicester and Leicestershire, condemn the attack that took place on the Guru Arjan Dev Gurdwara in Derby earlier in the week.

Places of worship are sanctuaries and Gurdwaras across the country like this one, having been playing an exemplary role in supporting communities with daily Langar and food distribution services to all members of the community. It beggars belief that a person motivated by hatred or for political reasons has the tenacity to target the community-serving Gurdwara. We condemn this anti-Sikh hatred and we ask the Police to address the concerns of the Sikh Community in Derby to investigate the attack fully and treat it as a terrorist attack.

Faith communities across the country have pulled together in a spirit of unity during this unprecedented pandemic and it is encouraging to see that the statement from the Derby Sikh Community recognises that this attack doesn't reflect on the whole Muslim community. Equally, Muslim community leaders and leaders of other faith communities have come out in condemnation of the attack and have stood shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with the Sikh community. We should not let this attack be used to promote any division among us and we remain stronger united around the principles of our faith.

In Leicester and Leicestershire, we stand in solidarity with the Sikh community and we assure them we see an attack on their places of worship as an attack on us all. We continue to stand with the Sikh Community and to salute their wonderful and voluntary service (Seva) to humanity at this difficult time.

Fayyaz Suleman  
Chair  
Leicester Council of Faiths