

Berlin Declaration 2026

Fifth Europe Tibetan communities General Meeting

29 to 30 August 2026

The Presidents, Vice-Presidents and/or Representatives of the Tibetan Communities across Europe assembled for the fifth general meeting of the Europe Tibetan Communities in Berlin, Germany from 29 to 30 August 2026.

During the meeting, the assembled delegates deliberated on the ongoing violations in Tibet by the Chinese government, beginning with its attempts to erase Tibetan identity through the so-called "Ethnic Unity and Progress Law" — a campaign of assimilation that extends to China's efforts to seize control over the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This same disregard for Tibet is evident in the environmental destruction of the Tibetan plateau, where widespread damming and mining have contributed to the recent, disastrous flash floods along the Nepal–Tibet border. These violations have driven more than 168 Tibetans worldwide including Pawo Lobga Rangzen to self-immolate in protest. In response, the delegates turned to future actions to preserve and promote Tibetan language, culture, and identity, and hereby resolve as follows:

CONDEMN China's "Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress" as a further codification of assimilationist policy aimed at erasing Tibetan language, culture, religion and identity;

VOICE grave concerns that the law legalizes transnational repression of Tibetans in exile and their supporters through extraterritorial reach; and WELCOME the European Parliament's resolution, the UN High Commissioner's call for the law's repeal and international community's attention;

CONDEMN the destruction of the Tibetan plateau — source of Asia's major rivers — through mining, deforestation, and mega-dams including the Yarlung Tsangpo project, and MOURN the hundreds killed and missing after the 26 August 2026 flash floods along the Tibet-Nepal border and RECOGNISE this disaster as a warning of the risks posed by glacial instability, climate change, and unsustainable development on the plateau;

REJECT China's interference on the future of the Institution of the Dalai Lama, PLEDGE our allegiance to the future Dalai Lama recognised by the Gaden Phodrang Trust alone, and PRAY that His Holiness live long and that the institution flourish for eons to come;

RESOLVE to strengthen and expand Tibetan language schools and weekend classes across Europe to preserve and promote Tibetan language, culture, and identity, and **COMMIT** to coordinating advocacy campaigns across Europe in support of these efforts;

WE CALL UPON European governments, the EU, the UN, and the international community to:

1. Adopt legislation to directly engage the Tibetan people and their democratically elected leadership, affirm their right to self-determination, recognise the Central Tibetan Administration as the legitimate continuity of Tibetan governance, and advocate for its observer status within the United Nations and other international bodies;
2. Appoint an EU Special Representative for Tibet to coordinate policy and advocate for the Tibetan people;
3. Press China to hold genuine, effective dialogue with envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration toward a peaceful resolution of the Tibet–China conflict;
4. Adopt legislation and/or formally state that the Dalai Lama's reincarnation is a religious matter for the Tibetan Buddhist tradition alone, and reject any interference by China;
5. Call publicly for repeal of the Ethnic Unity and Progress Law, and monitor its impact on Tibetans in both Europe and Tibet;
6. Publicly acknowledge Pawo Lobga Rangzen and all Tibetan self-immolations, and press China to address the repression driving them;
7. Urge China to release all political prisoners including 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima;
8. Demand that China halt all mining and dam projects on the Tibetan Plateau, release detained environmental defenders, and allow independent assessment of the plateau;
9. Press China for full humanitarian and scientific access to the Tibetan side of the flood-affected border region, and fund glacial lake outburst flood early-warning systems across the Himalayas;
10. Support funding for Tibetan language, cultural, and educational programmes within Tibetan communities in Europe, recognising their essential role in preserving Tibetan identity for future generations.