



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**

Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:
Ministry of Defence

Signed on behalf of:
Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick

Name: Brigadier Richard Carter

Position: Commander, 11th Signal & West
Midlands Brigade

Date: 29th November 2018

Position: President

Date: 28/11/2018



**Ministry
of Defence**

GURU NANAK GURDWARA



SMETHWICK

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We Guru Nanak Gurdwara, Smethwick will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *No member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen;*
- *In some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 Guru Nanak Gurdwara, recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *Promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation;*
- *Strengthening the connection between the Armed Forces and the Sikh Community through our holy place of worship, inviting serving personnel and their families to visit and join us in our communion through langar (free kitchen), paat (prayers) and seva (voluntary service). We will also appoint an Armed Forces champion for engagement activities between the Armed Forces and Sikh community;*
- *Developing opportunities to learn about each other through our regular language and Sikh studies classes, as well as offering a venue for uniformed personnel to engage with the community (such as our classrooms and film theatre);*
- *Raising awareness of the connection between Britain and Sikhs, by creating a Sikh statue honouring the sacrifice made during the Great War and creating educational tools to narrate the stories of those who served;*
- *Organising an annual remembrance event in honour of those from the Sikh Community who have and continue to serve Great Britain at the Sikh statue;*

- *Aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day;*
- *Working to encourage visitors and arranging guided tours of the Sikh statue and Gurdwara for members of the wider Armed Forces Community*
- *Offering speaker visits to talk about British Sikh history to Cadet and Armed Forces Organisations*
- *Actively encouraging and support our volunteers and employees who choose to be members of the Reserve Forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *Offering support to our local Cadet Units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.