

**SIKH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE (SAI)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sikh Advocacy Institute Condemns the Violence and Calls for Unity and Compassion**

The Sikh Advocacy Institute (SAI) is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of 18-year-old Henry Nowak, and we extend heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. We stand firmly against violence and express our solidarity with all affected.

The individual responsible for this crime has been convicted of murder and sentenced by the courts. We unequivocally condemn the violence that took Henry's life. Such acts have no place in a civilized society and are contrary to the principles of Sikhi, which uphold the sanctity of human life, justice, compassion, and the dignity of every individual, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or social background.

Guru Nanak taught the unity and equality of all humanity. The Sikh tradition recognizes the divine light within every person and rejects hatred, prejudice, and violence. Sikhi calls upon everyone to uphold justice and treat all with dignity and respect.

Recent public discussions have raised questions about the Sikh article of faith known as the Kirpan. The Kirpan is not a weapon of aggression or intimidation, but a sacred symbol that reminds Sikhs of their duty to uphold justice, protect the vulnerable, and act with courage and service. It differs fundamentally from a knife carried for criminal purposes, serving as a constant reminder of moral responsibility.

As the community processes this tragedy, we urge all parties to allow reviews and investigations to be conducted with transparency and fairness. Sikh teachings encourage patience and restraint in times of grief. Justice should be pursued lawfully and guided by truth, not emotion. time for healing and unity. We echo the Nowak family's request that

Henry's memory not be used to justify hatred or division. The Sikh faith teaches that peace comes through compassion, understanding, and justice, not anger.

We encourage community leaders, public officials, faith organizations, and citizens to honor Henry's memory by fostering dialogue, supporting those affected, and working together to strengthen social harmony. Communities are strongest when they respond to tragedy with unity, wisdom, and mutual respect.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Nowak family during this unimaginably difficult time. May they find strength and comfort in their community's support, and may Henry's memory inspire us all to act with greater compassion and unity, honoring his legacy together.

Sincerely,



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