



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIKH WOMEN'S AID

SIKH WOMEN'S AID WELCOMES LANDMARK LIFE SENTENCE FOR RACIALLY AGGRAVATED RAPIST JOHN ASHBY

Sikh Women's Aid welcomes the **life sentence handed to John Ashby today following his guilty plea for the racially aggravated rape of a Sikh woman in Walsall**. This is a landmark sentencing in a case that caused fear, outrage and deep distress across the community in West Midlands, especially South Asian women and girls living in the region.

Ashby subjected the survivor to a horrific racially aggravated rape that left a lasting impact not only on the victim survivor, but on an entire community of women of color, who saw their sense of safety and freedom impacted in her experience.

Sukhvinder Kaur said "At the centre of this case is an exceptionally brave survivor whose strength, dignity and resilience have been extraordinary. **She has fought relentlessly for justice while enduring the trauma of the criminal justice process and the weight of public attention surrounding this case. Her courage has been remarkable.**"



"She now wishes to return to her life, to recover, to rebuild and to move forward after this ordeal. Sikh Women's Aid asks that her privacy and anonymity are respected fully so she can do so with dignity, safety and peace."

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For more information about the Sikh Women's Aid, please contact:

Media Contact:

Sukhvinder Kaur

Sikh Women's Aid

T: 07743 646201

E: sukhi@sikhwomensaid.org.uk



About Sikh Women's Aid

Sikh Women's Aid is a dedicated organisation that empowers and supports Sikh Panjabi women in need. Our mission is to challenge harmful belief systems and practices, promoting lasting positive change within the Sikh and Panjabi communities. Through crisis intervention, prevention initiatives, and mental health support, we work to reduce harm and violence towards vulnerable women and children, advocating for a safer and more equitable society. -