

**From:** Satinder Malhi  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 2:20 PM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies  
**Subject:** Sikh inclusion in CA Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Dear CA Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Advisory Committee:

I am writing today to request the meaningful inclusion of Sikhism in the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum for entry into the public record.

As a lifelong Californian, I am a proud product of our K-12 public school system. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California Santa Cruz and my Masters in Public Administration from California State University East Bay. I previously worked in the CA State Legislature as a senior policy aide for nearly twelve years with a focus on a wide range of policy matters, including education.

Throughout my schooling, I have been disappointed by the lack of accurate and meaningful depictions of Sikhs and Sikhism. My disappointment has now been further compounded after recently learning that the Sikh community, which has been an integral part of California's history and economy since the early 1900s, is **not** represented in a meaningful way in the initial Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum draft currently before you for consideration.

As you may or may not know, there are approximately 250,000 Sikhs in California. A report by the Sikh Coalition found that turbaned Sikhs are bullied at a rate double the national average. I wish to reiterate that the inclusion of Sikhism, the world's fifth largest religion, in the model curriculum in a meaningful way, is an essential step in overcoming ignorance and in reducing bullying and harassment, something which I was sadly the subject of both in middle and high schools.

Specifically, I would like to respectfully request the following:

- 1) A detailed lesson plan about the Sikh American community to be inserted into the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.
- 2) More specific examples throughout the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum that focus on the myriad of positive Sikh contributions made over 125 years in California, to balance the current language's focus on the hateful backlash against Sikhs in the context of post-9/11 Islamophobia.

The Sikh Coalition and the Jakara Movement will be in communication with you soon, specifying the details of these requests. I would respectfully ask that the recommendations made in their forthcoming letter be incorporated into the final Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum on my behalf. Thank you.

All the Best,

-Satinder S. Malhi  
Martinez, CA