KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: PRISONERS' RIGHTS

UNITED SIKHS

Recognize the Human Race as One

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Did You Know?

- Prior to the year 2000, prisoners' religious rights were not well protected.
- The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), passed in 2000, provides added protections against state and local governments attempting to impose burdens on the free exercise of religion in prisons.
- RLUIPA has helped protect religious freedoms, but the rights of Sikh prisoners to maintain their identity is often threatened despite progressive legislation such as RLUIPA.



• Only five states permit any prisoner to have uncut hair if they choose to and less than a quarter of the fifty states have a faith/religious exemption that would allow Sikh prisoners to keep uncut hair.

The states shaded in **blue** permit uncut hair, the states in **red** do not permit uncut hair, the states in **yellow** make a faith/religious exception, and the states in **gray** have vague policies regarding grooming of hair.

- As this map shows, a **change is necessary**. UNITED SIKHS has advocated for changes to these prohibitive policies, and you can too! Go to www.writeyourrep.org and tell your rep you want your state to protect the religious rights of Sikh prisoners and to allow Sikh prisoners to maintain uncut hair.
- For more info or to get involved with this campaign contact <u>law-usa@unitedsikhs.org</u>

Resources: www.unitedsikhs.org/PressReleases/PRSRLS-03-12-2010-00.html; www.aclu.org/images/asset_upload_file79_25805.pdf