



September 2021

The Board and staff of the Faith Action Network are deeply saddened by the attack Friday, September 17 on the Khalsa Gurmat Center in Federal Way—a place of learning and prayer for Sikh youth and gathering place for their community in South King County.

While we do not yet know the motivation of the perpetrator of this act of destruction and desecration, it was committed in a context where religious groups have increasingly become targets of hate speech and hate actions. Mosques, synagogues, churches, gurudwaras, and other gathering places of faith communities in Washington State have been vandalized in recent years.

The Faith Action Network Governing Board — which includes Dr. Jasmit Singh, a spokesperson for the local Sikh community, as well as Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Quaker and Unitarian board members — deplores hate speech and the acts such hate speech generates, whatever community is targeted.

We stand in solidarity with the local Sikh community and join them in calling for a thorough investigation and accountability.

Furthermore, we call on people within our faith communities as well as in the wider community to publicly speak out in support of the religious pluralism that is such a blessing to our nation and that is protected by our constitution. We also encourage building connections between the diverse faith groups in towns and cities across our state.

The Faith Action Network is a multifaith, statewide organization that advocates for a just, compassionate, and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action. We carry out our work in collaboration with 161+ Advocating Faith Communities and a network of thousands of individuals.