



U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

# Engaging and Building Partnerships with Sikh Americans

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relations Service's (CRS) program, *Engaging and Building Partnerships with Sikh Americans*, a three-hour, in-person training course led by subject matter experts, is designed to familiarize law enforcement, and government officials, as well as civic and community leaders, with customs and cultural aspects of the Sikh American community, including their beliefs, practices, and civil rights-related issues that impact the community.

Our nation is enriched by its diversity. Understanding the cultures and customs of diverse communities can be challenging and complex at times. Police officers, first responders, and other government officials, as well as community, civil rights, religious, school, and tribal leaders, can strengthen their relationships with the Sikh American communities they serve by learning about cultural sensitivities, best practices on how to engage, and better methods of communication.

## Program Overview ▼



### The Benefits of Training ▼

Facilitates  
cooperation for  
smooth interactions

Establishes  
mutual respect

Increases safety

Strengthens  
partnerships to  
build public trust

### The Importance of Community Awareness

Community awareness enables interacting with community members in an informed manner. This lesson explains how understanding beliefs and religious practices of a community fosters improved engagement and describes the issues impacting Sikh Americans.

### Building Awareness and Understanding

This lesson provides basics of Sikh Americans and their faith and what influences their daily interactions to help avoid misunderstandings and stereotyping, while identifying compatible community engagement practices.

### Planning Community Engagement

This lesson identifies community engagement strategies that advance best practices on how to cultivate and further relations with Sikh Americans and highlights the benefits of creating partnerships between law enforcement, public officials, and the Sikh American community.

### About CRS ▼

Established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and expanded by the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, CRS serves as “America’s Peacemaker” for communities facing tension or conflict based on differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. CRS services aim to enhance the ability of local communities to independently and collaboratively prevent and resolve future conflicts through the use of problem solving, increased knowledge, and improved communication.

### CRS Services and Programs ▼

CRS provides an array of programs to communities experiencing tension, as a tool for cultivating understanding, improving collaboration, and preventing future disagreements. CRS staff are professional mediators, facilitators, trainers, and consultants experienced in bringing community members together to help enhance their ability to resolve existing conflict and prevent future conflicts.

### Where We Work ▼

**CRS Headquarters** 📍  
Washington, DC

**CRS Regional Offices** 📍

**New England**  
Boston, MA

**Northeast**  
New York, NY

**Mid-Atlantic**  
Philadelphia, PA

**Southeast**  
Atlanta, GA

**Midwest**  
Chicago, IL

**Southwest**  
Dallas, TX

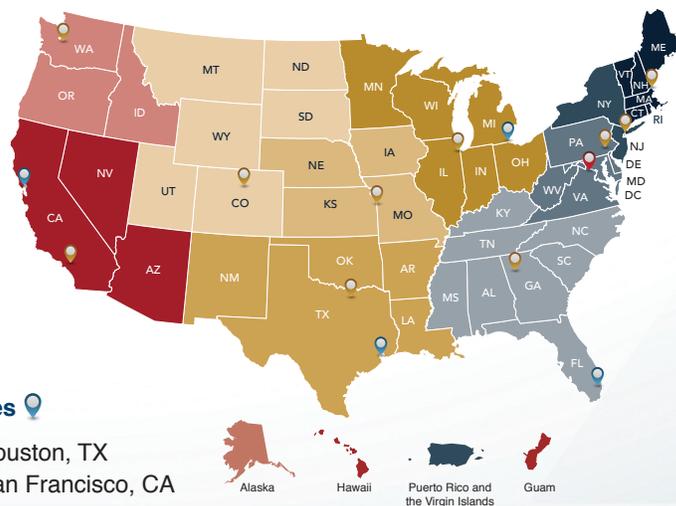
**Central**  
Kansas City, MO

**Rocky Mountain**  
Denver, CO

**Western**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Northwest**  
Seattle, WA

**CRS Field Offices** 📍  
Miami, FL      Houston, TX  
Detroit, MI      San Francisco, CA



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[www.justice.gov/crs](http://www.justice.gov/crs)

 [facebook.com/DOJCRS/](https://www.facebook.com/DOJCRS/)

 [@DOJ\\_CRIS](https://twitter.com/DOJ_CRIS)

 [askcrs@usdoj.gov](mailto:askcrs@usdoj.gov)

 202.305.2935

For more information on this program or other CRS services, please contact your local CRS office:

<https://www.justice.gov/crs/about-crs/regional-and-field-offices>