

Tibetan Nuns Project

Jang Gonchoe Endowment Fund to Support The Annual Inter-Nunnery Debate



TIBETAN NUNS PROJECT

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THE IMPORTANCE OF TIBETAN BUDDHIST DEBATE

The practice of debate is an essential part of monastic education in the Tibetan tradition. It cultivates logical thinking and leads to a deeper understanding of the complex philosophy of the Tibetan Buddhism. For centuries, this method of learning helped to produce many famous scholars in the monasteries. Tibetan Buddhist debate is a difficult practice that takes many years to fully master. It is critical to fostering the ability of monks and nuns to assume leadership roles as fully qualified teachers of their tradition. In this form of debate, there are no winners and losers in the traditional sense; rather Tibetan debate is a healthy competition that heightens one's knowledge and sharpens the mind. At its best, it leads to the creation of thoughtful, articulate, and compassionate scholars.

THE JANG GONCHOE: OPENING UP TIBETAN DEBATE TO WOMEN

For hundreds of years Tibetan monks have held an annual debating session called the Jang Gonchoe. Prior to 1990s, nuns were excluded from this form and level of education.

In 1995, the Jang Gonchoe for nuns was started. The Tibetan Nuns Project has been fully supporting it since 1997. Each year, hundreds of nuns from about 8 nunneries in India and Nepal gather at a host nunnery for this intensive, month-long event. The 25th annual inter-nunnery debate for nuns will take place in the fall of 2019.

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN

The month-long inter-nunnery debating session is a unique opportunity to build capacity and equality for the nuns, to help ensure that a centuries-old tradition continues and expands to include the nuns, and to foster the dharma for future generations. Attending the Jang Gonchoe, is an educational opportunity that is critical to nuns who wish to pursue higher degrees such as the Geshema degree, equivalent to a PhD in Tibetan Buddhist philosophy. The first Tibetan nuns who attained this level of scholarship received their degrees in 2016 and their debating skills were an important part of their historic achievement.

Supporting the Jang Gonchoe debate is also vital to preserving the rich Tibetan Buddhist religion and culture. Inside Tibet, there is also no equivalent of the inter-nunnery debate event. Tibetan nuns have little access to the educational opportunities they have in exile.

By supporting the Jang Gonchoe Endowment Fund, you will also be helping to preserve the Tibetan religion, culture, and language – all of which are under severe threat inside Tibet. As efforts increase to suppress Tibetan culture, language, and religion, funding this important Tibetan project for women in exile will be a lasting legacy.

TESTIMONIALS

It is very encouraging that many nuns are now debating with skill and confidence.

"Last year the Jang Gonchoe was an excellent one. We debated until midnight each day. We were overjoyed to share our ideas and thoughts. There were about 400 nuns and all were full with enthusiasm and eager to debate with one another."
Venerable Tenzin Nyidon

"It's made a big difference to me as I have been able to listen to other nuns view point. It's also an opportunity to get feedback from philosophy teachers from the participating nunneries, which is always very positive. I also feel its a big responsibility for me as I feel I am representing my nunnery. I also strongly feel that the love, help and support that we get from out sponsors and donors towards our well-being and education always encourages to me to do better."
Venerable Tenzin Youdon

THE JANG GONCHOE ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2014, the Tibetan Nuns Project launched the Jang Gonchoe Endowment Fund to support the annual month-long inter-nunnery debating session so that this vital educational opportunity may continue for years to come. **Our goal is to raise \$600,000 US and so far we have raised \$170,000, which is 28% of our goal.** The endowment will be used to cover the costs of food for the nuns during the event and their travel costs to and from the host nunnery.

The inter-nunnery debate is a vital educational opportunity. By supporting the Jang Gonchoe Endowment Fund you are helping the nuns grow in confidence, to advance in their education, and to become teachers and leaders.

Please help support the Jang Gonchoe Endowment Fund

To help you can:

1. Make a gift online at www.tnp.org
2. Call our office in Seattle, US at 1-206-652-8901
3. Mail a check to: The Tibetan Nuns Project (for the Jang Gonchoe Endowment Fund)
815 Seattle Boulevard South #216, Seattle, WA 98134 USA
4. Give a gift of securities



PLEASE HELP CREATE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE ANNUAL INTER-NUNNERY DEBATE
Donate online at www.tnp.org or mail a check to the US address above.