

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TIBET

AUGUST 2018

THE YEAR SO FAR



THE STORY OF US

We are a community of Australians that has relentlessly joined the people of Tibet in their struggle for freedom and justice.

In 2018, we are celebrating 30 years of Australians standing up for Tibet.

There are a few different reasons why we are all drawn to the Tibet cause. For some, it is Tibetan Buddhism. For others, it is the beautiful land, people and culture of Tibet. But for all of us, it is about fighting for justice.

No one puts it more eloquently than His Holiness the Dalai Lama. "Being pro-Tibet is about being pro-justice".

In a world filled with greed and violence, Tibetans through their firm commitment to a non-violent freedom struggle have shown us that a better world is indeed possible.

We believe the Tibetans have given so much to the world even in the face of great suffering. It is time to give back to Tibet. It is time for Tibet to be free.

ATC has fought and won campaigns for Tibet for the last three decades. From stopping Australian companies from mining Tibet's gold to campaigning for the release of political prisoners, we amplify the voices of Tibetans, push our government to take a principled stand and challenge China's occupation of Tibet.

As a member-driven organisation, we are 100% community funded.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Earlier this year, I took on my new role at Australia Tibet Council as the Executive and Campaigns Officer as Paul Bourke retired after 30 years of dedicated service. Thanks once again to Paul.

It's been an absolute honour to lead our incredible ATC community. We began the year with enormous challenges. Not only did we have to withstand China's growing influence in Australia, but we were also battling a significant financial situation.

For a small NGO that does not receive funding from any government or major funding organisation, raising funds to sustain our vital work for Tibet has proven increasingly challenging over the years. So much so that ATC could maintain only one staff member at the start of 2018. Our human resources were reduced by less than half, but we ensured that our campaign work remains as strong as ever. Cutting back on our work for Tibet is not an option for us. When Tibetans in Tibet are continuing to resist seven decades of Chinese occupation, we do not have the option to give up.

Today we are still here, continuing the critical work for Tibet because of your unwavering support. Over the last seven months, I have witnessed the power of our community. You responded to our appeal, donated to our campaigns, signed our petitions and turned up at events because you believe in our work and want to be part of this important cause.

I am grateful to each one of you for your generosity, passion and commitment. Thank you very much. I also want to thank the ATC board and the many volunteers who have supported me over the course of this year and given their time and energy to the Tibet movement.

I am delighted to let you know that a new staff member is joining me this month. I look forward to having Gemima Harvey as our digital campaigner.

The challenges in front of us are still enormous. But I am also excited by the opportunities we have. Our work is having an impact, whether it is challenging China's interference on Australian education or ensuring politicians hear the real Tibet story.

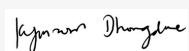
I would love to share a small example. In June, we took 84-year-old Lobsang Norbu, an elder from Sydney's Tibetan community, to Canberra to take part in our seventh Tibet Lobby Day. He is a former political prisoner who had spent 24 years in Chinese prison for taking part in demonstrations for a free Tibet.

It was Lobsang's first trip to Canberra. Listening to his story, even the most hardened politician was moved to tears. A few days after our lobby day, I received an unexpected phone call from one MP who was calling to say how deeply touched he was by his meeting with the Tibetan elder and that he had since spoken about Tibet to the media and on the floor of the Parliament.

Without your support, we could not have enabled Lobsang Norbu to share his story in Canberra. And we could not have ensured that our political leaders speak up for Tibet.

But our work is far from over. And I am delighted to have you as part of our movement.

Hope & determination



Kyinzom Dhongdue
Executive and Campaigns Officer

OUR CAMPAIGNS

Our focus this year has been to challenge China's influence on Australian politics and education and to ramp up our pressure on the Government to break its long silence on Tibet. This is done along with building public awareness about the real situation in Tibet, amplifying Tibetan voices and demonstrating the global significance of Tibet's environment.

Freedom Not for Sale

China's infiltration into Australian politics and education is not only a threat to the Tibet movement, but also to our democratic values. Our Freedom Not For Sale campaign is about challenging those who compromise on their values and promote Chinese interests for short-term gains.

Our impact

- A key recommendation to the Government and the Parliament in our report *Australia's Silence on Tibet: How China is Silencing Our Agenda*, released late last year, was to initiate a vigorous debate and launch a full inquiry into China's influence on Australian politics. This May, new legislation to counter foreign interference (read: Chinese) was passed. It is unfortunate however that the Government has also used this sweeping legislation to curtail the work of many Australian charities.
- With the screening of *In the Name of Confucius* in cities around the country, we shone a light on China's hidden agenda to educate the global youth through its network of Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms.
- Our ongoing campaign is calling on the NSG Government to shut down the Chinese government-funded and controlled language programs in state schools and reject the propaganda efforts of a repressive, foreign government.



Stand up for Tibet

Political advocacy for Tibet is a core area of ATC's work. We are ramping up our efforts to ensure that the Tibetan voice is heard in the Parliament and that our Government breaks its long silence on Tibet.

Our impact

- On our seventh Tibet Lobby Day, 15 Tibetan community leaders, youth activists and former political prisoners met with 33 Members of Parliament and senior government officers and made a compelling case to speak up for Tibet. As a result of these meetings, MPs have written to the Foreign Minister and the Government has committed to raising the Tibet issue at China's Universal Periodic Review at the UN in November.
- We are working with our global partner the International Campaign for Tibet and the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet to secure Reciprocal Access to Tibet and ensure that Australian parliamentarians, diplomats and journalists are able to visit Tibetan areas just as Chinese leaders and journalists can freely visit Australia.
- ATC appeared before a parliamentary inquiry into the state of religious freedom in the world and discussed the plight of the Panchen Lama and China's attempts to destroy and undermine the religious institutions and communities in Tibet.



Amplify Tibetan Voice

China is silencing the voices of Tibetans both inside Tibet and on the global stage.

We amplify the Tibetan voice where it matters. We campaign for the release of Tibetan political prisoners who are paying a hefty price for merely exercising their freedom of expression.

Our impact

- The case of Tibetan language activist Tashi Wangchuk, recently given a harsh five-year prison sentence, was raised twice in the Parliament. The Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet has joined the global call on China to release the Tibetan political prisoner.
- Amnesty Australia joined our campaign for the release of Tashi Wangchuk.



Tibet 101 & Climate Action for Tibet

With these campaigns, we aim to reach out to new audiences and educate them about why Tibet matters to the world.

Our impact

- 10 Facts about Tibet became the most highly viewed and shared video on our social media networks.
- We are bringing a young award-winning Tibetan environmentalist to Australia in August to talk about climate change, the global significance of Tibet's environment and sustainable development.
- New partners including mainstream environmental groups and institutes have joined our efforts.



OUR TEAM



Board

Hal Young, Co-chair and Treasurer

Hal has 30 years of experience working in the IT sector and is a former treasurer at the Tara Institute in Melbourne.

Sonam Paljor, Co-chair and Company Secretary

Sonam served in the Tibetan Government-in-Exile in Dharamsala and now works at the NSW Health Department.

Katie Camarena

Katie has many years of experience working in digital communications with various NGOs and has been involved with ATC for nearly 20 years.

Lesley Dimmock

Lesley was an active member of the Queensland ATC Branch before joining the board. She works in the Brisbane local government and is the author of two novels.

Justine Curtis

Justine is the founder and CEO of Inspired Adventures. She is the winner of many other prestigious awards including Telstra Business Women's Award for Business Owner NSW. She has supported ATC for many years.

Annie Wales

Annie is a school teacher. She has served as a volunteer teacher for the Science for Monks program in the Tibetan exile community in Dharamsala and has been a volunteer with ATC for a few years.

We welcome Justine and Annie who have joined our board in July. We also take the opportunity to thank this year's outgoing board members Zoe Bedford, Prue Densley and Simon Bradshaw for their many years of commitment.

Staff

Kyinzom Dhongdue, Executive and Campaigns Officer

Kyinzom was ATC's Campaigns Manager before taking on her role as the Executive and Campaigns Officer in 2018.

She is the also first Member of Tibet's Parliament-in-Exile representing the Tibetan community in Australasia and East Asia.

Born to Tibetan refugee parents in southern India, she was schooled at the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Delhi University and a post-graduate degree in journalism from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication. She worked as a journalist with the Times of India and the Asian Age in New Delhi before moving to Australia in 2006.



Gemima Harvey, Digital Campaigner

We are delighted to welcome Gemima Harvey who is starting her new role with us in August.

Gemima Harvey is a writer and communication specialist. She is finishing her Master of Refugee Protection and Forced Migration through the University of London. She has a Bachelor of Journalism from Griffith University.

In 2017, she moved to Cambodia to work as Communications Officer for the Cambodian Children's Trust. Prior to that, she was working as an international freelance journalist and photographer focusing on forced migration, human rights, social justice issues and the environment.



THANK YOU

With heartfelt thanks to our major donors, partners & supporters:

- International Campaign for Tibet
- Justine Curtis and Inspired Adventures
- Rev. Bill Crews and The Exodus Foundation
- Australian Tibetan Community Association (and its local communities)
- Himalayan Cafe, Brisbane
- George Farley
- Tenzin Choegyal
- Michael Leunig
- Hal and Sue Young
- Richard Boele and Heike Fabig
- John Ulrichsen
- Barbara Spencer
- Anne Jaumees
- Jonathan Cebon
- Jeff McLennan
- Jan Boyd
- Temay Rigzin
- Lesley Dimmock
- Eugene Morrow
- Michael Coleman
- Annie Wales
- Angela Shaw

We also offer our sincere thanks to our monthly donors (Voice for Tibet) who are the backbone of ATC and the work we do. We are immensely grateful for their ongoing support.

Our sincere thanks also go out to our annual members and individual supporters who have made donations to various campaigns throughout the year.

Finally, we are incredibly grateful for the commitment of our volunteers with special thanks to Chris Teasdale, Alison Ribush, Annie Wales, Dawn Cooper, Tenpa Dugdak, Ken Leonhardt, Leona Kieran, Rudrani Tooth, Toni Palombi and Rebecca Bower.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can make a difference in our work for Tibet in the following ways:

BECOME A VOICE FOR TIBET

Voice for Tibet is our monthly giving program and the backbone of ATC.

When you commit to a monthly pledge, you join a dedicated group of members who provide us with reliable core funding for our work.

Become a Voice for Tibet from \$10 a month.



ANNUAL RAFFLE

The annual raffle is one of our major fundraisers of the year.

The 2018 raffle is open until 7 September. For \$30 a ticket, you can win a travel voucher worth \$2,000.



DHARAMSALA INSIGHT TOUR

Dharamsala Insight Tour offers our supporters a unique opportunity to travel to the spiritual and political centre of exiled Tibetans in Dharamsala.

Be part of our trip in November.



TREK FOR TIBET

Join us on our trekking adventure to the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India in March 2019.

With every kilometre you cover, you will raise the essential funds to support our work.



Find out more: www.atc.org.au