

INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION

INDIAN WORKER'S ASSOCIATION (G.B.)

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NEWS RELEASE

Southall's new Labour candidate must be from the community

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For Immediate Release

The Indian Workers Association GB (IWA) notes that the Ealing Southall MP Virendra Sharma has announced his decision not to stand at the General Election being held on 4 July, after serving almost two decades in office. Aged 77, Sharma has been the local MP since 2007, replacing Piara Singh Khabra, the former IWA President, who died while serving as MP.

Sital Singh Gill, an IWA leader, said: "We urge the Labour leader Keir Starmer to use his considerable influence to ensure Virendra Sharma's replacement as the party's prospective parliamentary candidate is a progressive South Asian or progressive other person of colour."

He added: "Southall is one of more than 60 seats in England where Labour's huge and loyal Asian and African Caribbean electorate is crucial to the party winning elections and, in less than six weeks, winning the General Election that millions of people in Britain, including the IWA, hope gets rid of Rushi Sunak's awful Conservative government. The Tories have been responsible for 14 years of misrule, including them shamefully scapegoating migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and working people for the economic woes they have inflicted on Britain."



The IWA nationally has been acclaimed for its campaigns to protect the rights of the early South Asian migrants who came to Britain as much-needed workers in the 1950s and '60s.

It has tirelessly fought against racial discrimination and for workers and migrants rights and acted as a vital training ground for a generation of Asian and African community leaders, inspiring many of them to enter mainstream local and national politics.

The IWA has in the past been praised for running a self-financed national welfare and advice service supporting many thousands of people annually. In the 1960s an IWA member became the first elected Asian councillor in Ealing, West London, and by 1994 its President Piara Singh Khabra had become the first Asian MP for the Ealing Southall constituency, propelling a new generation of Asians into mainstream institutions and politics.

Contact Sital Singh Gill, India Workers Association GB national spokesperson and Leicestershire IWA GB General Secretary. Sital presents a weekly political programme on Kohinoor Radio with 80,000 listeners.

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