



Indian - Jewish Association UK

Uniting the Indian and Jewish
Communities in Britain

PRESS RELEASE

Reception with Distinguished Guests Professor Satvinder Juss and Henry Grunwald OBE, QC



The modest beginnings of two eminent lawyers were never a barrier to progress for the two speakers at the Indian Jewish Association's annual Summer Reception, hosted by Mishcon de Reya on Thursday 11th July.

Professor Satvinder Juss and Henry Grunwald OBE, QC fascinated and inspired their audience as they talked about their early life.

Satvinder Juss, Professor of Law at Kings College, London, and an eminent human rights barrister, spoke of his family's forced eviction from East Africa, where his father had been a colonial administrator, to their very modest life in Wolverhampton where his father could only find menial work. But their faith and the self reliance instilled through Sikhism drove his father to start over again, to study at night school, and to eventually rejoin the civil service on completion of his studies. Their son attended the local secondary modern school, but the same ethic propelled him to Cambridge and Harvard universities, and to qualify as a barrister.

He now specialises in human rights, immigration and discrimination cases because of his commitment to helping others. Sikh barristers may now plead their cases in white turbans instead of wigs, and Sikhs may be cremated in specially allocated public spaces, as their religion demands, because of the legal campaigns he has pursued.

He noted that Britain is more welcoming to immigrants, and accepts religious diversity more readily, than its European partners. The same point was made by Henry Grunwald OBE QC, who has devoted many years of service to the Jewish community, rising through the ranks of the Board of Deputies until he was elected President, for the maximum two terms. He serves as Chairman of World Jewish Relief, which was created to secure a safe haven in Britain for Jewish refugee children from Nazi Germany.



Like Professor Juss, Henry Grunwald came from modest origins in London's East End, where his father worked in catering, having arrived on the eve of the Second World War, from what is now Slovakia.

The loving family background, ambition to better oneself and to give something back to society, and to charity, comes from the faith traditions of both Sikhism and Judaism. Both speakers believed that this is what has led to their success and eminence in the law.

A full transcript of both speaker's presentations, pictures, and further details can be obtained from Mike Whine or Anna Levene at: info@indianjewishassociation.co.uk or 020 8457 1485

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