

Sikhism is all Embracing: Says Tarlochan Singh, MP

Former Chairman of the National Minorities Commission and Member, Rajya Sabha, Sr Tarlochan Singh deplored the fact that both the Punjab government and the SGPC wanted to "narrow the ambit of Sikhism for their vested interests of controlling admissions to educational institutions by characterising them as minority institutions."

Sr. Tarlochan Singh was reacting in February to an appeal filed by the Punjab government and the SGPC before the Supreme Court against the judgment of the Punjab and Haryana High Court saying the Sikhs were not a minority community in Punjab.

Sr. Tarlochan Singh said by denying voting rights to the sehajdhari Sikhs in the SGPC elections, the community had already 'shown the door' to Sindhi Sikhs and members of the Udaasi sect. Sikhism was all inclusive.

By saying the Radhsoamis, Namdharis and followers of Baba Dyalji were not part of the Sikh community, the community was being narrowed down further.

He said vested interests were narrowing the broad concept of the faith founded by Guru Nanak merely to ensure admission to education institutions. Not long ago the SGPC used to claim that the Sikhs in the world number over two crore. But the new stance of the SGPC would reduce the population of the Sikhs to mere 50 lakh. This would create a grave crisis for the community at the world level in future.

Tarlochan Singh argued that Arya Samaj and the Sanatan Dharma had conflicting principles, but both were designated as Hindus. Similarly, Catholics and Protestants and Shias and Sunnis followed different principles, but remained Christians and Muslims, respectively. It was unfortunate that leaders of the Sikh community were not willing to accept members of various Sikh sects as Sikhs.

[Courtesy: *The Tribune*]

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UK School okays Sikh girl's kada

A Sikh student of Indian origin, Sarika Singh, 14, who had been suspended and banned from attending her school Aberdare Girls Comprehensive School in Aberdare south Wales since November, 2007 for refusing to take off her iron bangle, *kada*, has now been allowed to attend another school, pending a court ruling.

[Courtesy: *Hindustan Times*]

