

FREE TIBET

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freetibet.org

free
TIBET



• Victory! • Billboards in NY & London • Setting boundaries •

Dear friends...

Victory! Again! The last magazine brought news of the *Telegraph* ceasing publication of the 'China Watch' propaganda supplement. I'm delighted that this magazine can bring you news of further progress with the *Economist* doing the same (see page six). Needless to say, we are delighted to score this major blow against the lies the Chinese Communist Party spreads about Tibet.

Pressure from Free Tibet supporters was the key factor in both campaign wins. Your donations paid for the tools that mean we can run fast-paced digital campaigns and project 30-foot-high messages onto the headquarters of the *Economist*.

Of course we also did a provocative mega-projection onto the Chinese Embassy in London. Provocative because the embassy staff were livid, and it provoked an outpouring of support for our cause online.

There is good news coming from within our organisation too. We have moved to a smart new office in Brixton, which has the facilities to help us run our work from home during this pandemic. This means that our shop is back up and running. This is a vital source of income for us, and a great source of Christmas presents for you and your loved ones! Visit freetibet.org/shop to browse and order.

Lastly, a warm welcome to those from Tibet Society receiving this magazine for the first time. Your support for our joint efforts will invigorate our advocacy. With campaign victories, growing support, new allies from the Uyghur movement and Hong Kong, as well as hardening public and parliamentary opinion against China, it is an exciting time to be working to free Tibet.

With warm wishes



Sam Walton, Free Tibet Chief Executive



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Our vision is a free Tibet in which Tibetans are able to determine their own future and the human rights of all are respected.

Free Tibet campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for international recognition of Tibetans' right to freedom. We mobilise active support for the Tibetan cause, champion human rights and challenge those whose actions help sustain the occupation.

Editor: John Jones
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Front cover: The Chinese Embassy, illuminated by our projection (Free Tibet/International Tibet Network)





Lighting the darkness

For a brief moment, the Chinese Embassy was turned into a monument of resistance.

Around midnight on 12 July, the words “China fails freedom: Free Tibet, Free Hong Kong, Free Uyghurs” were projected in large letters onto the side of the Chinese Embassy in London. Officials inside were unable to stop the stunt organised by Free Tibet and a coalition of other groups.

The message was intended to highlight parallels between China’s long-standing abuses in Tibet and East Turkestan, and the unfolding crackdown in Hong Kong. It turned the embassy building into a canvas for the protest and broke the illusion that China can control its image. It was a massive embarrassment for the embassy, who scrambled to call the police – despite this kind of action being entirely legal in the UK.

That same night Free Tibet and its partners carried out projection protests at the headquarters of the Economist and the Apple Store in Covent Garden, highlighting how the companies have either facilitated the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) repression or helped its intensive international propaganda efforts.

A video projected onto the Apple Store challenged the company to reverse its decision to ban a range of apps from its App Store in China, including VPNs that Tibetans in occupied Tibet rely on to communicate safely with the wider world. The action at the headquarters of the Economist asked the newspaper’s editors whether they had stopped publishing paid content from the Beijing Review, a propaganda outlet directly overseen by the CCP. You can see more details of this campaign on page six.

Once the action was over and the protesters had made it home, it was time to celebrate an exciting night of campaigning. John Jones, Campaigns and Advocacy Manager at Free Tibet, hailed the action: “The CCP won’t have enjoyed the events at the Chinese Embassy last night”, he said. “For a brief moment, the Chinese Embassy was turned into a monument of resistance, a symbol of all those who resist CCP rule in the name of human rights, self-determination and freedom.”

An interview with Tim Loughton MP



One of the key aspects of Free Tibet's work is collaborating with Parliament to ensure that Tibet is kept on the government's agenda. Tibet can count on several friends in Parliament from each of the largest parties, including Tim Loughton, a Conservative MP and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Tibet. We spoke to Loughton earlier this year, and in a wide-ranging interview, he told us about his advocacy for Tibet in Parliament, his interest in Tibet as a teenager, and the importance of drawing attention to climate change on the Tibetan Plateau. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

How did you first become involved in issues related to Tibet?

My interest in Tibet goes back to when I was at school. The reason I most got involved with it is some family friends of ours adopted some Tibetans. It was the first political demonstration I ever went on, with the Tibet action groups. Demonstrating outside the Chinese Embassy when I was about 16 or 17. Then when I came to Parliament I joined the All Party Tibet Group. So I've been a member of the All Party Group for most of the last 23 years, and then became the chair a few years ago.

What do you see as being the most concerning thing happening in Tibet?

What's going on in Tibet itself and the persecution of Tibetans by the Chinese. Then what's going on with Tibet in terms of the huge environmental damage that the Chinese are doing in Tibet and the impact that is having way beyond just the parameters of Tibet or even China itself. So anybody who's interested in

preserving the environment, anybody who's interested in preservation of basic human rights and anybody who's interested in preserving cultural identity and empowering people, and allowing people to respect and follow that, should be interested in Tibet.

What's the position of the [UK] government and government ministers?

The government behind the scenes has always been sympathetic. William Hague actually was sympathetic. We've had meetings with William Hague when he was foreign secretary about it before. But there's quite a world of difference of unofficially giving tacit support and being prepared to speak out and back legislations. And so we are nowhere near that. That's the problem. Realistically, I don't think we're going to get legislation along the lines of the [United] States. I think there would have been a lot of support for it in Parliament, but you know what huge sway the Chinese government has over various governments, for fear of losing trade contracts and all sorts of other business, and that's the problem. But I think things have got more difficult for the Chinese to hide with what's been going on in Hong Kong, and the general uproar about the Uyghurs.

How do you see the issue of climate in Tibet?

It's absolutely a global issue. And this is why it's a really good tool for raising the profile of Tibet. The fact that a third of the world's population are served by water sources which rise in the Tibetan Plateau, that is a major global issue and the fact that the Chinese are going out of their way to destroy the climate in Tibet at the moment with all the mining and the dams and everything else they're doing. That is of huge interest to people well beyond Tibet and people who have no interest in Tibetan human rights. They could be the most indifferent people to Tibetan human rights, but if they're interested in the environment of our planet then they need to be interested in Tibet.



Tim speaks at the Tibetan Uprising demonstration, 10 March 2020.

TIBET WAS INVADED BY CHINA IN 1950 IT HAS BEEN IN LOCKDOWN EVER SINCE

Our new billboards caught the eye of the public and hopefully the Chinese government.

With lockdowns around the world and the public cautious about gathering in groups, it has been tricky to bring Free Tibet's message to a wider audience lately. Being Free Tibet, we always find a way. In August, we put up billboards in London and in New York's world-famous Times Square, putting Chinese human rights abuses in Tibet in front of millions of people.

The image in Times Square was posted on 42nd street between 7th and 8th Avenue. Based on a real photo of a Tibetan monk being taken away by Chinese security forces, the image highlighted the lack of freedom in Tibet. In this election year, the billboard told onlookers that not only are Tibetans unable to vote for their government, but they are also forbidden from protesting against the occupation or even trying to leave Tibet to escape it.

A second billboard was posted in Kingston, southwest London. It showed a person draped in the Tibetan flag behind bars, representing the political prisoners in Tibet, of which there are thought to be close to 2,000. The billboard repeated an increasingly

common refrain among Tibetans: that their country has been in lockdown since 1950, the year of the Chinese invasion.

The striking designs were the result of a collaboration between Free Tibet and Catherine Quine, who also happens to be the designer of the magazine you are currently reading.

The billboards remained up for two weeks, and as well as being seen by millions of people, also received coverage in local London and New York media. Tibetan media and social media shared the designs widely, with Tibetans praising the campaign and the strong message. Ultimately, the billboards helped keep the Tibetan cause where it belongs, and where China least wants to see it: in public.



Chinese human rights abuses broadcast in New York's Times Square and London. Above: in-situ in New York; Behind: Our London artwork.

Campaigns update...



L: Projection onto the office of the Economist;
R: Artists impression of Xi enjoying his own propaganda

Victory!

There was some great news this summer as the Economist quietly dropped paid content written by Chinese state media from its newspaper. In the last magazine, we wrote about how a number of international newspapers were running content from two Chinese state media outlets: China Daily and the Beijing Review, both of which print government propaganda aimed at international audiences.

The propaganda is repackaged as articles and advertorials in several leading international newspapers, praising the CCP's trade policies, development and response to the coronavirus outbreak. In some particularly damning cases, newspapers have run content hailing "democratic reforms" in Tibet under Chinese rule. The deals newspapers have struck to run this content are worth thousands, sometimes millions, of pounds.

We launched the campaign in April, within a day of us learning that the Telegraph had cut ties with China Daily, following years of pressure from Free Tibet. Building on this momentum, we asked our supporters to contact the Economist and a second newspaper, the Wall Street Journal, urging them to stop running these propaganda articles. Over 2,000 of you did so within a month.

Further success followed. In early August, we learned that the Economist had quietly removed all content from Beijing Review from its website, an early sign that they had cut ties. Full confirmation came later that month, when the Economist's Senior Vice President of Communications responded to a question from Free Tibet by stating:

"In June of this year, The Economist Group changed its policy with regard to taking advertorials from government-controlled media. We will not enter into new contracts to run advertising features, in print or online, which comprise editorial content from news media entities that are controlled by the state. This change is designed to eliminate any potential reader confusion about the distinction between advertising and editorial content, and applies to relevant media in all countries."

The victory is an important one for the integrity of the western publications which have dropped the propaganda, for their readers and those who have suffered abuses under Chinese rule. Thank you to our supporters who took action.

Campaigns and Advocacy Manager at Free Tibet, John Jones, celebrated the victory: "International newspapers should be exposing the CCP's global propaganda effort, not collaborating with it", he said. "Fortunately the tide is turning. Free Tibet and its supporters have scored two massive victories against CCP propaganda in less than a year. As a result of our campaign, there is now no paid CCP propaganda in any mainstream UK publication. Now it is time for us to step up the pressure in other countries, and get the CCP's lies out of our news."

Campaign hits 20,000 signatures

Free Tibet's Beyond Belief petition reached 20,000 signatories this summer, demonstrating overwhelming support for religious freedom in Tibet. The Beyond Belief campaign was launched in 2016 in response to the CCP's stated plans to impose their own Dalai Lama on Tibetans.

Since the launch of the action, a number of governments have spoken out against Beijing's plans to appoint a pro-CCP Dalai Lama, including the United States, where the bill for the Tibet Support and Policy Act is currently before the Senate. The bill states that



the succession of the Dalai Lama is solely for Tibetans to decide, and that any CCP officials responsible for interfering with the succession would be subject to sanctions. Several European governments and the European Union have also criticised the CCP's plans.

Free Tibet stands in solidarity with Uyghurs

Tibetans gathered at the Chinese Embassy in London in August to support a protest against widespread human rights abuses faced by the Uyghur people. The event was organised by the Uyghur Solidarity Campaign and was part of a set of recurring protests that take place on the 5th of each month.

The Chief Executive of Free Tibet, Sam Walton, spoke to around 100 protesters at the event, following a speech by the UK Project Director for the World Uyghur Congress, Rahima Mahmut.

"We are fighting the same cause, we want to stand alongside you", Walton said. "Our enemy is not the Chinese people; our enemy is the Chinese Communist Party"

Later that month, on 30 August, Free Tibet and the World Uyghur Congress joined forces to mark the International Day of the Disappeared. A well-attended vigil at the embassy recalled those who have been secretly imprisoned or made to disappear, including the relatives of some of those at the protest. In her speech, Rahima acknowledged the support from the Tibetan movement, and noted that many of the disappeared included Tibetans.

We hope to announce more plans for joint Tibet-Uyghur campaigns soon.



Veteran campaigner Peter Tatchell attended the protest on 5 August.

Have you seen our shop?

This season in the Free Tibet shop we have all of your festive favourites, from handmade Himalayan angels, to mini monks and yak dolls.

As the climate crisis campaign is a priority for Free Tibet right now, we are also excited to expand our sustainable range with reusable water bottles, beeswax wraps, and bamboo straws.

We hope you enjoy buying and gifting these products as much as we enjoy working with the ethical suppliers who provide them.

You can visit our shop online at freetibet.org/shop to purchase items.



The role of Tibet in the China-India stand-off.

At night time, on 29 August, a group of Tibetans were patrolling the border of their country. Their mission was to head off attempts by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) to seize new territory. The operation was ultimately successful, but came at a cost; one member of the battalion, Nyima Tenzin, a veteran soldier and father of three, was killed after he activated a landmine.

The operation that claimed Nyima's life took place in Pangong Tso, a lake 4,225 metres above sea level situated between Tibet and Ladakh in India. The Chinese attack was coming from Tibet, Nyima's homeland and the country from where his parents fled to Ladakh in 1966. In 1987, he enlisted with the Special Frontier Forces (SFF), also known as Establishment 22, a force of Tibetan paramilitaries under the supervision of the Indian army. Although the Indian government says as little as possible about the SFF, it privately prizes its ability to operate at high altitudes.

The SFF was created in 1962, the year that China and India went to war over the very same region of Ladakh. The Sino-Indian War, which resulted in well over a thousand casualties, was a direct result of the Chinese invasion

Setting boundaries

and occupation of Tibet. Prior to 1950, Tibet had been a buffer state between the two giant Asian countries. The occupation extended Chinese control up to Tibet's frontier with India. This border, 4,000 kilometres long, has never been formally demarcated, generating decades of territorial disputes. The Indian geopolitical analyst Brahma Chellaney in a 2019 article, referred to China's seizure of Tibet as "the most far-reaching geopolitical development in modern India's history".

The occupation of Tibet also resulted in new borders between the People's Republic of China and Bhutan and Nepal, inspiring a metaphor attributed to Mao Zedong that Tibet is the palm of a hand, while Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh (all in India), Nepal and Bhutan are the fingers. A Brief History of Modern China, published by the CCP for school students, showed a map of China including all of these "fingers" as well as much of northern India, lands that, according to the book, had been stolen over the previous 90 years by "imperialist powers" and which needed to be "reclaimed."

A series of meetings between Chinese and Indian representatives to resolve the border have brought no resolution. At the same time,



Above: Nyima Tenzin;
Behind: The road to Pangong Tso.

The mutual distrust between the two countries has seen an ever growing military build-up.

Can you help?

In 2020, the human rights abuses that China is inflicting on Uyghurs and the people of Hong Kong have become increasingly hard to ignore. These abuses mirror the control and deprivation of rights which have been endured by Tibetans for the past 70 years.

Whilst the world is alert to the activities of the Chinese Communist Party, now is the time to act. We must act on the willingness of the public to listen and ensure that Tibet is also on the international agenda.

With your donation today we can shout louder. Our message can reach audiences and news outlets that have not been reached before. Your support will help raise international pressure on China and help prevent Hong Kong and the Uyghurs from enduring the same brutal repression that the CCP has inflicted on Tibet.

Visit freetibet.org/stop-the-ccp to donate today.





the mutual distrust between the two countries has seen an ever growing military build-up, turning occupied Tibet into the frontline of a conflict.

In 2017, Chinese road construction in Doklam, land claimed by Bhutan, led to a tense 73-day standoff between China and India. Following the confrontation, China positioned fighter jets at the Ngari Gunsu Airport, a mere 200 kilometres from Pangong Tso. In January 2020, the much-hyped Type 15 light tank, designed to perform at high altitudes, was deployed in Tibet. The tank was introduced to the Chinese public at a military parade in Beijing on National Day 2019, along with a new 155 mm vehicle-mounted howitzer, also now in Tibet. The following month, the PLA carried out a major military exercise on the Tibetan Plateau.

Meanwhile, in the areas governed as the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, between 200,000 and 230,000 Chinese ground troops are deployed, a number larger than the entire active and reserve soldiers of the British Armed Forces combined. Many of these soldiers have their guns turned away from India – their role is to clamp down on protests by Tibetans and Uyghurs – but each of them has turned Tibet and its border with India into a more dangerous, more heavily militarised place.

Those dangers were there for all to see in May this year. Chinese and Indian soldiers traded insults and threw stones at each other at Pangong Tso. This degenerated into fighting with improvised weapons such as sticks covered in barbed wire and iron bars, ultimately costing the lives of 20 Indian soldiers, including an officer, and an

unconfirmed number of Chinese soldiers. At the time of writing, the conflict had not been resolved, rumbling on and leading to the 29 August mission that cost Nyima Tenzin his life.

There is little appetite for an all-out war between two nuclear powers, let alone the inhabitants of occupied Tibet. De-escalation will be the only way out, but with this de-escalation, will come further recognition that China under Xi Jinping has become increasingly, dangerously confrontational.

MIT professor, Taylor Fravel and Tibet's Sikyong, Lobsang Sangay, have both asserted that China's role in the skirmishes was an attempt to show strength amidst the economic and reputational damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Other analysts recall historic Chinese claims on neighbouring territory and identify China as carrying out 'salami slicing' – a tactic of repeatedly encroaching on other countries' territory over a large period of time to take gradual control of it.

Whether they were reactive or premeditated, the skirmishes on the Indian-Tibetan border are just one expression of China's increasingly aggressive territorial policies, from the South China Sea to Hong Kong to its treatment of Tibetans, Southern Mongolians and Uyghurs. This array of threats and human rights abuses demonstrate that the refusal to identify and sanction abuses in Tibet, exemplified by the UK government's "golden era" of relations with China over the past decade, has not worked; China is more assertive than ever, and it is not just India that will need to set firmer boundaries.

The PLA holds military exercises in Tibet.



Inspiration to a generation



The remarkable life of Ama Adhe.

A hero of the resistance, a political prisoner and an advocate for Tibet, “Ama” Adhe Tapontsang passed away this summer at the age of 88. Her lifelong struggle against the occupation inspired a generation of Tibetan activists and Tibet supporters.

Ama Adhe was born in Nyarong in Kham, eastern Tibet, in 1932 and raised as a devout Buddhist. Her life changed in 1950 when she was still a teenager, with China’s invasion of Tibet.

In interviews later in her life, Ama Adhe recalled the terror she felt as the Chinese forces entered Tibet. Married and pregnant with her second child, she tried to flee from Kham to Lhasa with her husband and daughter. Before they could escape, her husband was poisoned, dying in front of her.

Ama Adhe joined the resistance against the Chinese occupation, supplying soldiers with provisions and encouraging women to

join in the struggle. She was arrested in 1958 as part of a group of 300 Tibetans, all but four of whom would die in prison due to starvation and ill-treatment. In later life she told harrowing stories of the hunger in the prisons where she was held.

Her ordeal in prison would last for 27 years, during which time she was subjected to hard labour, rape and torture. In 1985, she was pardoned, along with numerous other political prisoners, by CCP leader Deng Xiaoping. Two years later she escaped from Tibet, reaching Dharamsala where she lived for the rest of her life.

Ama Adhe used her freedom to raise awareness of Tibet, tirelessly travelling the world to tell audiences about her ordeal in prison, including, notably, in 1997 at Harvard University, which had agreed to host Chinese Premier Jiang Zemin. That year also saw the release of her autobiography, *Ama Adhe: The Voice that Remembers: The Heroic Story of a Woman’s Fight to Free Tibet*.

Ama Adhe passed away peacefully in Dharamsala on 3 August. A vigil was held in Dharamsala by a few of those whose lives she touched, while around the world, Tibetans and Tibet supporters shared memories of her remarkable life and their encounters with her, as well as defiant messages, pledging to continue the struggle to which she dedicated her life.



Tibetans in Dharamsala hold a procession for Ama Adha.

News from Tibet...



China works hard to keep news of their abuses in Tibet hidden. Here are some stories which Free Tibet, working alongside our research partner Tibet Watch, has brought to global attention.

Former monk and political prisoner dies

Samdup, a former Tibetan monk and political prisoner, died on 17 February from a diabetes-related illness at the age of 50. Free Tibet learnt of the news in July, a result of the tight restrictions on Tibet.

In 1992, Samdup was arrested, along with 12 fellow monks from Drepung Monastery in Lhasa, after the group carried out a peaceful protest. He was sentenced to seven years in prison.

His case is representative of several former political prisoners who are released but continue to endure serious health problems. Tibetan political prisoners continue to suffer physical torture including hard labour, beatings, starvation, alongside mental torture. There is also a lack of proper medical attention for them.



Samdup.

Tibetans arrested for a song praising the Dalai Lama

Two Tibetans were imprisoned in eastern Tibet after composing and singing a song praising the Dalai Lama. Tibetan lyricist Khado Tsetan and singer Tsegao were arrested in early July. Khado Tsetan was sentenced to seven years in prison and Tsegao three years.

An unidentified Tibetan girl in Zeku County was also arrested for posting the song on social media.



Khado Tsetan.

New WeChat restrictions

Tibetans in Tibet have seen increased difficulties with communicating with friends and family members living in the outside world. This follows recent restrictions imposed by China and India on the Chinese messaging application WeChat, which most Tibetans depend on for communication.

In early June, influential Tibetans living in exile found themselves blocked from using WeChat. Monks and nuns living in religious sites outside Tibet, like Sakya Monastery in India, were targeted in particular.

Following the border skirmishes between China and India, India took the decision on 29 June to ban 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok and WeChat. Hundreds of thousands of Tibetan WeChat users have since reported their account as being blocked. This WeChat ban has also made the transfer of money between family members in Tibet and those in exile difficult, as the Red Packet feature in the application provides an easy way of transferring money.

In addition to disrupting communication between families, these latest measures are bound to reduce the flow of information and access to news coming out of Tibet.



WeChat, a Chinese messaging service widely used by Tibetans; India-China stand off.



A site housing forcibly relocated Tibetans.

Tibetans forcibly relocated

In June, Chinese authorities forcibly relocated around 59 Tibetans from 13 different households in eastern Tibet. The relocated Tibetans were moved from Dolying Village in Payul County, eastern Tibet, to a settlement in Palyul County built by the Chinese government for a poverty alleviation programme in 2018.

There have been repeated instances of Tibetans being forcibly relocated from eastern Tibet. In May, Free Tibet's research partner Tibet Watch learned of mass forced relocations of around 400 Tibetan families that took place between the years 2018 and 2019. They were moved from eastern Tibet to areas in the so-called Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Authorities claimed that these forced relocations were part of an effort to alleviate poverty in Tibet. However, local sources confirm that such relocations were done forcefully and families were not compensated as initially promised.

Destruction fears for Jokhang Temple

A multi-million project to renovate the Jokhang Temple complex in Lhasa has raised concerns among Tibetans because it risks irreparably altering the character of the site. The Jokhang is a sacred site for Tibetans and also listed as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

On 17 February 2018, a fire broke out at the complex causing considerable damage. The circumstances surrounding the fire and the extent of the damage to the Jokhang were suppressed by the Chinese government. The 2018 fire is cited as one of the reasons for the renovation.

Tibetans fear that any construction on the complex could lead to destruction or alteration of the significant infrastructure.



The roof of the iconic Jokhang Temple; the fire in 2018.

Authorities seize land in eastern Tibet

Further land seizures have taken place in eastern Tibet, with authorities confiscating land in Lithang County earlier this year. When residents complained, around 80 people were arrested and detained for a week. Lithang County authorities threatened residents thinking of protesting further, telling them: "We have paid thousands of yuan to people to surveil you day and night."

Letters



If you have a question or comment that you would like to see published in the next magazine, do get in touch with us by email at letters@freetibet.org, over the phone on 020 7324 4605 or by post to:

Letters, Free Tibet,
28 Charles Square,
London N1 6HT.

Please note we cannot guarantee publication of each letter we receive. Thank you!

Dear Sam,

I am a long time supporter of the Tibetan cause. I speak Tibetan and have first hand experience of talking to Tibetans inside Tibet about their situation. In the 30 years that I have been involved in campaigning on behalf of the Tibetan people, the plight of the Uyghur people, and pro-democracy demonstrators in Hong Kong and mainland China have also been mentioned.

Tibet seems to have just disappeared from the conversations now, as if it's all been sorted on that front, or perhaps as if it's too late, the culture has gone. I would like to see Free Tibet taking a very active role in challenging these media outlets, whenever the Uyghur case is raised, and putting Tibet back on the map, alongside the Uyghur people, who are quite rightly attracting media attention. Please use your influence to bring Tibet back into people's awareness.

Yours sincerely
Kate Murry

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your email. We share your concern and we are working hard on this issue. What is happening to the Uyghurs is just coming to public consciousness, and events in Hong Kong are unfolding in an unprecedented manner. The situation in Tibet is also awful, but has been bad for a long time, and consequently it is lower on the news agenda.

At Free Tibet we continuously work to raise the issue of Tibet to the UK Parliament as well as other parliaments around the world and the United Nations. COVID-19, Hong Kong, the mass incarceration of Uyghurs and the border tensions between China and India are all topical issues. We are actively seeking to make common cause with these struggles and link Tibet to them. This way, not only do we show solidarity with other people struggling for freedom under the CCP, but we also ensure that Tibet gets the attention it deserves.

We are working flat out to make the most of this opportune climate and it is paying off; as this magazine goes to print, we have managed to get an extensive article about Tibet's role in the skirmishes between China and India into the Sunday Times, while other newspapers have run articles about our joint protests with Uyghur and Hong Kong groups.

Thank you once more for your support,
Sam



Supporter Spotlight

Free Tibet is lucky to have incredible supporters from all over the world. They're as diverse as the places they come from, but they all share one thing in common. The desire to see Tibetans able to determine their own future. In this edition we highlight some of the amazing people who stand in solidarity with the cause.

Tibetan cyclist's week-long journey to UN

In August, Ngawang Tsephel cycled from Paris to Geneva with an appeal to the United Nations to take action for Tibet. His petition urged the UN to press China over its "ongoing violations of human rights and freedoms in Tibet and against the Uyghur people, as well as the overall Chinese aggression towards humans, animals, and the planet earth."

Ngawang set off from Paris on 11 August and reached the Palais des Nations in Geneva eight days later. He was warmly received by representatives from the Tibet Bureau in Geneva and the Tibetan community in Switzerland.

Ngawang explained his motivation for the journey on his Instagram page, writing that he could not bear "to sit at home and watch the pain [the] CCP has put upon the world." He also wrote about how he grew up stateless in a refugee camp with no country to call his own. "Many times at borders and at airports, I was interrogated and humiliated. Thousands of times, I explained the situation of Tibetans to friends, strangers and Chinese people that we Tibetans only seek genuine human rights in Tibet."

"I took this journey to seek support and attention on the issue of Tibet. I will at least sleep better and one day when I am on my dying bed, I will have no regrets. My children will carry the fight of Tibet, we Tibetans will resist until our last breath, until Tibet is free."



Ngawang on his journey from Paris to Geneva.

Tibetans march 118 miles for peace in Tibet

Four Tibetans carried out a Peace March for Tibet from Bristol to London in August, walking 118 miles in six days.

The team consisted of Tenzin Sangmo, Tashi Dhondup, Sonam Tsering, and Tenzin Phuntsok. During their journey, they posted regular updates on social media so that others could follow their progress and send messages of support. When they reached London, they were given a warm reception by Tibet supporters and support groups, including staff from Free Tibet.

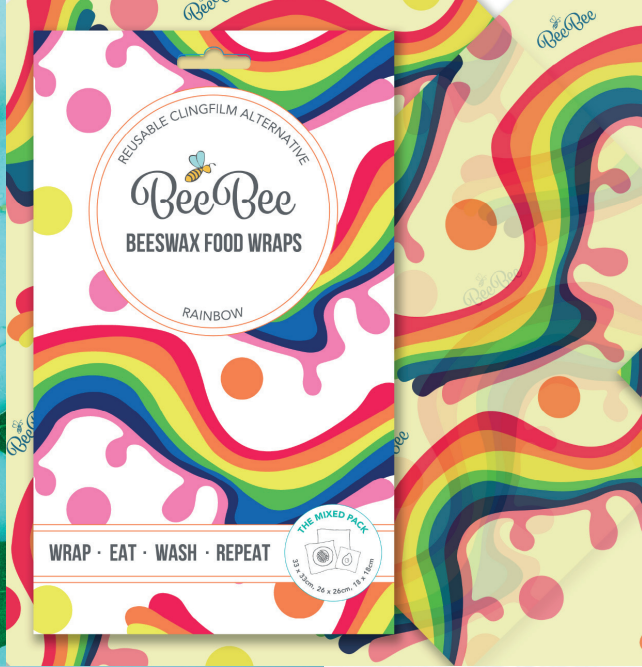
In a speech at Downing Street, the leader of the walk, Ms. Tenzin Sangmo, expressed her joy at the group's achievement. After thanking everyone involved, she directed a message to the Prime Minister, urging him and the British Government to support the Tibetan cause and apply sanctions on Chinese leaders for violating human rights in Tibet. She also called on MPs to support a Reciprocal Access Bill presented by Tim Loughton MP, which would see travel restrictions imposed on Chinese officials responsible for blocking access to Tibet.

After completing formal events in front of Downing Street, the peace marchers and crowd carried out one more walk together, gathering at the Chinese Embassy. Free Tibet CEO Sam Walton welcomed them, and together they submitted their petition.



The peace marchers outside Downing Street after completing their journey.

Free Tibet is delighted to welcome new *Mi Tse* (life long) supporters:
Adrian Hull, Jay Jensen, Rob Miller, John Wadlow, Patricia Ashby and Paul Godson.



See brand new products
online in the Free Tibet shop freetibet.org/shop

