



Swastika Is Sacred

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Reference Motions

- Motion Protecting Canadian Values: Ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada passed in Durham Region Council on 12th February 2025 - [Item 8.2](#)
- Motion Protecting Canadian Values: Ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada passed in Whitby City Council on 3rd February 2025 - [Item 11.2](#)
- We understand the intent here was to address growing antisemitism in Canada, and the sign rereferred here was Nazi Hakenkruez or Nazi Hooked cross; but using the words like “Nazi swastika” is not acceptable to minority Jain, and Hindu Canadians.
- We stand in solidarity with Jewish community and fully support all the efforts by the authorities to address growing antisemistism in Canada, but we object to usage of the word Swastika in hate context and we object to associate swastika word with Nazi.

Swastika – Extensively Used in Jain and Hindu Prayers

Swastika is a Sanskrit word which means well being of all. It is also used when we offer flowers to our God during our prayers at the start of worshipping rituals. The word is very auspicious and used extensively in various ceremonies, multiple times.

Hindu Prayer

ॐ सर्वेषां स्वस्तिर्भवतु ।
सर्वेषां शान्तिर्भवतु ।
सर्वेषां पूर्णभवतु ।
सर्वेषां मङ्गलंभवतु ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Om Sarveshaam Svastir-Bhavatu |
Sarveshaam Shaantir-Bhavatu |
Sarveshaam Puurnnam-Bhavatu |
Sarveshaam Mangalam-Bhavatu |
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

Meaning:

- 1: May there be Well-Being in All,
- 2: May there be Peace in All,
- 3: May there be Fulfilment in All,
- 4: May there be Auspiciousness in All,
- 5: Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

Jain Prayer

स्वस्ति त्रिलोक-गुरवे जिन-पुंगवाय, स्वस्ति स्वभाव-महिमोदय-सुस्थिताय ।
स्वस्ति प्रकाश-सहजोर्जित दृग्मयाय । स्वस्ति प्रसन्न-ललिताद्भुत-वैभवाय । २।

Svasti trilōka-guravē jina-puṅgavāya, svasti svabhāva-mahimōdaya-susthitāya |

Svasti prakāśa-sahajōrjita dṛgmayāya, svasti prasanna-lalitādbhuta-vaibhavāya | 2 |

तीन लोक के गुरु जिन भगवान (के स्मरण) के लिए स्वस्ति (पुष्प अर्पण)। स्वभाव (अनन्त चतुष्टय) में सुस्थित महामहिम (के स्मरण) के लिये स्वस्ति (पुष्प अर्पण)। (ज्ञान-रूपी) प्रकाश से ऊर्जित नेत्रमय (जिनेन्द्र के स्मरण) के लिये स्वस्ति (पुष्प अर्पण) । प्रसन्न, ललित एवं (समवशरण रूप) अद्भुत वैभव (-धारी के स्मरण) के लिये स्वस्ति (पुष्प अर्पण) । २।

Above mantras are spoken and flowers are offered at the beginning of worshipping

श्री पार्श्वः स्वस्ति, स्वस्ति श्री वर्द्धमानः।

Śrī Pārśva: svasti, svasti śrī Vard'dhamāna: |

।। इति श्रीचतुर्विंशति-तीर्थकर स्वस्ति मंगलविधानं पुष्पांजलिं क्षिपामि ।।

Many Jain and Hindu parents keep their children name as Swastika. Also name their business as Swastika.



Swastika – Is There Relationship to Nazi / AntiSemitism?

- Swastika word has **no** relation to Latin or any of its derivative European languages.
- Hitler or Nazi never used the word Swastika. They used the word Hakenkruez (in German) or Hooked Cross (in English).
- Holocaust was carried under Nazi Hakenkruez (or Hooked Cross) banner.
- It was New York Times first time associating Swastika word with Nazi with malicious intent to accuse Hindu civilization as an influencing factor for Hitler's actions
- Later the usage of “Nazi Swastika” words was amplified by media with malicious intent towards Hindu civilization.



Impact of Using Swastika word in Hate Context Or Associating Swastik with Nazi

- Deprives Jain and Hindu Canadians their religious rights to use their most auspicious word in their prayers.
- Deprives Jain and Hindu Canadians their religious rights to name their children and business with Swastika name.
- Make Jain and Hindu Canadians vulnerable for legal actions and unnecessary harassments despite having no involvement in antisemitic or hate activities.
- Confuses Jain and Hindu Canadian children about understanding their religious scriptures and worshipping.



Corrections Made in The West - 1

- Bill [c-229](#) drafted in Canada's parliament in February 2022 to include certain signs and symbols in Canada's criminal code. This draft bill earlier used the word "Nazi swastika".
- When honorable MP Peter Julian had presented bill c-229 for the first reading in Canada's parliament, Hindu community met and discussed with the MP, to which he had committed to amend Bill C-229 by replacing the word “**Nazi swastika**” with “**Nazi hooked cross**”. Though the bill did not come to the parliament floor for further consideration and did not become law yet. Our email exchanges with the MP can be provided upon request.



Corrections Made in The West - 2

- Peel Region Police replaced the word “**swastika**” with “**Nazi hate symbol**” in the context of hate on their website.

Online Reporting - Peel Region: x +

→ peelpolice.ca/en/report-it/online-reporting.aspx#Hate-Crime

PEEL REGIONAL POLICE Emergency: 9-1-1 Contact Us FAQs Human Rights Project PRP News Translate Popular Links

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Top News: “Miracle on Main Street” Event Launch

If this report does not meet our criteria to be reported online, please visit one of our Operational Divisions or Community Stations. [View a map of our locations and phone numbers.](#)

You may also contact our Non-Emergency Line at 905-453-3311, press 1 if you are unable to attend one of our locations in person.

Sample Narratives

Hate Crime

Example 1 - On March 12, 2024, around 12:00pm I was walking in a park located at 123 Main St, in the city of Brampton. I was approached by two males who started shouting derogatory terms at me (insert the exact derogatory terms here). They then pushed me to the ground and ran away southbound towards Main St. I did not sustain any injuries. Male 1 is described as, white, approximately 6 feet tall, wearing a red sweatshirt and black pants. Male 2 is described as, male, wearing a black sweater with black hair and a beard. I did not see any other people who witnessed the incident.

Example 2 - Yesterday evening at 7:30pm, I was waiting at a bus stop located at 123 Main St, in the city of Mississauga. I observed some graffiti painted with a black marker inside the bus shelter. The graffiti appeared to be a Nazi hate symbol. I did not witness anyone in or around the bus shelter at that time. I did take a photo which I uploaded to you online.

Hate Incident

Corrections Made in The West - 3

- Statement from honorable MP Chandra Arya in Canada's parliament regarding swastika.



Statement in Canadian Parliament on Swastika on Feb 28, 2022

Mr. Speaker,

On behalf of over one million Canadians of several religious faiths and in particular Hindu-Canadians and as a Hindu-Canadian myself, I call upon members of this house and all Canadians to distinguish between the Hindu religious sacred symbol Swastika and the Nazi symbol of hatred called Hakenkreuz in German or the hooked cross in English.

In the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit, Swastika means "that which brings good luck and well-being."

This ancient and greatly auspicious symbol of the Hindu religion continues to be used today at our Hindu temples, in our religious and cultural rituals, entrances to our homes and in our daily life.

Please stop calling the Nazi symbol of hatred as Swastika.

We support the ban of the Nazi symbol of hatred Hakenkreuz or the hooked cross.

But calling it Swastika is to deny us Hindu-Canadians our religious right and freedom to use our sacred symbol Swastika in our daily life.

Thank you Mr. Speaker

Corrections Made in The West - 4

- A legislation in Victoria state in Australia banning antisemitic symbols -
<https://www.vic.gov.au/about-the-nazi-symbol-gesture-ban>



www.vic.gov.au/about-the-nazi-symbol-gesture-ban

It is against the law to intentionally display a Nazi symbol or perform a Nazi gesture in public.

The **Nazi Hakenkreuz** has been banned in public since 29 December 2022.

The Hakenkreuz is the most widely known Nazi symbol. It has become a symbol of the Nazi Party and its heinous crimes against humanity.

The Victorian Government has expanded this ban to include other symbols and gestures used by the Nazi Party and its paramilitary organisations.

Displaying Nazi symbols or performing Nazi gestures in public can be harmful. The hatred that these symbols and gestures represent is not tolerated in Victoria's multicultural and democratic society.

The exceptions for the cultural and historical significance of the Swastika to Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and other faith communities remain unchanged.

It is not against the law to publicly display the Swastika (which may be mistaken for the Nazi Hakenkreuz symbol) for genuine cultural or religious purposes.

Corrections Made in The West - 5

- A leading Canadian Jewish advocacy group used the correct word Nazi hakenkreuz in their recent tweet
<https://x.com/Tafsikorg/status/1889091481773760696>

← Post



Tafsik Organization ✓
@Tafsikorg



We are appalled at Nazi psychopath Kanye Omari West's t shirts with the Nazi Hakenkreuz being sold on @Shopify

We ask our friends at @shopify to take down his entire site. He is a dangerous, and he will never stop destroying his own life and blaming Jews for his epic failures.

@harleyf do the right thing, delete this Nazi.

Disgusting, boring, unartistic trash.



- In USA Oregon State education department issued a circular to all students and parents explaining the difference between Hakenkreuz and swastika words and symbols, and disassociating swastika word from Nazi - <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/equity/SchoolSafety/Documents/hate%20symbols%20one%20pager%20v2.pdf>

1. ACCURATE LANGUAGE HELPS BUILD UNDERSTANDING.

Connotation: The association with racism and the Holocaust was a corruption by the Nazi party. Neo-Nazi use of this symbol is intended to intimidate specific communities. (Footnote: See ESB Guidance "Symbols of Hate" for additional information)

2. NAZI SYMBOLISM ISN'T LIMITED TO THE HAKENKREUZ.

3. LEARN AND RESEARCH IN ORDER TO ATTEND TO IMPACT.



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Corrections Made in The West - 7

- We have connected with Mr. Richard Robertson from B'naiBrith Canada who had earlier made delegations and requested for the original motions in Whitby City Council and Durham Region Council. Mr. Robertson has acknowledged the issue and impact of using the word “Nazi Swastika”, and expressed his apologies to us.
- B'naiBrith Canada is now committed not to use “Nazi Swastika” going forward.
- B'naiBrith Canada will be issuing formal press release in this matter soon.



Requests

- Amend the Motion 8.2 (Durham Council Feb 12, 2025) to replace the word “Nazi Swastika” with “Nazi Hakenkruez” or “Nazi Hooked Cross” or “Nazi symbol of hatred”
- Amend the Motion 11.2 (Whitby City Council Feb 3rd 2025) to replace the word “Nazi Swastika” with “Nazi Hakenkruez” or “Nazi Hooked Cross” or “Nazi symbol of hatred”
- Issue a Press Release about the amended motions and educate people not to use Swastika word in hate context.
- Issue a notification to Durham Region Police Department to update their earlier communications with reference to Swastika

Thank you

