
Outreach

Experience in enforcing civil rights over the past 50 years has taught that a key to success is developing good working relationships with civil rights and community organizations. It is such groups on the ground that bring many cases to the Department of Justice's attention, help identify trends and issues, and help spread the word about people's rights. The Justice Department's partnerships with diverse groups and stakeholders are indispensable.

In the area of religious liberty, since 2001 the Civil Rights Division has met with more than 60 civil rights groups and religious denominations about religious liberty issues, including organizations representing Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Native Americans. Senior Department of Justice officials have given speeches on religious liberty at events sponsored by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, Campus Crusade for Christ, Christian Leadership Ministries, Agudath Israel, United Sikhs, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, the North American South Asian Bar Association, the National Association of Muslim Lawyers, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, among others.

The Department of Justice provides a number of publications about religious liberty. In July 2006 the Civil Rights Division sent a letter to every religious denominational organization in the coun-



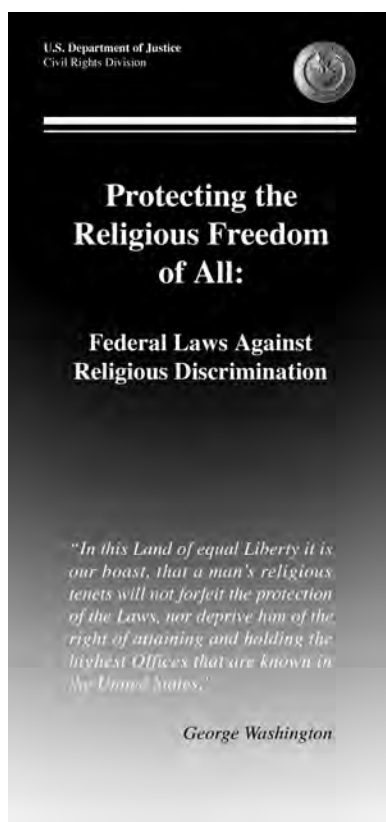
Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales speaking to Agudath Israel on religious discrimination and other issues at a briefing in Washington, D.C.

try, as well as every regional interfaith organization, providing information about its religious liberty efforts and enclosing copies of several informational brochures. Individual or bulk copies of these documents, or additional copies of this report, can be obtained free of charge by calling the Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination at (202) 353-8622 or by writing to:

Special Counsel for Religious
Discrimination
Office of the Assistant Attorney
General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

These documents also can be downloaded from the Civil Rights Division website, www.usdoj.gov/crt:

1) **PROTECTING THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF ALL: FEDERAL LAWS AGAINST RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION:** This 4" x 9", 11-page color booklet outlines the various religious liberty laws that the Department of Justice enforces, including information for filing complaints. A web-based version of the booklet can be printed by going to <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/religdisc/religionpamp.htm>.



2) **A GUIDE TO FEDERAL RELIGIOUS LAND USE PROTECTIONS:** This three-page color information sheet explains the basics of RLUIPA and how the Department of Justice can assist congregations and religious schools when their rights are violated. The guide is available at http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/religdisc/rluipa_guide.pdf.

3) **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: FEDERAL LAWS PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:** This one-page color fact sheet provides a brief overview of the laws protecting individuals and institutions from religion-based discrimination, and can be printed from the web at http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/religdisc/know_your_rights.pdf.

4) **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN FOCUS:** This periodic email update highlights religious liberty cases brought by the Department of Justice. To subscribe, send an email to Jacqueline.Greene@usdoj.gov. Back issues of this publication are available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/religdisc/newsletters.html>.

An online version of this report, which can be viewed, downloaded or printed, is available at: www.usdoj.gov/crt/religious_freedom_report.pdf.


U.S. Department of Justice

Common Sikh American Head Coverings

Sikhism is a religion that originated in South Asia during the 15th Century and is distinct from both Islam and Hinduism. For religious reasons, practicing Sikhs do not cut their hair. Sikh men wrap and knot their long hair with a turban or *pagri* (see photo a), a practice that typically takes 10-15 minutes. Sikh boys wrap their hair in a smaller under-turban or *patha*, with their hair knotted on top of their head (photo b). Some Sikh women also wear turbans (photo c); however, many opt for a cloth or *chunni* to cover their head (photo d).

Points to Keep in Mind when searching someone wearing a Sikh Head Covering:

- Show Respect.
- Explain why you need to conduct search.
- Offer private room for search, if available.
- Searches should be done by members of the same sex.
- Review applicable policies and procedures for more information.



a. Man with pagri
b. Boy with patha
c. Woman with pagri
d. Woman with chunni

Produced by the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, 2004. Images and descriptions of Sikh head coverings provided by the Sikh MediaWatch and Resource Task Force (SMWRTF).

U.S. Department of Justice

Common Muslim American Head Coverings

Followers of the Islamic faith are called Muslims. Some Muslim women cover their head, based on religious belief and the Islamic injunction to dress modestly. They may wear a full head covering or *hijab*, or a simple scarf over their hair. Some Muslim men wear a skullcap or *kufi* based on religious tradition.

Points to Keep in Mind when searching someone wearing a Muslim Head Covering:

- Show Respect.
- Explain why you need to conduct search.
- Offer private room for search, if available.
- Searches should be done by members of the same sex.
- Review applicable policies and procedures for more information.



Produced by the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, 2004. Some images and descriptions of Muslim head coverings provided by the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC).

Posters produced and distributed by the Civil Rights Division encourage tolerance and accommodation by educating government officials, particularly law enforcement, about common headcoverings worn by Muslims and Sikhs.

The Civil Rights Division's experience over the past six years has shown that there is much that the Department of Justice can do to protect people from religious discrimination and enhance the religious freedom of all. The Department of Justice has already done much to expand enforcement in this area, but with the continued help of civil rights, community, and religious organizations, and with the sustained commitment of the Department to this important area, there is even more progress to be made.

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
www.usdoj.gov/crt
www.FirstFreedom.gov