

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: CENSUS REPRESENTATION



UNITED
SIKHS

Recognize the Human Race as One

Tel: 1-646-688-3525


Fax: 1-810-885-4264

law-usa@unitedsikhs.org

Did You Know?

- The Census, mandated to be taken every ten years, is issued by the government for a variety of reasons, **including monitoring and enforcing the following: compliance with civil rights, voting, employment, housing, lending, education, and anti-discrimination laws.**
- UNITED SIKHS has been in detailed discussions with the U.S. Census Bureau and has been informed that, even if a Sikh marks “other” and writes in “**Sikh**,” under the category of “Race,” the write-in is automatically tabulated and coded as “**Asian Indian**.”
- While many other communities are able to receive data specific to their community after the Census is completed, **data about Sikhs is not disaggregated separately so there is no way to obtain vital and accurate information about the community at large.**



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- Although Sikhs meet the definition of “ethnic minority” under international law, and the United States government has agreed to recognize groups that self-identify as ethnic minorities, **the Census Bureau still refuses to count Sikhs as a distinct ethnic minority.**
 - After the tragic events of 9/11, **the lack of awareness** about Sikhs proved **dangerous for the community** and Sikhs have since been targets of **hate crimes, bullying, racial profiling, discrimination** etc.. Hate crimes cannot be properly reported and categorized **unless Sikhs are recognized as a separate ethnic group** and counted by the Census because without an accurate number of the overall population, we cannot know what percentage of the community has been affected by hate crimes. Counting Sikhs separately will help the government to document, prosecute, and prevent hate crimes.
 - The request by the Sikh community to be counted correctly is important **because the right to self-identify is a human right** and the need for correct tabulation is **vital in order to monitor and prove discrimination. Failing to allow Sikhs to self-identify exacerbates problems** that the community already faces because Census data is used “extensively in civil rights monitoring and enforcement covering areas such as employment, voting rights, housing and mortgage lending, health care services, and educational opportunities” and without such data, **advancing civil rights for Sikhs is made more difficult** because the vital information that can be gained from accurate counting during the Census is not available to Sikhs
 - **UNITED SIKHS will continue to advocate for the Sikh’s right to self-identify and be counted in the Census** until Sikhs are classified as a minority ethnic group and can claim the rights that other minority groups in America already possess.