

4<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## FIRST SIKH ELECTED TO LABOUR PARTY NEC

*Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh*

Sikh Assembly congratulate our esteemed colleague, Sardar Gurinder Singh Josan CBE, on his historic election to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Labour Party today.

Gurinder topped the poll with over 57,000 votes from Labour members in the by-election, which took place alongside the election for the new Leader and Deputy Leader of the party.

Gurinder's election victory is an unprecedented historical achievement, being the first Sikh elected to Labour's NEC. The NEC is the highest decision-making body of the Labour Party. He is the first Sikh to sit on the national executive body of any of the leading political parties in the United Kingdom.

Gurinder Singh is well known and respected in the Sikh community. He is a founder member and vice-chair of the *Sikhs for Labour* group within the Labour Party and has a long track record in politics. This stems from campaigning against racism as a student to working with the trade unions, the police and national health bodies. In 2019 he was awarded the CBE in recognition for his contribution to politics.

**Paramjit Kaur Matharu, CEO of Sikh Assembly**, was very inspired by the latest news,

*"We are delighted for Gurinder Singh and congratulate him on his well-deserved and historic achievement on becoming the first Sikh elected onto the Labour Party NEC.*

*Gurinder is a long-standing and passionate campaigner for equality issues and increased political participation of Sikhs in British politics. We wish him every success with this new and vital role."*

**Jagtar Singh Gill, a Sikh Assembly Trustee**, added,

*"We are very proud of Gurinder Singh's outstanding achievement and recognise the wider significance for the Sikh community. He has shown what is achievable with focus and perseverance.*

*We also congratulate Sir Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner, for their election triumphs as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and look forward to engaging with them in the months and years ahead."*

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