

## Tibet: Occupied since 1950

Imagine the UK overrun and occupied by a powerful and merciless neighbour.

Imagine every cathedral, parish church, country house and town hall reduced to rubble to wipe out our national identity and culture.

Imagine that one in every four of your friends, family and colleagues had been killed in the systematic suppression of your way of life and values

Imagine all this and you are beginning to grasp the reality of life in Tibet for 60 years since its invasion by China.

### Illegally Occupied By China Since 1950

In 1950 the Chinese invaded Tibet claiming they were invited to liberate Tibet from Western Imperialism, and would leave when requested to do so. Now, 60 years later, China still illegally occupies Tibet, in defiance of international law, UN resolutions and the wishes of the Tibetan people.

### Has Nothing Been Done?

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's head of state and religious leader, was 16 when the Chinese invaded his country. He tried to negotiate, but the Chinese refused. In 1959 a popular uprising of Tibetans was brutally suppressed with the deaths of at least 87,000 Tibetans. The Dalai Lama and 100,000 Tibetans fled to exile in India, which he has used as a base for forty years to pursue a non-violent path towards a solution.

The world has wrung its collective hands for most of the past 50 years. Britain particularly has a special responsibility, having had diplomatic relations with Tibet since 1904. When Britain withdrew from India, it gave assurances to the Tibetan government that it would support Tibet's right to manage its own affairs. When the Chinese invaded, Britain ignored this promise, failing even to support Tibet at the United Nations following the 1959 uprising. Recognising this injustice, a group of sympathisers established the Tibet Society of the UK - the world's first group to support Tibet.

### Is There Any Hope?

Yes, but it will require continued and increased support for the Tibetan people to make this hope a reality. Parliamentarians and other influential people in many countries are now speaking out. Western public opinion in support of Tibet is greater than ever before. By joining Tibet Society, you are supporting the cause of Tibet - every person makes a difference.

The tireless campaign by the Dalai Lama is the world's greatest example of peace in action, and has inspired countless people around the world. Will you add your voice to the many people now supporting Tibet?

### Will You Make A Difference?

Tibet Society, the world's first Tibet support group, was founded in 1959. Funded by its members, it has been working for over 50 years to seek justice for Tibet through parliamentary lobbying, campaigns and actions.

Help keep Tibet alive by joining Tibet Society today. (Annual membership £24; Family £36; Life £500).

[More details about membership](#)

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