

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 7:32 PM
To: The Global Sangat
Subject: RE: Sangat Notification-SSSC Election Voter Approval Issues

Sat Nam Everyone,
This email was sent to the SSSC today addressing concerns about the SSSC Election Approval Process....

Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 to all SSSC Board Members and the SSSC attorney, Scott Browning
Subject: RE: Sangat Notification-SSSC Election Voter Approval Issues

Sat Nam,

An issue of concern has come to our attention about the SSSC Election Voter Approval Process regarding Chinese voters.

Voter Approval

The voting electorate has been opened up to Kundalini Yoga students. Kundalini Yoga Students in every country have the right of self-determination and can vote in the SSSC election if they meet the voting electorate qualifications.

The Students of Yogi Bhanjan affirm that all countries and cultures must be respected, and specific countries cannot be singled out and treated differently. This brings up concerns of fairness, diversity, inclusion, and equality.

Sangat members are concerned because it seems there is a question about whether community members in certain countries will be approved to vote, or not. Supposedly, this is due to "safety concerns".

For example, the argument has been made that "the Chinese government does not allow the Chinese people to vote in a religious organization; that this is "dangerous" for Chinese people". This is a misunderstanding, and it is NOT CORRECT.

Chinese people are free to practice any religion they wish, as long as the laws of China are followed, and Kundalini Yoga is an open and legal activity in China. Chinese citizens have freedom of religion, freedom to practice Kundalini Yoga, freedom to vote in the upcoming election, and it is safe for them to do so.

Many people have taught Kundalini Yoga in China for the past 17 years (including 1st generation KY teachers, SSSC Board members, candidates and/or their family members). Level 1 and Level II Kundalini Yoga Teacher Trainings have been taught in China for 17 years, and even though KRI has received substantial revenue from these courses, no one in KRI or IKYTA has

ever contacted any students or trainers with questions or concerns about their safety or their legal right to practice Kundalini Yoga.

A couple of months ago, the SSSC attorney, Scott Browning of Lewis Roca met with Angad Kaur, Nam Kaur, and Gurubachan Singh, who were writing referral letters for Chinese voters. At the end of that meeting, Scott agreed that if there was any problem going forward about the Chinese voters being able to vote, he would get back to Angad Kaur and her attorney with any questions or concerns. Instead, he and the SSSC hired an outside attorney for an additional legal opinion. He finally followed up with Angad to set up another meeting with her and her attorney when questions about whether the Chinese voters would qualify to vote persisted, although Angad Kaur had provided strong legal proof that it is not only safe for Chinese citizens to vote in the election, but that they have the right to do so under prevailing Chinese law. Angad Kaur is still waiting to hear the concerns expressed by the outside attorney so she and her attorney can properly address them on behalf of our Sangat members who are citizens in China.

Angad and her attorney look forward to sharing the reality of living in China, the Basic Human Rights and Freedoms of Chinese Citizens, and the details of what is required to comply with Chinese law. Some of this information has been shared with the SSSC attorneys already, yet they persist with the argument that it is dangerous for Chinese citizens to vote.

Question: How can any of us make a determination that a situation is too dangerous for any of our community members to participate in something? Isn't the decision of what is dangerous or not, and whether someone wants to participate or not, ultimately up to each individual? How can we, in good conscience, dictate to people what they can or cannot do based on our own assessment of the situation on their behalf? We strongly advocate for the freedom and right of all people, and especially the students of this sacred technology, to their self-determination.

Additionally, the recent inclusion of KRI (non-religious, non-profit) members to be included as automatic voters, makes this a secular and nonsecular process now. Without this recent change to the charter, no Kundalini Yoga trainers or teachers from any country would be included in the voting, as prior to this, it was only ministers who could vote. For example, the SSSC is an apex organization that oversees both its secular and non-secular arms. Kundalini Yoga is not a religion. It has been conclusively proven by the Chinese constitution itself, that Chinese citizens have the right to participate and vote. Therefore, we advocate for our Chinese students, who have qualified to vote, to not be prohibited from doing so due to a popular urban mythic misunderstanding of Chinese law and the lives of the Chinese people. Our Chinese brothers and sisters long to participate in this important process and resent being prohibited from exercising their rights to do so.

Here is a video from Angad Kaur from China who speaks to these concerns:

<https://youtu.be/QPjRF3ChLpA>