



Sikh Mediawatch and Resource Task Force (SMART)

Mission Statement and History

SMART, founded in 1996, is the oldest national Sikh American advocacy group. Our mission is to protect the rights of Sikh Americans through legislative advocacy, public education, legal assistance, and ensure accurate portrayal of the Sikh religion.

SMART is a nonprofit 501(c) 3, nonpartisan, and a member-based organization.

SMART began solely as an all-volunteer organization with a primary focus on media analysis and education. Based on the needs of the Sikh American community, the organization immediately began responding to legal, education, and legislative issues. Currently, SMART has two full-time employees in addition to several unpaid volunteers. Its pro bono legal team includes several part-time volunteer attorneys who handle legal matters affecting Sikh Americans.

SMART opened a full-time office in Washington, DC in Aug. 2002.

SMART has been assisting the Sikh American community since 1996 to protect their rights and religious freedoms by:

1. Providing legal services in such matters as workplace and housing discrimination, protecting Sikh articles of faith (such as *kirpan* and *kesh*), public accommodation, and other civil rights and civil liberties issues;
2. Conducting cultural and religious awareness training for government, law enforcement agencies and private businesses;
3. Creating and distributing publications aimed at educating the media, schools, and government and law enforcement agencies on Sikhs;
4. Creating and distributing publications and conducting of community outreach programs and educational strategy sessions to empower the Sikh American community to help exercise its rights;
5. Providing online Internet resources to assist users in understanding the Sikh American community;
6. Monitoring the media and responding to inaccuracies and/or misrepresentations of Sikh Americans and Sikhism.

Contact Information and Address

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