



Mid-Year Impact Report 2026



THE
SIKHCOALITION

Since early 2025, Sikh and Punjabi truckers have faced a wave of new federal and state rules that put their livelihoods, and their rights, at risk. The Sikh Coalition has met this moment on every front—including in Washington, DC, in the courts, and on the road.

In September of 2025, the Trump Administration issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) stripping many immigrants of the ability to obtain or renew non-domiciled commercial driver's licenses (CDLs)—**a policy aimed at removing roughly 194,000 drivers from the workforce**, regardless of their safety record.

We opposed this rule from day one by:

- Mobilizing the sangat to submit public comments against the rule;
- Filing an amicus brief, alongside Asian Law Caucus and partner organizations, in support of *Lujan v. FMCSA*, a lawsuit challenging the IFR;
- Holding 'Know Your Rights' clinics at gurdwaras in California, Indiana, and New Jersey to meet truckers where they are; and
- Launching a Punjabi-language trucker helpline, which has fielded 375 calls to date from drivers facing discrimination.

In November of 2025, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay of the IFR, putting it on hold and allowing all non-domiciled CDL holders to keep working. That relief was temporary: **the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued a Final Rule in February 2026**, which took effect March 16, 2026, and has the same devastating consequences. Our allies at Public Citizen have since filed a new suit, *Lujan v. FMCSA II*, which we supported with another amicus brief. We continue to monitor the case closely and keep the sangat informed as it moves forward.

In the meantime, **we are also working to engage Congress on truckers' rights**. A piece of legislation currently being considered in the House, "Dalilah's Law," claims to target undocumented drivers but would impose the same CDL ban on legal immigrants as the IFR and Final Rule mentioned above. The Sikh Coalition has met with numerous offices in the House and Senate about this bill, as well as briefed House Democratic Leadership, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. We also continue to encourage sangat to act via our free advocacy tool at thesikh.co/dalilah-law.

State Focus: California

In December of 2025, **the Sikh Coalition, Asian Law Caucus, and pro bono partners sued the California Department of Motor Vehicles over its plan to cancel the CDLs of roughly 20,000 immigrant truck drivers who are legally authorized to work in the United States**—a plan we argued violated state law. Our efforts pushed the cancellation date from January 5 to March 6, 2026, buying critical time for truckers and their families. While the court ultimately allowed the cancellation to proceed, our litigation secured two meaningful wins: Roughly 7,000 drivers ultimately didn't have their licenses cancelled when the DMV confirmed their paperwork was valid, and the DMV was ordered to offer a clear reapplication process for many other affected drivers.

Holding ICE and DHS Accountable

The Sikh community is one of many being swept up by federal immigration agents in unlawful stops, arrests, and detentions. In response, the Sikh Coalition continues to advocate for urgent oversight of and accountability for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

To be clear, aggressive immigration enforcement directly harms our communities: Gurdwaras are now potentially subject to immigration raids, and individuals like Bibi Harjit Kaur have been treated horrifically by our government. Moreover, federal agents are increasingly using violent tactics, resulting in a record number of deaths in custody and brutal killings—including of both citizens and migrants around the country.

In the Courtroom

As we take on more *habeas corpus* legal work, **we are filing challenges on behalf of Sikh detainees** and fighting to return them to their families.

In June, one of our *habeas* petitions successfully secured the release of a Sikh trucker who had been detained by ICE at a truck weigh-station and separated from his wife and infant child. We continue this legal work on behalf of two other clients.

In the Community

We also continue to provide **immigration resources in English and Punjabi** for the U.S.-based Sikh community. In June, we released our new Immigrant Family Preparedness Guide.



SCAN FOR THE
ENGLISH GUIDE



SCAN FOR THE
PUNJABI GUIDE

“**In a time of increasingly aggressive immigration enforcement, thorough preparation can help families make informed decisions before a crisis occurs.”**

—AASEES KAUR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



In the Halls of Congress

Federal agents' ability to threaten the safety of individuals and communities without any accountability is unacceptable. **We continue to push Congress to pass legislation like the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act and the VISIBLE Act**, which will impose measured, common-sense limits on federal agents.

Additionally, the Sikh Coalition and 40+ partner organizations sent a letter to Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon urging the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division to investigate the killings of American citizens by federal immigration officers and work to ensure oversight of immigration enforcement activities.

Creating Safer and Inclusive Classrooms

Ensuring Sikhi is accurately taught in public schools helps create safe and inclusive classrooms for Sikh students. Thanks to advocacy by the Sikh Coalition and sangats across the country, more than 28 million students nationwide now have the opportunity to learn about Sikhi in their classrooms.

In February, **Iowa became the 21st state** to add Sikhi into their social studies standards. The Sikh Coalition engaged the Iowa Department of Education beginning in the fall of 2025 with curriculum resources; thanks to our advocacy, the new standards include Sikhi in seventh grade modern world history!

Later, in June, **the Texas State Board of Education finalized social studies standards that maintain Sikh inclusion** (first achieved in 2010). However, we remain concerned about other aspects of the standards; the Board removed diverse cultural and religious observances, including Vaisakhi, from the new version, and Texas continues to focus on inserting Christianity and the Bible into educational content. Emphasizing one faith tradition does not provide students with a balanced understanding of the world around them. The Sikh Coalition will continue our education work in Texas to implement quality educational materials about Sikhs into the curriculum.



Textbooks Updated in Michigan

At the end of 2025, a Sikh high school student in Michigan reached out to the Sikh Coalition to share his frustration of how Sikhi was covered in his AP World History textbook. The textbook incorrectly described Sikhi as a blend of Hinduism and Islam, and offered little detail on other aspects of the Sikh faith and history.

Thanks to a young sangat member's outreach, the Sikh Coalition and textbook publisher Perfection Learning have successfully ensured the accurate representation of Sikhi in the textbook, *AMSCO Advanced Placement World History Modern [1200-Present]*.

New Resources

In collaboration with Dr. Harpreet Kaur Dhir, we created a new unit of study around *The Valiant: Jaswant Singh Khralra by Gurmeet Kaur*. The unit of study is appropriate for grades 6 - 12.

We also partnered with the Localized History Project at the Asian American / Asian Research Institute (City University of New York) to develop an educator's guide and exhibit, "Post-9/11 Surveillance of South Asian and Muslim Communities in New York City, for K-12 classrooms."



Safeguarding Civil Rights Nationwide

In June, the tragic murder of Henry Nowak in the United Kingdom provoked **a wave of hostility towards Sikhs and our civil rights**, including the right to maintain the kirpan. Notably, this animosity came from not just trolls online, but extremely influential media and government figures—including the Vice President of the United States. The Sikh Coalition recognized this as part of a larger pattern of sustained attacks against our community over the past year and a half, and moved quickly to support our community through a kirpan rights webinar, the sharing of numerous kirpan resources, a national virtual kirtan, engagement with gurdwaras about safety, a private briefing for Sikh elected officials, and more.

While our community has faced many attacks, we have also seen moments of progress. In May, **Dr. Gunisha Kaur was appointed to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY). Our organization was glad to put forth Dr. Kaur for consideration and to advocate for her appointment with allies on Capitol Hill.

Sikh Coalition Impact

January

Our staff spoke at the North American Sikh Medical and Dental Association's annual conference on policies and innovation impacting Sikhs.

February

Community Development Director Aasees Kaur participated in the latest cohort of Interfaith America's 'Vote is Sacred' Fellowship.

March

Senior Federal Policy Manager Mannirmal Kaur spoke on a panel at a leadership summit in Washington, DC. Titled "State of AAPI," the panel discussed the policy challenges facing Asian American Pacific Islander communities.

April

Community Development Director Aasees Kaur and State Policy Manager Gurvir Singh Sidhu visited Indiana gurdwaras to talk to truckers about harmful new federal and state policies.

May

Senior Education Manager Savleen Singh co-facilitated a professional development session for 45 teachers, exploring how to engage diverse student audiences and use resources like our lesson plans in their classrooms.

June

Senior State Policy Manager Puneet Kaur organized a series of meetings at the California state capitol for Sikh college students to speak directly with legislators.

July

Our attorneys attended the Notre Dame Religious Liberty Summit and participated in conversations on the future of religious liberty in the United States and around the world.

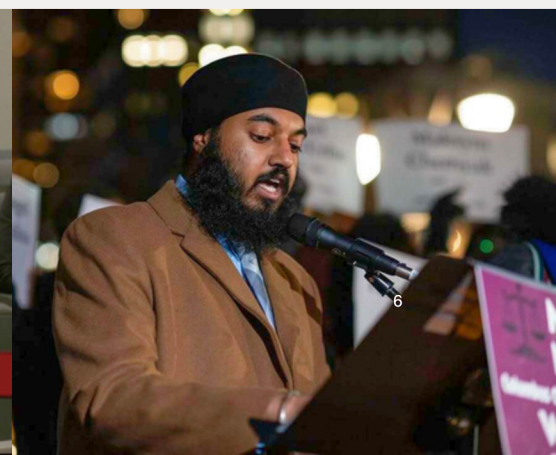
The fight for Sikh civil rights doesn't pause at mid-year—and neither do we. Here's where the Sikh Coalition is focused as we head into the second half of 2026.

This summer, the Sikh Coalition unveiled the first cohort of Takht: The Sikh Political Leadership Training Program. Our cohort comes from across the country and shares one key conviction: that Sikh voices belong at every table where decisions are made. Beginning in October, Takht participants will work through a curriculum on campaign management, fundraising, electoral strategy, power mapping, the legislative process, public communications, and community organizing.

In August, the Sikh Coalition will partner with Interfaith America for a Sikh-specific roundtable discussion and evening public panel discussion on religious liberty and pluralism in Houston, TX. This event kicks off our organization's efforts to mark the **25th anniversary of September 11th, September 15th, and the founding of the Sikh Coalition**; it will be followed by additional events virtually and across the nation, including our participation in the Revolutionary Love Project's efforts to commemorate Balbir Singh Sodhi's life and legacy. We will share more information about these and other efforts in the weeks ahead.

As we move into the fall, our **GOTV—"Get Out The Vote"**—efforts for the November midterm elections are already underway. The Sikh Coalition has already launched a GOTV Center where sangat members can check their voter registration and learn about deadlines and candidates in their local elections; we've also published a Sikh-specific voter 'know your rights' document with key information about immigration concerns at the polls. Over the coming weeks, we'll be releasing additional resources to boost Sikh civic engagement, as well as empowering GOTV Fellows and sevadaars across the country to engage their sangats.

Finally, in November, the Sikh Coalition will attend the **47th annual Yuba City Nagar Kirtan** to distribute legal and education resources to the sangat. We will also continue to host activities for children that include arts activities and book readings. Be sure to visit our booth!



Join Us in Protecting Sikh Rights for Generations

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Questions? Send us an e-mail at donations@sikhcoalition.org

