

Problem Statement

Various social & cultural barriers prevent the equitable, just, healthy & strong Sikh panth envisioned by the Gurus.

Influential Factors

- Many forms of stress and trauma that affect Sikhs of all ages are often sidelined, silenced, and allowed to proliferate unchecked.
- The problem is pronounced for women surviving various forms of violence.
- Non-Sikh agencies that often interact with and serve Sikhs may generalize, discriminate, or otherwise fail to serve Sikhs.
- SFC is the only agency that focuses on gender-based violence (GBV) in the Sikh community in N. America.

Who we Serve

Sikhs living in the US.

Strategies

- Mainstream conversations on “taboo” community issues.
- Sustain & enhance quality Helpline peer counselor support for survivors of violence & other forms of trauma.
- Train and support Sikh orgs in being more trauma-centered, gender equity focused, and reflexive.
- Train non-Sikh orgs on unique needs, perspectives, abilities, possibilities of working with Sikhs.
- Lead gender justice advocacy and culture-change work within sangat.
- Strengthen collaborative national network of SFC volunteers.
- Strengthen strategic collaborations with other gender & racial justice orgs.
- Create and distribute reliable bilingual resources on health, wellness, equity.
- Publish ethically on Sikh community’s unique dynamics.
- Gather evidence about community needs in feedback loops.

Anticipated Results

- Community trusts SFC as an expert on GBV and health in families.
- Community members of all ages know help is available and become more likely to overcome shame and fear of reaching out when faced with challenges.
- Survivors of GBV feel heard, supported, empowered to make informed choices & their immediate needs for protection are met more often.
- Sikh organizations develop deeper (and intersectional) gender equity focus.
- More non-Sikh resources become better equipped to respond to Sikhs in need.
- Non-Sikh media and organizations know who they can turn to with questions on intra-community issues, before beginning to speak for community.
- Community-led and community-specific activism around holistic health and well-being increases.
- Voices and experiences of the most impacted informs SFC strategies.

Values

*Trauma-centered

*Gurmat-Inspired

*Survivor-Centric

*Inter-Sectional

*Anti-Oppression

* Intergenerational

* Wellness for All. Sarbat da bhala.