



## 2019 World Tibet Day Press Statement

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The auspicious occasion of the 84th birthday of Tibetan spiritual leader, HH the XIV Dalai Lama on Saturday, July 6, 2019, will be celebrated worldwide as World Tibet Day. Tibet support groups estimate that more than 50 countries and 100 cities would join the celebration.

In a message HH the Dalai Lama stated that “World Tibet Day has opened many hearts to fundamental rights of the Tibetan people to preserve our culture and to practice our religion freely. The event had greatly raised public awareness to the present threat to the very existence of the Tibetan people.”

In a rare video message, Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and an Advisor to Friends of Tibet appealed Tibet support groups, organisations, Tibetan associations and individuals “to commemorate the cause of the disenfranchised and displaced people of Tibet who for so long have been denied their rights of their motherland.” He said “It is time that the world is made aware of this fact and its complacency with the atrocities and injustices committed in occupied Tibet and fight for the rights of the people in Tibet who have for so long carried on their struggle with peace and non-violence. We must encourage the voice of peace, the voice of sanity of his Holiness who has imposed such self-discipline and guided on the path of peace and non-violence.”

Sethu Das, Director of World Tibet Day Foundation says “one positive action each of us can take on World Tibet Day, no matter which country we live in, is to urge our government and our elected representatives, to approach the Chinese Government on behalf of the Tibetan people in order to restore its lost religious, social and political freedom. One of our goals with World Tibet Day is to put pressure on decision makers in China to agree to negotiations with the Tibetan government in exile in India without any preconditions.”

World Tibet Day (WTD) was initiated in Chicago in 1997 at an informal meeting between Tendzin Choegyal, the Dalai Lama’s younger brother and Richard Rosenkranz, a Pulitzer Prize nominee in history and a former correspondent from the US Senate. Rosenkranz proposed the concept of WTD, saying it could become an annual worldwide event, aimed at helping the Tibetan people regain essential freedoms. Believing in the potential of the proposed event great promise, they offered the idea to His Holiness, who unanimously gave them his blessing and warm support. Founded in 1998, World Tibet Day has grown into one of the most important events on the Tibetan calendar.



**Scan QR Code to watch Video:**

2019 World Tibet Day Message from Tushar Gandhi

**<https://youtu.be/GPHrjkiEURM>**

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