



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

Visit of a delegation of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile to Europe - November 2022

Biographies of the delegation's members

The Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPIE), officially the Parliament of the Central Tibetan Administration, is the unicameral and highest legislative organ of the Central Tibetan Administration and is based in Dharamsala, India. The creation of this democratically elected body has been one of the major changes that the Dalai Lama has brought about in his continuous effort to introduce a democratic system based on a unique blend of traditional values and modern norms. The 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile has 45 members: 10 representatives from each of the three traditional provinces of Tibet i.e., U-Tsang, Dhotoe, and Dhomey; two from each of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the pre-Buddhist Bon religion; and two representing each of the Tibetan communities in North America and Europe; plus one from Australasia and Asia (excluding India, Nepal, and Bhutan). More information about the TPIE is available at <http://tibetanparliament.org/>.

❖ Ms. Youdon Aukatsang

Youdon Aukatsang was born on 19 October 1970. She has done her MA in International Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA, MA from International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and BA from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University. She has worked as a Senior Program Officer at Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) for four years from 2000. She has also been a member of the executive committee of the Tibetan Women's Association and has worked as a Research Associate at the TWA from 1994 to 1996. She has been serving the Tibetan community in various capacities for more than 20 years without any sectarian biases. Her area of interest includes democracy & human rights, Sino-Tibetan issues, international relations, women & youth empowerment, education & societal development, etc.



Ms. Aukatsang was earlier elected to the 14th, 15th, and 16th TPIE. She is the Founding Director of Empowering the Vision Project (ENVISION). She is currently the Managing Trustee of the Empowering the Vision Project, and a member of the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile from Dhotoe province.

❖ Ven. Tenpa Yarphe

Tenpa Yarphe was born at Chamdo Zagy, Tibet on 13 May 1979. He became a novice monk in Tsenyi Namgyal Choekorling Monastery and learned prayer recitation, masked dance, and other rituals of the Drukpa sect of Kagyu. Later he studied fundamental Buddhist scriptures and philosophy from Khampa Ghar monastery and Serta Larung Ghar University.



After escaping from Tibet into exile in India, he joined Sera Jey monastery in 2001 for further Buddhist philosophy studies. In 2004, he joined Sarah College for Higher Tibetan studies and completed his Thorim Rigney Rabjampa (Bachelor Degree) affiliated with the Department of Education, CTA in 2008. He worked as an editor at the Department of Religion and Culture, CTA in 2009 and edited three volumes of books on the history of over 300 monasteries including the four religious sects of Buddhism and the Bon religion of Tibet. He was elected to the 15th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile in 2011 and was re-elected to the 16th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile in 2016. As a Parliament Member, he has actively participated in parliamentary proceedings, official settlement visitations, and Tibet outreach programs. He is currently one of the members of the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile from the Kagyu sect of Tibetan Buddhism and a member of the Standing Committee.

❖ Mr. Wangdu Dorjee

Wangdue Dorjee was born on 23 November 1980 at Bir, India. He completed his primary and secondary education from Tibetan Sambhota School, Manali, and TCV school Dharamsala. He holds a BA degree from Punjab University, Chandigarh. He was a students' leader during his school days, as well as a member of the Tibetan Youth Congress, taking active participation in numerous political campaigns while studying at college. He has served as a member of Bir Local Tibetan Assembly for four years and as a vice president of the Regional Chapter of Dokham Chushi Gangdruk of Bir for nine years. Likewise, he has worked as a manager at Dhungdrup Committee Society of Bir & Chauntra, an internal auditor for the Welfare Society of Central Dokham Chushi Gangdruk, and as the head of the education cell of Welfare Society of Central Dokham Chushi Gangdruk.



Mr. Wangdue is also an entrepreneur who has founded Tibetfoods, a healthy food start-up that promotes Tibet's centuries-old traditional food. He has also created and provided face shields to COVID warriors during the Pandemic, for which he has received felicitations and appreciation awards. Likewise, through the International Buddhist Confederation, he was able to provide lifesaving oxygen concentrations, oxygen cylinders, and medical aids to 20 Tibetan settlements and 8 NGOs. He is currently a member of the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile from Dhotoe province and an executive member of the 22nd Welfare Society of Central Dokham Chushi Gangdruk.

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