

Date: 25 October 2021

Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Atrocities on Hindu Minorities in Bangladesh

We, British Hindus, would like to draw your attention to the recent targeted acts of violence and atrocities perpetrated against the peaceful Hindu community in Bangladesh during the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, a significant religious festival for Hindus worldwide.

Scale of Violence

These barbaric attacks against this religious minority were relentless and lasted for over a week in Bangladesh. From 13th - 17th October 2021, it has emerged that in Bangladesh 315 Hindu temples were vandalised, nearly 1,500 Hindu homes and businesses were ransacked and over 23 Hindu women and girls were raped including a 10-year-old minor girl who succumbed to her injuries. There are also reports of many Hindus being killed and many still missing. Temples of global Hindu organisations like Ramakrishna Mission and ISKCON were particularly targeted. The initial response from the Bangladesh government and police was woefully inadequate. The Hindu community in Bangladesh is in a state of despair and destitution.

Such acts of violence are unfortunately not new against minorities in Bangladesh who suffer daily indignities for simply practicing their faith. Professor Abul Barkat of Dhaka University had pointed out that 11.3 million Hindus left Bangladesh between 1964 and 2013 (Ref: Dhaka Tribune, 20 November 2016) due to religious persecution. As a direct consequence, the Hindu population has declined from about 30% in 1947 to 8% in 2011.

Our Obligation

We, the British Hindus are now greatly concerned about the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh and are seeking a response and condemnation by

the British government of these horrific events. The UK has a proud record of defending universal human rights on the global stage. The UK continues to hand over hundreds of millions of pounds each year in aid to Bangladesh, with a significant increase in humanitarian aid spending. Bangladesh is also a trade partner it is, therefore, important to insist that the government reiterate their commitment to protecting its minorities and safeguards its human rights according to the UN charter. We believe it is incumbent on the British government to raise the issue of the pogroms against Hindus in Bangladesh and exert pressure and seek answers from the government of Bangladesh.

Hindus around the world protested on Saturday 23rd October 2021 to highlight the persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh and to express solidarity with these victims of human rights violations.

Our Appeal

We, therefore, appeal you to:

1. Strongly condemn this violence and ask the Bangladesh Government to take appropriate measures to protect its Hindu minorities and ensure their long-term protection and human rights.
2. Ensure that the Bangladesh Government follows through with their promise to punish those responsible for this violence, rehabilitate the victims and restore the Hindu temples and provide appropriate protection to the Hindus.
3. Ensure that Bangladesh abides by its commitment to human rights of minorities while discussing humanitarian aid and preferential trade agreements.

We hope that you will consider this matter urgently, take appropriate actions to allay the concerns of the British Hindu community.

Yours sincerely,

1. Bengali Hindu Adarsha Sangha (BHAS)

2. International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)
3. Hindu Council UK
4. National Council of Hindu Temples
5. Vishwa Hindu Parishad UK (VHP)
6. BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha
7. National Hindu Students' Forum (UK)
8. Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK)
9. Aarogyam (UK) CIC, Loughborough
10. ABHI UK
11. ADDA Slough
12. Akshaya Patra Foundation (UK)
13. Anand Milan Elderly Centre
14. Annapurna Group
15. Arham Yoga and Meditation Centre, UK
16. Arya Samaj (Vedic Mission) West Midlands
17. Arya Samaj London
18. Ashram Asian Elderly Day Centre
19. Aylesbury Hindu Temple
20. Bangladesh Hindu Association (UK)
21. Bangladeshi Hindu Community
22. Basingstoke Hindu Society
23. Bengal Heritage Foundation
24. Bengali Hindu Cultural Association, Luton
25. Bhagwati Shakti Peeth Nottingham
26. Bharatiyo Bengali Sangho
27. Bharatiyo Bengali Sangho
28. Bihari Community

29. Bihari Connect UK
30. Bolton Hindu Forum
31. Bradford Bengali Hindu Cultural Society
32. Bradford Hindu Council (BHC)
33. Brahma Kumaris
34. British Hindu Voice
35. Chichester Vedic and Cultural Society
36. City Hindus Network
37. Confederation of Indian Organisation's (UK)
38. Dharitree
39. Dr. Ambedkar UK Mission (AUM)
40. Dudley Hindu Forum
41. Durga Bhajan Mandali, Birmingham
42. Durga Mandir, Walsall
43. Friends of India Society International (FISI) UK
44. Geeta Bhawan Derby
45. Global Kashmiri Pandit diaspora (UK chapter)
46. Global Organisation of People of Indian Origins (GOPIO)
47. Greater Manchester Bengali Hindu Cultural Association
(GMBHCA)
48. Greenwich Hindu Temple (Mandir)
49. Gujarat Hindu Society
50. Gurjar Hindu Union (Ghu) Ltd
51. Gurudwara Mirpuri
52. Hindu Council of Birmingham
53. Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford
54. Hindu Cultural Society of Cleveland

55. Hindu Education Forum
56. Hindu Human Rights
57. Hindu Lawyers Association
58. Hindu Punjabi Sabha, Leeds
59. Hindu Sevika Samiti (UK)
60. Hindu Temple Cultural and Community Centre of Nottingham
61. Hindu Temple Society, Coventry
62. Hindu Youth Association
63. Hinduism Worldwide Inc
64. India Centre UK
65. India Knowledge Consortium (INK)
66. Indian Association Oldham
67. Indian Ekta
68. Indian Expats (UK INDIAN)
69. Indian National Students Association - UK (INSAUK)
70. Indian Women's Community UK
71. Indians in Skipton
72. INSIGHT UK
73. International Dogra Society
74. Jalaram Charitable Trust
75. Jammu Hindu Morcha (JHM)
76. Jammu Kashmir Study Center, UK
77. Kalyan Ashram Trust UK, London
78. Kannada Balaga Swindon
79. Karunadina Anivasi Hindugala Okkoota (KAHO) UK
80. Kashmiri Pandit Association, Europe
81. Kashmiri Pandits Cultural Society, London

82. Khashtriya Sudharak Mandal
83. Leuva Patidar Samaj Yorkshire
84. London Institute of Vedic Education
85. London Sharad Utsav
86. Maa Charity Trust
87. Madhav Elderly Centre
88. Mandata Samaj
89. Mangalam Hindu Cultural and Religious Group
90. Mangalam UK
91. Mata da Mandir (Hindu Cultural Association), Dudley
92. Milton Keynes Hindu Association
93. National Association of Patidar Samaj
94. National Hindu Welfare Support (NHWS)
95. Nepali Hindu Forum UK
96. Newcastle Hindu Temple
97. Nottingham Telugu Association (NOTA)
98. Odia Cultural Association London (OCAL)
99. Odisha Society of UK
100. Odiya Society of Midlands
101. Overseas Hindu Malayalee UK (OHM UK)
102. Param Shakti Peeth of UK
103. Rajasthan Association UK
104. Rajasthani Roots UK
105. Ram Krishna Bhajan mandal
106. REACH India
107. Sadgamaya Foundation
108. Sai Dham Nottingham

109. Samskrita Bharati UK
110. Sanatan Shakti
111. Sanaton Association UK
112. Sangamam UK
113. Sanskruti Centre for Cultural Excellence
114. SEVADAL OF BOLTON
115. SHREE GUJARATI HINDU CENTRE
116. Shree Hindu Community Centre, Birmingham
117. Shree Jagannatha Society UK
118. Shree Kalyan Mandal, Rugby
119. Shree Krishna Mandir in Leamington Spa
120. Shree Krishna Temple, Dudley
121. Shree Leeds Mahila Mandal
122. Shree Prajapati Association (SPA)
123. Shree Ram Krishna Bhajan Mandal
124. Shree Ram Mandir Birmingham
125. Shree Sanatan Mandir, Loughborough
126. Shree Sarvodaya Samaj UK
127. Shree Shree Loknath Bhakta Porishad UK
128. Shree Vengateshwara Balaji Abisshkegam Group
129. Shreeji Dham Haveli
130. Slough Hindu Temple
131. Slough Mitra Mandal
132. South Asian Performing Art (SAPAC) UK
133. Sree Durga Mandir Trust, Manchester
134. Sri Padmavathi Srinivasa Kent Hindu Temple
135. Sri Sri Radha Krishna Cultural Centre (ISKCON Coventry)

136. SwIndians
137. Swindon Hindu Temple Trust
138. Swindon Puja Committee
139. Telugu Association Basingstoke (TAB UK)
140. Tattva UK
141. Telangana Development Forum, UK
142. Telugu Association Of Basingstoke
143. Telugu Bhavan
144. The British Hindu Press Association
145. UK Hindu Cultural Association (UKHCA)
146. UK Telugu Hindu Organisation (UTHO)
147. United Cultural Society of Bradford
148. Uttar Pradesh Community Association (UPCA), UK
149. Uttarakhand Welfare Association (UK)
150. Vaso Nagrik Mandal (UK)
151. Vichaar Manthan UK
152. Voice of Dogras (UK)
153. Warangal NRI forum UK Ltd
154. Wellingborough District Hindu Association
155. Yorkshire Indian Business Network