



## British Sikh Association

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:  
**British Sikh Association**

Signed on behalf of:  
**Ministry of Defence**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Dr Raminder Singh Ranger CBE

Position: Chairman

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: The Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon KCB MP

Position: Secretary of State for Defence

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017



ਮਾਨਸ ਕੀ ਜਾਤ ਸਭੇ ਏਕ ਹੀ ਪਹਿਚਾਨ ਭੋ

Recognising The Human Race As One

# The British Sikh Association

Promoting Interfaith & Peaceful Co-Existence

ਦੀ ਆਰਮਡ ਫੋਰਸਿਜ਼ ਓਰਗਨਾਈਜ਼ੇਸ਼ਨ

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.

1.1 We British Sikh Association 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.*

2.1 British Sikh Association 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;*
- *Allocate two days, in addition to annual leave, for Ex-Forces personnel to support military charities of their choice.*
- *seeking to encourage and support members of our community who choose a career in the Armed Forces and their families either Regular or Reserve Service.*
- *linking Sikh Service Personnel and their families moving into an area on assignment, with local Sikh communities;*
- *engaging with military units and Commanding Officers to offer expertise, either for advice and guidance on supporting Sikh personnel or for wider education and awareness;*
- *engaging with other community groups and local authorities to promote understanding of and support for the Armed Forces community;*
- *aiming to participate actively in Armed Forces Day;*
- *Facilitate introductions to Sikh schools, Gurdwaras and Communities nationally.*
- *To support the Cadet Expansion Programme nationwide particularly to encourage the Sikh community to provide Cadet Force Adult Volunteers.*
- *By proudly displaying the Armed Forces Covenant logo in our Head and Regional Offices. Publicise our Armed Forces Covenant commitments on our website and display the Armed Forces Covenant logo.*
- *Practically ensuring that our members, clients and business partners understand our support for the Armed Forces and their families.*
- *Promoting the benefits of employing Ex-Forces personnel on an international, national, regional and local basis.*
- *Seeking to build stronger ties with elements of the Armed Forces where we can draw potential recruits.*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old and working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers;*
- *Provide jobs, tailored training and pastoral care for Ex-Forces personnel.*
- *Work closely with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to ensure employment opportunities are advertised on the CTP website.*

- *Ensure that any Ex-Forces personnel who meet our selection criteria are called for interview.*
- *Value and recognise military skills and qualifications when interviewing for positions.*
- *Utilise the leadership experiences and expertise of former Service personnel.*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners;*
- *endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment;*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *Accommodate Reservists' training commitments where possible.*
- *Providing an additional two weeks leave to allow Reservists to complete their annual two week training camp.*
- *Accommodate where possible the mobilisation of our Reservists if they are required to deploy.*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible;*
- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day*
- *Offering a discount to members of the Armed Forces Community.*

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.