



**The GSTF congratulates His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on his 87th birthday.
Appeal to the Federal Council to intercede with the PRC in favour of respect for cultural, in particular religious rights and human rights for the Tibetan people.**

On 6 July 2022, H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama will be 87 years old. On this occasion, the Board of Directors and members of the Society Swiss-Tibetan Friendship GSTF send His Holiness their best wishes for his long and healthy life, together with the hope that his vision of an autonomous, self-determined, peaceful Tibet committed to the preservation of the natural environment may be fulfilled.

33 years ago, we were already delighted that H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize for his consistent commitment to peace and non-violence. For decades, he has been regarded worldwide as one of the most credible exponents of public life.

Apart from his lifelong commitment to autonomy and self-determination for the Tibetan people with the call to pursue this only in a non-violent way, H.H. the Dalai Lama has for years been advocating "Secular Ethics". In this way he encourages the overcoming of religious fanaticism and the boundaries between religions. It is not individual religions that will provide all the answers to the pressing questions of our time, but rather the rooting of the human being in an ethic that overcomes differences. In this way we will always be inspired anew in our activities!

Just as important as ethical action is His Holiness's protection of the environment, to which he has been tirelessly committed for decades. The creation of a healthy living environment is equally a task that transcends borders and affects the whole of humanity. The protection of the highlands of Tibet as the "3rd pole" plays a central role in this.

The Swiss-Tibetan Friendship Association is very concerned to hear about the ever new and drastic restrictions on the cultural, religious and universal human rights of Tibetans in Tibet imposed by the authorities of the People's Republic of China. Especially the impossibility of cultivating the Tibetan language in Tibetan schools is alarming! We call on the Swiss Federal Council to make representations to the government of the People's Republic of China to ensure that the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people in their homeland are respected. The GSTF repeatedly calls on the Federal Council to show more courageous independence and is also strongly supported by the Parliamentary Group for Tibet.

As friends of Tibet in Switzerland, we support with the PG for Tibet our common great demand that our Federal Council also clearly commits to the Tibetan people and their rights. Because Tibet was just as much a victim of an aggressive neighbouring country over 70 years ago as the Ukrainian people are unfortunately currently experiencing at the hands of their brutal neighbour Russia.

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