

# Tibetan Nuns Project

## Provide Advanced Education in Tantric Studies to Nuns for the First Time



### TIBETAN NUNS PROJECT

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### THE CHALLENGE

After monks have attained their Geshe degree (equivalent to a PhD in Tibetan Buddhism), if they want to be fully qualified masters capable of teaching their complete tradition, they must add to their knowledge an understanding of the principles of tantra as set forth in the tantric scriptures. In order to study tantric treatises, monks usually join one of the great Tantric Colleges where they have access to highly qualified teachers, texts, and a supportive community of practitioners.

Until now, nuns have never had the opportunity to be educated at this high level. Since this is the first time in the history of Tibet that nuns have completed a study of the sutras and gained the Geshema degree (female equivalent of the Geshe degree), proceeding with tantric studies presents new challenges and opportunities.

### BACKGROUND

A committee consisting of representatives of six nunneries approached His Holiness the Dalai Lama for advice about the curriculum and how to proceed. His Holiness the Dalai Lama kindly gave detailed instructions about the treatises to be used and he recommended that the Geshema nuns study as a group at Dolma Ling Nunnery, one of the nunneries founded and supported by the Tibetan Nuns Project, since it has a quiet and peaceful atmosphere, conducive to intense study.

That committee has now asked the Tibetan Nuns Project to organize and provide funding for this special higher education program at Dolma Ling Nunnery and Institute in northern India. The Tibetan Nuns Project together with Dolma Ling are making plans to ensure that this pioneering program provides the nuns with the best possible facilities and support to make their studies a success.

### THE PROJECT

We need your support to launch this groundbreaking, higher education program for Geshema nuns. Although there have been accomplished female practitioners in Tibet's history, women have never before been given such an opportunity to formally study tantric Buddhism. This program will provide these dedicated senior nuns training in tantric theory,

rituals, and mind-training techniques used by those engaged in advanced meditation. This level of training is an essential part of studies for Geshes and is a required step enabling them to be fully qualified for advanced leadership roles, such as being an abbot of a monastery.

It is proposed that two fully qualified teachers come to live and teach at Dolma Ling for the two years it will take for the first group of 20 Geshemas to complete their studies. Nuns who gain the Geshema degree in the coming years will form the next group.

Dolma Ling is able to accommodate all the Geshemas and their two teachers within the existing facilities, as well as providing adequate classroom space. However, we need funding to pay the teachers' salaries, to pay for the living expenses of the Geshemas and their teachers, to invest in the necessary textbooks, and to provide a contingency fund for medical or other unexpected expenses.

### **BUDGET**

1. Salaries for two fully qualified teachers for 2 years:	US \$14,560
2. Living expenses for 22 participants for 2 years:	US \$11,530
3. Textbooks and other books required for the course:	US \$1,180
4. Contingency fund for medical and other expenses:	US \$2,730

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: US \$30,000**

## **PLEASE HELP PROVIDE THE FIRST-EVER OPPORTUNITY FOR NUNS TO RECEIVE HIGHER EDUCATION IN TANTRIC STUDIES**

### **To support this project you can:**

1. Make a gift online at [www.tnp.org](http://www.tnp.org)
2. Call our office in Seattle, US at 1-206-652-8901 (Monday-Friday, 8-4) and make a donation via credit card.
3. Mail a check to:  
The Tibetan Nuns Project  
(for Tantric Study Program)  
815 Seattle Boulevard South #216  
Seattle, WA 98134 USA
4. Give a gift of securities. Please see <https://tnp.org/donate-securities/>

### **For more information, please contact:**

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