

Cross Party Group on Tibet - minutes 26 September 2012 – Holyrood CR3

Attendees: Linda Fabiani, Maureen Watt, Roderick Campbell and 28 members of the public.

Apologies: Alison Johnstone, Margaret Mitchell

Agenda

Welcome and last meeting minutes

Debrief on HHDL's visit to Scotland

News update –Tibetan Community in Scotland

News update – Recent visit of Tibetan Parliamentarian to Edinburgh

Presentation – photos from the early life of the Dalai Lama – Ron Scrimgeour

AoB / DoNM

Welcome and last meeting minutes

The minutes from last meeting were confirmed. Actions taken since the last meeting are: the CPG have invited the Kalon Tripa (Tibetan Prime Minister) to attend a future meeting in Scotland; the CPG-adopted paper on self-immolations has been submitted as evidence to the Westminster Foreign Affairs Select Committee as part of their human rights work, circulated to the Westminster All Party Group on Tibet, EU MEP Intergroup on Tibet and relevant UK NGOs.

Debrief on HHDL's visit to Scotland

The Group noted its thanks to those who co-ordinated and assisted in organising this highly successful visit. The co-ordinators wish to highlight and thank the City of Edinburgh Council, The National Library of Scotland, The University of Dundee, City of Dundee Council and Highland Council and the three police forces who worked together to facilitate a smooth visit: Lothian and Border Police, Tayside Police and Northern Constabulary. The politics of the visit were discussed, including approaches by the Chinese Government to all three host City Councils and a meeting of the Chinese Consul General and the First Minister in Bute House in advance of the visit. This meeting was criticised by some members of the Group.

Message from His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet for the people of Scotland given on Sunday 24th June 2012 while visiting Scotland: *'I believe that kindness, a quality that we all possess by nature, is a jewel and a source of joy and happiness both at the physical and mental level. So, dear friends, do please pay more attention to this wonderful gift of ours.'*
The Buddhist Monk, The Dalai Lama, 24th June 2012.

News update –Tibetan Community in Scotland

The Group heard an update from the newly formed Tibetan Community in Scotland highlighting its plans to invite Thupten Samdup to Edinburgh to speak and its desire to time this event with a meeting of the CPG, most likely in March. Also highlighted was the importance of the Flame of Truth petition and the continued proportion of our paper of self-immolations (available at: <http://scotlandtibet.wordpress.com/reports>)

News update – Recent visit of Tibetan Parliamentarian to Edinburgh

Organised at the last minute, Chithue Wangchen, Tibetan Member of Tibetan Parliament-in-exile from Europe visited Holyrood with the 'Flame of Truth' petition and met with four MSPs. <http://www.flameoftruth.net>

Presentation

Ron Scrimgeour gave a presentation of photographs from the early life of the Dalai Lama and the Group discussed connection with Scotland. Copies of the presentation are available from Iain Thom. Thanks noted to Ron for his efforts.

Specific actions

- MSPs and the Group secretary to work together on one or more motions for the Parliament, potentially on continued self-immolation, Flame of Truth or timed to coincide with Human Right's Day (10 Dec)
- CPG, Edinburgh University Tibet Society and Ross Greer YMSP to work together on a policy motion for the Scottish Youth Parliament
- Group Convener to write to Consul General (Li Rui You - chinaconsul_eb_uk@mfa.gov.cn) on Tibet-China negotiation pre-conditions

General actions for all

- Join the CPG Tibet Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/197879910321420/> If this doesn't work please contact David Lloyd Hudson on facebook to be added to the private group.
- Sign the 'Flame of Truth' petition: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/198/920/082>
- Sign the 'Enough' petition: <http://standupfortibet.org/enough/dk-speakup-petition-1/>

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Next meeting is **16th Jan 2013** where the main discussion/presentation will be on the democratisation of the Tibetan Government. Meetings are then planned for 20th March 2013 (this may change to suit visit from Tibet Office representative), 22nd May 2013, 2nd Oct 2013.