

## About SCDA

The Sikh Civil Defense Association (SCDA), founded in 2025, is a faith-based, non-profit organization committed to enhancing community preparedness and response. We achieve through our three core pillars: Inform, Prepare, Connect.

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## Utilizing Self Defense

Learn the Five Elements of Self Defense to Stay Safe and Avoid Legal Trouble.



# Sikhs Face Rising Hate Crimes

In 2024, Sikhs were the third most targeted religious group for hate crimes in the United States, with a comparable ranking in Canada.

Despite being a small religious minority, Sikhs continue to experience a disproportionate share of hate-motivated violence and harassment. These incidents highlight ongoing challenges of religious intolerance and the urgent need for stronger awareness, protection, and community support.



## Do you know how to appropriately respond when confronted with a potential threat?

Developed and taught by esteemed self-defense attorney Andrew Branca, The Five Elements of Self Defense equips individuals with essential knowledge to avoid wrongful prosecution and confidently protect their freedom when facing violent crime.

## Critical Elements

Here are the five critical elements you need to understand to safeguard your legal rights.

- 1 Innocence**  
You must not initiate the conflict. If you initiate the conflict, you become the aggressor and forfeit your legal right to self-defense.
- 2 Imminence**  
The act of violence must be occurring or so imminent and unavoidable that you must respond in that moment.
- 3 Avoidance**  
You must attempt to retreat or de-escalate a situation before using force, if it is safe to do so.
- 4 Proportionality**  
The force you use must be proportionate to the threat. Deadly force should only be used against an aggressor if there is a risk of death or serious bodily injury.
- 5 Reasonableness**  
Your actions must align with what a reasonable person would do in the same situation. Before acting, ask yourself, "Would a jury find that your fear and response were justified?"