
Covid 19 Gurdwaras Support Proposal

Proposal to provide support for Gurdwaras in
in financial difficulties as a result of the covid
19 pandemic

Gurdwara Aid, 30 March 2020

Backdrop

In the current pandemic, many Gurdwaras have sadly had to close going against the precedent of the last 400 hundred years or so, in the gurdwara being a place of sanctuary for those in need.

There are examples ithihaas of service for example Sri Guru Harikrishan ji who came to Delhi to care for the sick, or Bhai Khaniaya ji who tended to the injured soldiers at risk to his own life.





1. Key Impacts

Impacts on Gurdwaras the pandemic has had several key impacts on gurdwaras.

- **Reduced Sangat numbers**
Most Gurdwaras have little or no sangat coming
- **Reduced Income**
This has resulted in lost income - either no income or at best severely reduced
- **Little relief on Costs**
Costs still have to be met, with little relief. Those Gurdwaras who have undertaken Langar seva in the community still have to pay for this

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Gurdwaras financial resources are being eroded quickly.

Several are at risk of permanently closing.



Many smaller Gurdwaras could be facing this **outcome** shortly.

Some Gurdwaras only have finances to survive around **2-3 months**.

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2. Options

Several options need to be explored and suggested to the Gurdwara community:

- **Gurdwara Fund Raising Options**
Gurdwaras need to actively put in place alternative funding raising solutions
- **Inter Gurdwara Support**
Larger financially secure Gurdwaras supporting smaller ones either directly or through an intermediary structure.
- **Other Options**
Look at third party alternatives - Government, local council, wealthy Sikhs, Charity Commission....

Gurdwara Fund Raising Options

Gurdwaras need to actively put in place alternative funding raising solutions. Options here include -

- **Streaming services on online.** This can be done via Facebook and YouTube (*requiring an account and smartphone*), or a full system, with cameras, storage and the ability to stream to multiple channels, can be purchased. The online page should include one or more of the donation suggestions below.
- **SMS** - using text/sms donations e.g. <https://www.donr.com/> (*NB: this will be charged to the payers telephone account*).
- **Online donations** - via a third party such as Gurdwara Aid, CAF or another third party (e.g. Gocardless.com).
- **Monthly direct debits** - Writing to and asking regular Sangat to set up monthly direct debits or standing order. Sangat will need re-educating to use these instead of the traditional Golak.
- **Gift Aid** - Getting your Gift Aid and Golak claims upto date.
- **Rental income** - those Gurdwaras who have rental income - managing these, ensuring tenants stay and continue paying rent, even if at reduced rents.

Inter Gurdwara Support

Larger financially secure Gurdwaras supporting smaller ones either directly or through an intermediary structure. Those Gurdwaras will need to be contacted to gauge support for this.

2 options -

- **Direct** - The Gurdwara manages its own scheme and asks those Gurdwaras needing support to contact them directly. Alternatively a third party such as Gurdwara Aid can be the single contact point, referring the requests back to the Gurdwara.
- **Managed** - A separate scheme which is managed by a third party, such as Gurdwara Aid. Gurdwaras to commit to an amount towards this scheme. This can on a drawdown basis (requiring a high level drawdown agreement) or sent to a separate fund/bank account managed by the third party. Should the funds not be needed, they can be returned after the crisis is over. This will setting out criteria and a request form for funding form.

Other Options

Explore other third party alternatives -

- **Government** - Are there any Government and/or local council schemes that can provide financial or in kind assistance for Gurdwaras especially those making langar for the vulnerable in the community. Gurdwaras should be making representations to councils to get relief on their business rates.
- **Sikhs** - Are wealthy Sikhs / Sikh philanthropists able to commit to such a scheme.
- **Other** - Speak to the Charity Commission, other departments, charities (e.g. SFI), charitable trusts and Sikh MPs to see what might be available or could be made available for Gurdwaras. Note this might only work for those making and distributing langar in the community.
- **Survey** all Gurdwaras to understand where they are - closed, operating, langar, financial strength etc. This data will be needed to approach Government departments.



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