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## The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet (APPGT), founded in 1986, consists of MPs and Lords who have an interest in, and concern for, the Tibetan cause and the Tibetan people. The APPGT has cross-party support.

The stated purpose of the group is: "To put pressure on Her Majesty's Government to encourage negotiations between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile, whilst recognising that Tibet is an occupied country which had independent links with Britain."

Officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet 2016-17

Chair: Tim Loughton (Con, East Worthing & Shoreham)

Vice-Chairs: Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench), Nic Dakin (Lab, Scunthorpe), Kate Hoey (Lab, Vauxhall), Chris Law (SNP, Dundee West), David Mackintosh (Con, Northampton South), Mark Pritchard (Con, The Wrekin), Lord Steel of Aikwood (Lib Dem), Catherine West (Lab, Hornsey & Wood Green)

Secretariat: Tibet Society

Group Advisor: Fredrick Hyde-Chambers (Chair of Tibet Society)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups are re-formed following General Elections. The current APPGT was reformed on 24 June 2015. [Click here](#) to see the APPGT's listing on Parliament's online Register.

Note: Fabian Hamilton (Lab, Leeds North East) resigned as Chair of the APPGT on 27 January 2016 due to his promotion as a Shadow Foreign Minister.

The APPGT encourages MPs and Peers to raise Tibet in the House of Commons and the House of Lords through parliamentary questions, including ones at Prime Minister's Questions and Foreign Office Questions, and the tabling of Early Day Motions that MPs can sign, keeping the issue of Tibet on the statute books.

Fabian Hamilton MP (former Chairman of the APPGT) led two parliamentary debates on Tibet in December 2014 and June 2015.

The APPGT arranges meetings with visiting Tibetan MPs, Ministers, ex-political prisoners and academics in order to give greater exposure to Tibet in Westminster and to inform MPs of the current situation in Tibet. For example, in June 2012, the APPGT co-hosted a meeting between the Dalai Lama and over 150 MPs and Peers. Recently, the APPGT has held meetings with Youdon Aukatsang, an MP in the Tibetan Parliament in exile, Dhardon Sharling, Secretary of the Central Tibetan Administration's Department of Information and International Relations, and former political prisoner Golog Jigme.

On 1 November 2016, the APPGT welcomed the Sikyong, Dr Lobsang Sangay, to the Houses of Parliament. The Sikyong addressed MPs and Peers at a special meeting, before having a private meeting with the Speaker of the House. (The Sikyong is the political leader of the Tibetan people and head of the Tibetan government in exile, known as the Central Tibetan Administration.)

Working with the APPGT, Tibet Society initiated an MP exchange programme following a visit of Tibetan MPs to London in 2005 and first took a delegation of British MPs to visit the Tibetan parliament in exile in 2007. This has been followed by a series of further reciprocal visits between Westminster and Dharamsala, which have been constructive in raising the profile of Tibet in the UK parliament.

The Dalai Lama has expressed his gratitude for the work of the APPGT. During a talk at the Royal Albert Hall in 2008, he said, "I remember the late Lord Ennals, and other very active members, who made a great contribution to the Tibetan cause. These people carry the original spirit and make it even stronger. I want to thank Tibet Society and our other friends and supporters. Among the parliamentarians, there are a number of people who show genuine concern... I always believe that our supporters are not pro-Tibetan but rather pro-justice. I very much appreciate that."

An online log of when Tibet has been raised in Parliament is maintained by Tibet Society.

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.

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