

[MP ADDRESS]

[DATE]

Dear [MP FULL NAME]

I am writing to you to raise the urgent situation in Tibet and to request that you press the UK government for decisive action.

Tibetans have lived under occupation since China's military invasion of Tibet in 1950. Today it is one of the least free places on Earth. Every aspect of their way of life is under systematic attack and Tibetans who attempt to protest the eradication of their culture or who speak out against the Chinese government risk arrest, torture and long prison sentences. Many have been killed in prison.

One of the disturbing trends noted by human rights monitors are the Chinese government's controls on Tibetan Buddhism. Monasteries fly Chinese flags, display portraits of Chinese leaders and are under tight control and surveillance, with police stations placed in or close to them. Most worryingly of all, Chinese officials openly state that they plan to select the next Dalai Lama. This would be a disturbing abuse of power by the Chinese government and a grave insult to Tibetans and Buddhists around the world.

As your constituent, I ask that you urge the UK government to press the Chinese authorities to respect Tibetans' right to freedom of religion and to formally state that it will reject the Chinese government's attempts to interfere with the succession of the Dalai Lama.

I am also concerned by findings that nearly one million Tibetan children between the ages of four and 18 have been placed in residential boarding schools and pre-schools, separated from their families and communities and placed in a highly propagandised school environment. This has prompted fears among Tibetans that their language, culture and way of life are being systematically eradicated. In the words of one former boarding school student: "Our teachers drove us to hate our heritage, our elders, even our parents... We felt ashamed of our cultural background."

Multiple UN human rights bodies have expressed concern over the residential school system, which has seen nearly one million Tibetan children separated from their families and placed in a heavily-propagandised learning environment that cuts them off from their culture and native language.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Communist Party eliminates all alternative avenues of education for Tibetan children: Tibetan-language schools across Tibet are being closed down or demolished and monasteries – traditionally centres of learning – have been forbidden from giving Tibetan language classes to the lay community. Parents also face threats and intimidation to send their children to these schools.

Given this threat to the next generation of Tibetans, I also request that you urge the UK government to use its influence to push for China to heed the recommendations of UN human rights experts and

halt the residential boarding schools and pre-schools policy in Tibet. Furthermore, it must allow Tibetans to establish Tibetan-language schools and end policies restricting the use of Tibetan in the education system.

I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

[NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS]