

Candidate Statement

Please email this statement to SSSC_Election@armaninoLLP.com by midnight Pacific Time on Friday, August 26, 2022. Please include a recent photo of yourself to be displayed to voters.

Instructions

1. Please respond to each question individually in the boxes provided.
2. Please answer each individual question. A general narrative/essay/story/letter will not be accepted.
3. Armanino will review your statement. If your statement is found to contain incomplete and/or inappropriate content, you will be asked to remove, revise, or update the content. "Inappropriate content" includes, but is not limited to, derogatory and/or inflammatory statements.
4. Several of the questions are identical to those asked of Candidates in previous elections. If you also submitted a statement in a different election, it is permissible to reuse your previous answers to those particular questions.

Personal Information

Name:	Gurutej Singh Khalsa
City & State/Country:	Singapore, Singapore
Email:	commander108@gmail.com
Name of Spouse:	Priya Balchandani
Occupation:	Writer
Length of Participation in 3HO/Sikh Dharma:	52 years
Length of time as an Ordained Minister of Sikh Dharma:	50 years
Are you a KRI certified teacher or trainer? If so, what is your certification level and when did you acquire your certification?	Level I
Ashram Communities lived in:	Espanola, LA, Atlanta,

3HO/Sikh Dharma Community Positions:	SSSC, EWTC Board, KIIT Board, Founder of Akal Security
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Questionnaire

1. Why do you feel called to serve on the SSSC Board?

I have always been in a position of service to this mission. It has been my life's work.

2. What relevant areas of experience and expertise qualify you for this position and will make you an asset to the board?

I am the Founder of Akal Security, I was close with Siri Singh Sahib and learned from him personally and directly. I have been spreading the teachings both of Kundalini Yoga and the teachings of the Sikhs for 52 years.

3. Please summarize your prior and current service to the Dharma. If you have served in leadership positions please note them.

I have served on the SSSC for two terms. I have been teaching Kundalini Yoga and the teachings of the Sikhs globally since 1970. I have written 3 books about the teachings. I have taught and been actively involved with MPA and the education program for many years.

4. Please describe your experience of the Siri Singh Sahib as a teacher and your experience of his teachings.

I was fortunate to have been close with him as a personal body guard and aide. I traveled the world with him. I am the only man who did his night duty. He trusted me extensively. He personally taught me several kriyas that he did not teach in his regular classes, which I've practiced extensively. He called on me frequently to act on his behalf. He was real and lived his own teachings.

5. Please describe what the Siri Singh Sahib's saying means to you: "If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all." In practical terms:

- a) How would you apply this saying in your day to day service on the board?
- b) How would apply this perspective to help our community and organizations move forward together?

- a) That is what drives the my interest in serving on this Board. God is in all and as a Board member it is my responsibility to to serve the God in all through the mission of the SSSC.
- b) As a leader of the organization I have always tried to live by those words.

6. What do you understand the Role of the SSSC to be? How do you see the SSSC carrying out that role on a:

- a) Practical level
- b) Spiritual level

The mission of the SSSC is big and I feel that one of the limitations of the Board is that we have been too USA centric. We have to extend our reach globally as we are a global organization with growing global presence. I believe the essence of the teachings is far reaching and is beneficial to all. We need to be more service oriented and extend to things like global langar programs and emergency relief services. I also believe that deeper understanding of the sacred teachings and the word of the Siri Guru Granth Sahib is instrumental to carrying out that role.

7. As an SSSC Trustee you are accountable to the Sangat.

- a) How would you build and enhance the relationship between the Sangat and the SSSC?
- b) The SSSC is part of a close knit community. Given that board members are likely to have strong connections to that community, explain how you will be able to adhere to the SSSC confidentiality policies that apply to board members?

Communication is the key and how this Board communicates, both within the Board itself and with the sangat at large needs to be improved. Also meetings need to be more efficient and the structure and processes of the Board need revision. I have always upheld the confidentiality policies. The breeches in confidentiality have been very troubling to me.

I have always adhered to the confidentiality policies and will continue to do so.

8. The SSSC strives to practice diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- a) What experience do you have incorporating these practices into your personal and professional life?
- b) How would you incorporate them into our Organizations?
- c) How will you advance the organizational goals of diversity, equity and inclusion?

- a) As the Founder of Akal Security, as a global teacher, and as having lived overseas in international environments, having taught in all over the world, I feel I have a comprehensive sense of the need for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- b) Outreach, education, improved communication
- c) By voting in favor of those motions and initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

9. How do you see the 3HO/Sikh Dharma family of Nonprofit and For-profit organizations serving humanity in these times?

- a) What do you see as the three (3) greatest challenges facing the Sikh Dharma/3HO Community and the family of For-profit and Nonprofit entities?
- b) What would you do as a Trustee to overcome these challenges?
- c) What skills, tools, and techniques will you bring to the SSSC Board of Trustees to help it move toward the vision you described above?

I believe the three greatest challenges facing the organization and community are:

1. Restoring the Siri Singh Sahib's public reputation.
2. Sharing the totality of the Siri Singh Sahib's teachings in their integrated and unadulterated form.
3. Ensuring a successful future for Miri Piri Academy and a healthy relationship with the global Sikh community.

As a Board Trustee I would support motions advancing these goals.

As the Founder of a very large company, and as a police officer on an Indian reservation many years ago, I worked with many diverse people and have experience dealing with many diverse people in various situations and addressing those needs.

10. Board service regularly requires 20 to 40 hours per month (or more) in evening and weekend board and committee meetings. These meetings are generally held at 8:00 pm Eastern time (20:00 hours). In addition, there may be multiple Face-to-Face meetings per year.

- a. Can you fulfill these requirements?
- b. If so, how will you balance these requirements with your other personal and professional responsibilities?
- c. What do you anticipate being the most difficult part of serving as a Trustee on the SSSC Board?

I have been fulfilling these requirements as a Trustee for many years.

I have balanced these requirements with my other personal and professional responsibilities in the past and foresee no difficulty in doing that again.

I foresee the most difficult part of serving as Trustee on this particular SSSC Board as negotiating through the divisions that I know have existed recently on existential issues affecting the organization.

11. Are you related by blood or marriage to an officer, director, employee, or paid contractor of any of the constituent organizations (nonprofit or for-profit) including all subsidiaries? NO

- a. If yes, to whom are you related, how are you related to them, and what is their position?