



Common Sikh American Head Coverings

Sikhism is a religion that originated in South Asia during the 15th Century and is distinct from both Islam and Hinduism. For religious reasons, practicing Sikhs do not cut their hair. Sikh men wrap and knot their long hair with a turban or *pagri* (see photo a), a practice that typically takes 10-15 minutes. Sikh boys wrap their hair in a smaller under-turban or *patka*, with their hair knotted on top of their head (photo b). Some Sikh women also wear turbans (photo c); however, many opt for a cloth or *chunni* to cover their head (photo d).

Points to Keep in Mind when searching someone wearing a Sikh Head Covering:

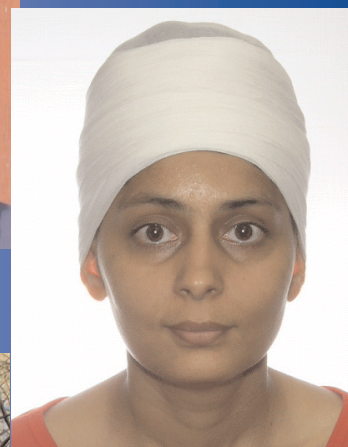
- Show Respect.
- Explain why you need to conduct search.
- Offer private room for search, if available.
- Searches should be done by members of the same sex.
- Review applicable policies and procedures for more information.



a. Man with pagri



b. Boy with patka



c. Woman with pagri



d. Woman with chunni