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*Recognise the Human Race as One*

*To transform underprivileged and minority communities and individuals into informed and vibrant members of society through civic, educational and personal development programmes.*

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Prime Minister Viktor Orban  
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**Re: Hungarian Parliament Seeks to Suppress Religious Minorities in  
Contravention of European & International Law**

Dear Honorable Prime Minister Viktor Orban:

UNITED SIKHS, the Sikh community worldwide, and specifically the European Sikh community are deeply concerned about the debates currently happening within the Hungarian Parliament that would target minority faiths and strip them of their status as religious entities. As an international civil and human rights advocacy organization (with multiple chapters in Europe) we implore you to uphold religious freedom for all and eradicate forms of religious bigotry that masquerade as governmental policy.

History has borne witness to the persecution of religious minorities and those who have sanctioned such persecution. Human rights norms that have been enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights, and numerous international treaties all speak to the protection of minorities, including, religious minorities. Placing insurmountable procedural hurdles through: 1) “de-registering” targeted minority groups and forcing them to 2) “re-register” and prove that they have a longstanding history in Hungary (20 years) while also requiring a minimum membership number (1,000 members), constitutes a clear policy of suppression of religious freedom for minority communities.

Moreover, the overarching goal of the EU and benefit derived from Hungary’s participation in the EU comes from the free flow of movement. These laws and policies effectively put up a STOP sign for all those who adhere to religious traditions that do not have a longstanding history in Hungary and announce to those who seek to exercise their basic freedoms under the EU that they are unwelcome, and if they enter Hungary, their identity/ faith will not be recognized. Furthermore, for those religious minorities who consider Hungary their home, there could be no greater betrayal and denial of one’s right to self-identify.

UNITED SIKHS and many other faith communities urge you not to allow a few members of the Christian Democrat (KDNP) Members of Parliament to undermine the religious pluralism of your country.

Sincerely,



Hansdeep Singh  
Senior Staff Attorney  
International Civil and Human Rights Advocate  
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**CC:**

Suzan Johnson Cook, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom (*via email*)

Heiner Bielefeldt, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief (*via email*)

Gay J. McDougall, Independent Expert on Minority Issues (*via email*)