



Harold Meyer Memorial Lecture

**Saturday 22nd February 2020
6.15 for 6.30**

**STEM Centre, Watford
Grammar School for Boys
Rickmansworth Road, Watford WD18 7JF**

'Integration and Community Cohesion'



**Guest speaker
Tanmanjeet
Singh Dhesi
MP**



WIFA is a member of the Interfaith Network for the UK. It was founded 43 years ago in Geoffrey Bould's sitting room. and members have become increasingly active with projects aimed at encouraging community cohesion, such as the creation of a Peace Garden with a labyrinth, the annual Harold Meyer Memorial Lecture and school assemblies and by participating in the Watford Celebration sacred space every year. We thank Watford Grammar School for Boys for their partnership in this event.

Harold Meyer

Harold was Chair of WIFA in the 1990s. He came across from Germany on the Kindertransport after Kristallnacht in 1939. He was a lad of 14 and knew no-one in Britain but the Jesuits took him in and allowed him to keep his Jewish worship. He was always grateful for this and he vowed to give back by working for interfaith, which he did for the rest of his life. WIFA sought to honour him with these lectures.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP

Tanmanjeet was born in Slough. A former mayor of Gravesham in Kent, he became Britain's first turbaned Sikh MP in the 2017 general election. On 4th September last year he gave the speech criticising Islamophobic comments from MPs which went viral on social media.

As well as being MP for Slough, he has served on the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee since 2018, and is Parliamentary Private Secretary to the leader of the opposition.

He is married with two children. His father, Jaspal Singh Dhesi was president of the Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar in Gravesend, the largest in the UK.

Programme

- 6.30 Harjit Singh, Chair of WIFA welcomes all
- 6.40 Dean Russell, MP for Watford
- 6.50 Cllr Karen Collett, Deputy Mayor
- 7.00 Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, MP for Slough
- 7.30 Questions from the floor
- 7.45 Vote of thanks
- 8.00 Refreshments
- 8.30 Close

Some of WIFA's recent activities:

Left, a vigil for victims of the Christchurch, New Zealand bombings in
March: right, sacred space at Watford Celebration in May



Some recent WIFA activities



1. Vigil for victims of Sri Lanka bombings at Easter time
2. Watford Interfaith Pilgrimage: in the gurdwara
3. Year 11 interfaith day at Parmiter's School
4. Week of Prayer for World Peace gathering in the Peace Garden
5. Members lay a wreath on behalf of those who died in recent wars
6. Explaining the pilgrimage to interfaith practitioners in Peterborough