



New York City Comptroller  
John C. Liu

STATEMENT

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## LIU DENOUNCES ATTACK ON SIKH PROFESSOR

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NEW YORK, N.Y. – Comptroller John C. Liu stated the following today on an attack on a Sikh man who, according to police, was assaulted by a mob who called him “Osama” and “terrorist”:

“Hate has no place in New York City. This weekend’s attack on Columbia University Professor Prabhjot Singh is a rude reminder that bigotry still exists and is often directed at Sikhs and immigrants. It must be stopped.

“Sikhs were heavily affected by hate crimes after the 9/11 attacks, and more than three-quarters of Sikh kids are bullied in school. Anyone with information about Saturday’s vicious attack should contact the NYPD immediately.

“Further, our City must rid itself of the last vestiges of discriminatory policies that render Sikhs as second-class citizens. One giant step in the right direction would be to change NYPD rules to allow Sikhs to serve as officers while wearing their turbans and beards.”

### **Background:**

Liu, Sikh Groups Launch Initiative to Reform NYPD Religious Garb Policy:  
<https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/liu-sikh-groups-launch-initiative-to-reform-nypd-religious-garb-policy/>

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