



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01737**

### **Name of petitioner**

Puneet Dwivedi on behalf of Hindu Forum Britain

### **Petition title**

Review of hate crime legislation and security funding in Scotland

### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to address increasing levels of hate crime in Scotland by providing security funding similar to that in place in England and Wales.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

Contacted the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government.

### **Petition background information**

The Hindu Forum Britain is the umbrella body of more than 350 member organisations across the UK, committed to building inclusive and safe communities.

The place of worship security funding scheme is one of the key commitments contained within the UK Government's Hate Crime Action Plan 2016.

We want to ensure protective measures are taken at religious premises that have been subject to or are vulnerable to hate crime in Scotland as well. The purpose of this petition is to raise awareness of the scheme and make it available to stakeholders in Scotland as well, especially which are subject to hate crime.

There have been a number of hate crime incidents at various minority religious places. Most of these incidents are reported to police but there are some which go unreported. For instance, an arson attack at Gurudwara (Sikh temple), a robbery at Edinburgh Hindu Mandir and visitors' cars vandalised at other places of worship across Scotland.

There is already a scheme in place for rest of UK to provide extra security to places of worship, why not for Scotland? We are asking to have a consultation and a review of hate crime legislation to provide a similar security scheme in Scotland irrespective of the religion be it Churches, Gurdwaras, Mosques or Hindu Temples.

**Unique web address**

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/SecurityFundForPlaceofWorship>

**Related information for petition**

**Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?**

YES

**How many signatures have you collected so far?**

25

**Closing date for collecting signatures online**

29 / 08 / 2019

**Comments to stimulate online discussion**

What measures would you like to see taken to reduce hate crime generally and against places of worship?