Hate Crime Prevention Tips for Sikh Taxi & Rideshare Drivers

With the rise of attacks motivated by hate, we urge all Sikh taxi and rideshare drivers to exercise caution. If you believe someone committed a crime against you or your property because you are Sikh or because of your identity/background, it may be a hate crime. For support, please call the Sikh Coalition at 212-655-3095 or visit www.sikhcoalition.org/legalhelp

Be aware & alert at all times. Do the following as long as regulations permit:
- Keep windows rolled up so no one can reach in.
- Keep doors locked unless a passenger is getting in or out.
- Avoid picking up passengers that are intoxicated, aggressive, threatening, or otherwise make you uncomfortable.
- Avoid seating single passengers in the front of the vehicle or directly behind you.
- Greet, smile and look at your passengers so that you can identify them later, if need be.
- Do not start driving until you confirm a specific destination with the passenger.

In case of unruly passengers or an attack
1. Activate emergency signals or buttons.
2. Turn on cameras if not already on.
3. Ask passengers to exit the vehicle immediately.
4. Notice & memorize as many details as possible about your passengers to share with emergency officials.
5. Get to a safe location and call 911 immediately (please be aware that law enforcement should not ask you about your immigration status and in the event that they do, you have the right to not answer this question).
6. Notify your company of the incident and your location. Ask the company to preserve all communications and passenger details. If you are able to, save passenger information onto your phone (take screenshots).
7. Notify the Sikh Coalition by calling 212-655-3095 or visit www.sikhcoalition.org/legalhelp

Always:
- Know your company’s emergency procedures.
- Have cameras and convex mirrors installed and working.
- Before every shift, check that your vehicle, cell phone and emergency buttons are working.
- Carry a spare vehicle key on you at all times.

Your safety and security is a priority for you, your family, and us.

Need additional support?
Contact your company, driver’s union, or the Sikh Coalition.
The Sikh Coalition is available as a free legal resource to advise you of your rights, navigate the criminal justice system and push for hate crime investigations and prosecutions where appropriate. If possible, please contact the Sikh Coalition before speaking to the media. Releasing certain information publicly could be harmful to a criminal case.