



TIBET SOCIETY

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FOUNDED 1959

PATRON

TENZIN GYATSO, THE 14TH DALAI LAMA

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Contacting Councils

A great way to support our Raise a Flag for Tibet campaign is to contact your local council and request that they fly the Tibetan flag on council buildings and town halls during 2009 as an act of remembrance for those Tibetans who lost their lives 50 years ago.

The first point of contact should be the local councillor

who serves your ward. To find out who this is you can easily search on the internet at www.writetothem.com by entering your postcode. The site includes broader information about who represents you at various levels of local, national and European government. Alternatively you can call your local council directly or ask at your local library for a copy of the Municipal Year Book, which contains information and contact details for councillors.

You can also present your case to higher levels of your local council and contact the Council Leader or Executive Committee Chair.

The main way of contacting councillors is by writing letters to them. You can address letters to a councillor 'care of' the council headquarters. This will be forwarded to them at their home address.

When writing to a councillor, remember to:

- Either type the letter (preferably) or use blue or black ink on white paper.
- Give background information about the Tibetan National Uprising and why the 50th anniversary is so significant.
- Be brief. Keep it to one (preferably) or two (at most) sides of A4 paper. If you are enclosing any supplementary material about the situation in Tibet or the Tibetan National Uprising ensure it is concise as your councillor is unlikely to have time to read long texts.
- Be polite and fairly formal in tone.



Flag fact: In 2008, over 900 towns and cities in Germany flew the Tibetan flag on 10 March

It's always most effective to write a letter to your councillor in your own words, however you could send the following sample letter in your name, or simply use it as a guide.

Dear Councillor [NAME]

I am writing to draw your attention to the fact that 2009 marks 50 years since the Tibetan national uprising of 1959 and an opportunity for [NAME] Council to mark 2009 with a gesture of goodwill toward the Tibetan people.

On 10 March 1959 mass demonstrations by the Tibetan people to protect their spiritual leader the Dalai Lama and call for their freedom from Chinese rule were met with a brutal response from the Chinese military. It is estimated that at least 87,000 Tibetans were killed at the hands of the People's Liberation Army of China as a result of the Uprising. This tragedy for the Tibetan people was compounded by the need of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, to flee into exile seven days later.

As a mark of respect for those who lost their lives and in remembrance of the tragic events of 1959, I am requesting that [NAME] Council fly the Tibetan flag from council premises as a show of respect and goodwill towards the Tibetan people. Such a symbolic gesture has been carried out by Northampton Borough Council for the past nine years, as well as many councils spanning the UK, Europe and across the world.

I would like to ask you to raise this matter with your fellow councillors and to encourage a decision to join with councils worldwide and raise the Tibetan flag over [NAME OF COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS] in 2009.

Yours Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]