

Affects of 9/11 on Individuals

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I. Introduction

II. Sikhs

SIKHS

Overview

- **Founded in 15th Century South Asia, in area now split between Pakistan and India**
- **Three fundamental principles: remember God, earn an honest living in society, and to give back to the less fortunate when possible**
- **Rejected caste system -- believed in equality of man, and of genders**
- **About 500,000 in the United States**

SIKHS

Sikh Articles of Faith

1. *Kes* – unshorn hair
2. *Kanga* – comb
3. *Kirpan* – ceremonial dagger
4. *Kara* – ceremonial bracelet
5. *Kacchera* – undershorts

SIKHS

Why Sikhs

- **Superficial resemblance to those responsible for the 9/11 attacks**
- **Suffered “disproportionate brunt” the post-9/11 backlash**
- **Little known community; ignorance of Sikhs still widespread**
- **Their story is reflective and indicative of the broader affect of 9/11 on individuals**

III. Violence and Harassment

VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

- **In the first week following 9/11, 645 bias crimes were directed at Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim**
- **In the first eight weeks after 9/11, over a thousand bias incidents were reported, including nearly nineteen murders, assaults, harassment, and acts of vandalism. One of those murdered – Balbir Singh Sodhi**
- **“[A]nti-Muslim hate crimes in the United States rose 1700% during 2001.”**

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VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

Consequence of 9/11 on Individuals

Response bifurcated -- in addition to having concerns about other external threats from terrorists, facing the specter of violence and harassment from other Americans

Violence, verbal harassment widespread both in the years after 9/11 and geographically

III. Questioning Identity

QUESTIONING IDENTITY

Questioning national identity and place in America.

5. Place yourself:

I am

I feel



(*American*)

QUESTIONING IDENTITY

Questioning religious identity – abandoning articles of faith to hopefully receive more favorable treatment.

IV. Bullying in Schools

BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

- **75% of Sikh boys who go to school in Queens have been teased or harassed on account of their religious identity**
- **Over 40% of New York area Sikh students who wear turbans or religious headgear have been subjected to some form of physical harassment**
- **Nearly a third of these students' complaints are outstanding or unresolved**
- **In the Bay area, 69% of Sikh boys who wear their religious headgear have been harassed in school**

V. Airport Profiling

AIRPORT PROFILING

- **Study determined that at SFO, turbaned Sikhs were pulled over for random secondary screening 100% of the time**
- **Ejections based on passenger or pilot discomfort not uncommon**

VI. Employment Discrimination

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

- **The EEOC received 803 complaints tied to “anti-Muslim” bias from 2008-2009**
- **This is an increase of 20 percent from 2007-2008, and a nearly 60 percent increase from 2005-2006.**

VII. National Security Cases

NATIONAL SECURITY CASES

- *Ashcroft v. Iqbal* (Supreme Court case)
- *al Maqaleh v. Obama* (D.C. Circuit case)

VIII. Concluding Thoughts
