



Swastika Is Sacred

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Reference Motion

- Motion Protecting Canadian Values: Ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada passed in Durham Region Council on 12th February 2025 - [Item 8.2](#)
- We understand the intent here was to address growing antisemitism in Canada, and the sign rereferred here was Nazi Hakenkruez or Nazi Hooked cross or Nazi symbols of hatred; 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 antisemitism in Canada, but we object to usage of the word Swastika in hate context and we object to associate swastika word with Nazi.



Corrections Made - Examples

Whitby City

- Similar motion that was passed on Feb 3rd 2025, has now been corrected to remove swastika from hate references. [link](#)

Peel Police

- PRP replaced swastika word in hate references with “Nazi hate symbol” word. [link](#)

Victoria Australia

- Legislation passed in 2022 to ban Nazi iconography including Nazi hakenkruez. An explicit provision in the legislation not to use swastika word in hate references. [link](#)

Oregon USA

- Education department issued a circular clearly differentiating Swastika and Hakenkruez words and giving guidelines which words to use for a specific situation. [link](#)

Bill c229

- In February 2022, the first [reading](#) included the word “Nazi Swastika”. Upon consultation with Hindu community, MP Peter Julian committed to replace it with Nazi hooked cross.

Canada Parliament

- MP Chandra Arya made statement in Parliament in February 2022 giving call to Canadians not to call Nazi symbols of hatred as swastika. [link](#)

Jewish Advocacy Groups

- B’nai Brith Canada issued a press release campaigning to ban Nazi Hakenkruez and disassociating with sacred Swastika [link](#)
- Tafsik Org has been using Nazi Hakenkruez word and disassociating swastika word from hate references. [Link](#)
- News Coverage – [link](#)



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 symbols of hatred”
- **Issue a Press Release** about the amended motion and educate people in local mainstream media (Canadian Press, CBC, CP24, Global News etc.) 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
- Issue notification to **Durham District School Board**, and other educational institutions about the sacred swastika, and disassociating it from nazi and hate references.

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.



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Thank you

