

Fact Sheet on Violence and Discrimination Against Sikhs and Other Minority Communities in New York City

HATE CRIMES AND ANTI-SIKH BIAS

- Sikhs continue to experience a high volume of hate crimes. In the last twelve months alone, a Sikh professor was **assaulted in Harlem**; a Sikh pedestrian had his **turban forcibly removed near Wall Street**; a Sikh business owner was **run over and dragged under a truck in Queens**; and a Sikh doctor was **assaulted on Roosevelt Island**.
- According to a 2009 Sikh Coalition report, 41 percent of Sikhs surveyed in New York City had been called derogatory names, such as “Osama bin Laden” or “terrorist.” According to the same report, **9 percent of Sikh adults have been physically assaulted since 9/11** because of their religious identity.

SCHOOL BULLYING

- According to a 2013 report by the Sikh Coalition and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), 50 percent of Asian American youth surveyed have experienced bias-based bullying and harassment.
- A 2009 Sikh Coalition report found that **60 percent of turbaned Sikh youth had experienced verbal and physical assaults in their schools**.

JOB DISCRIMINATION

- The **NYPD bans turbaned Sikhs from serving as police officers**. On the other hand, turbaned Sikhs are allowed to serve as police officers in major cities throughout the world, including Washington, DC, London, and Toronto. Turbaned Sikhs also serve with distinction in the U.S. Army.

RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING

- According to a 2012 joint report coordinated by South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), 73 percent of New Yorkers of South Asian origin have been questioned by law enforcement officers about their national origin; 66 percent have been questioned about their religious affiliation; and 85 percent have been questioned about their immigration status.