

# OneJAIN Manifesto



UK General  
Election 2024

Jainism is one of the world's oldest continuing religions, and is typified by its core principles of compassion and non-violence. Jains typically originate from the Indian sub-continent, and so are concentrated in those areas where there are the most Indian-origin people: the London Boroughs of Harrow, Brent, Barnet and Croydon, as well as sizeable populations in Leicester, Birmingham and Manchester. However, as the community grows, so Jains can be found in all corners of the UK.

The Institute of Jainology (IOJ) represents the collaboration of all 35 UK Jain organisations in government and inter-faith matters under the OneJAIN banner. Together, these organisations represent a community of at least 65,000 people, many of whom play an outsized role in civic and community life, as well as excelling across professional, business, and academic pursuits.

The IOJ is a registered charity and has no political affiliations with any party. In 2016, the IOJ became the secretariat of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Jainism (Jain APPG) and has developed several policies which are now the basis for our manifesto: *representation, respect and relationships*.

## Representation

*Jains are a well-integrated British Indian community, and should be better represented as part of the UK's multicultural and diverse family*

### ***Jainism should be added as a 'Tick Box' in the Religions Section in the next national census***

- 1 In the last national census, over 25,000 Jains ticked the 'Other' box, and selected Jain. This is about 40% of the British Jain population. We believe that not having a Jain option in main census results in massive under reporting which impacts both policy and funding of public services.

### ***Jains and Jainism should be represented at major national and interfaith events***

- 2 As a nationally recognised faith, Jainism should be represented at all major national and interfaith events. Jains wish to play their part in society, multi-faith and interfaith dialogue and will actively campaigns for better Jain representation.

### ***Representation in public life***

- 3 Jains are an integral part of the multi faith society that is modern Britain and wish to contribute at all levels of government and public life. They should be better represented in parliament, local government, and civil society. OneJAIN actively campaigns for better Jain representation.

## Respect

*Jains believe in compassion and reducing violence in our daily lives, and in society more broadly*

### ***Respecting the religious and cultural needs of Jains and Jainism***

Public bodies need to recognise Jain communities in their localities and ensure that their services acknowledge the specific needs of those that observe the Jain faith.

4 In health and social care, this includes unique dietary, medicinal, chaplaincy and crematoria needs, and in schools this includes dietary requirements and RE and Indic language options.

All public bodies with Jain staff should allow the observance of major Jain religious festivals. OneJAIN actively campaigns for better recognition and delivery of Jain religious and cultural needs.

### ***Respecting people and reducing violence***

5 There has been a significant rise in crimes, and in particular violent crimes, in the areas in which Jains live and work. We believe in the need for local policing, amongst other active measures to stem this violence.

OneJAIN will actively campaign against violent protest in response to religious, social or political events in the UK or other parts of the world. Jains respect the rights of all to peaceful protest as a key part of a free, democratic society, but are against all forms of violent protest.

## Relationships

*The Jain community is a tight-knit community that seeks to support each other, and those around it*

### ***Promoting stronger UK-India bilateral ties***

6 Jainism originated in India and continues to have social, cultural and religious links with the sub-continent. OneJAIN promotes stronger cultural and economic ties with India, as a major global superpower.

***We invite all candidates standing at the 2024 General Election to declare their support of this manifesto***



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Company registration 6659303 in England and Wales.  
Registered charity number 1131173.*