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.

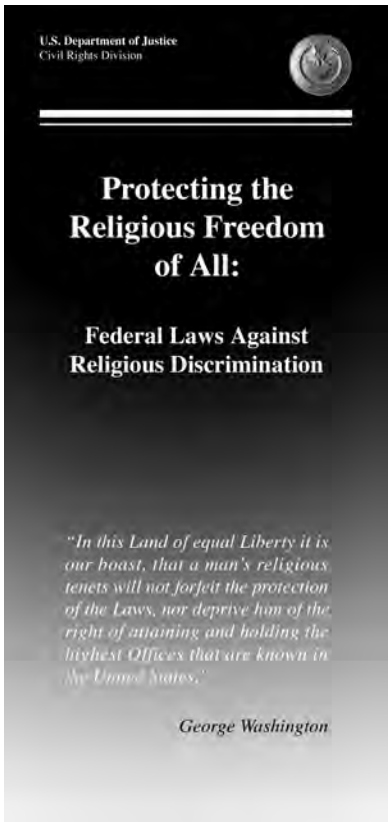
The Department of Justice provides a number of publications about religious liberty. In July 2006 the Civil Rights Division sent a letter to every religious denominational organization in the country, as well as every regional interfaith organization, providing information about its religious liberty 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:

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

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.*

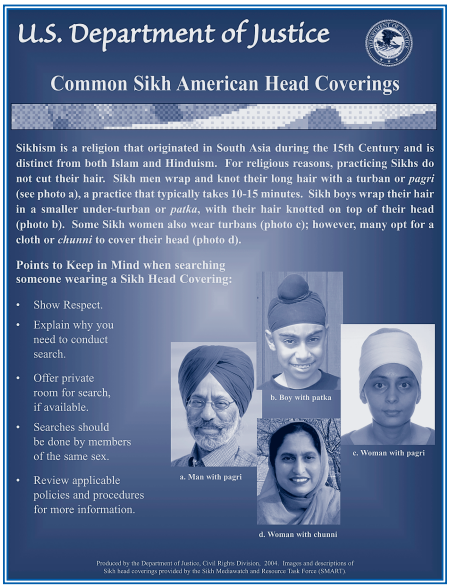


2) A GUIDE TO FEDERAL RELIGIOUS LAND USE PROTECTIONS: This three-page color information sheet explains the basics of RLUIPA and how the Department of Justice can assist congregations and religious schools when their rights are violated. The guide is available at *http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/religdisc/rluipa_guide.pdf.*

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.*



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