Statement on the 56th Founding Anniversary of the Tibetan Youth Congress

7 October 2026

On the occasion of the 56th Founding Anniversary of the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), we extend our profound respect and heartfelt greetings to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the great masters of all Tibetan Buddhist traditions, and Tibetans across Tibet and around the world.

We pay solemn tribute to the brave Tibetan martyrs who have sacrificed their lives, freedom, and livelihoods for the survival of the Tibetan nation, the preservation of our religion, language and culture, and the restoration of Tibet's independence. We express our unwavering solidarity with Tibetan political prisoners and with all Tibetans inside Tibet who continue to resist oppression with courage and dignity.

The Tibetan Youth Congress was founded on 7 October 1970 in Dharamshala, in the blessed presence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Its founding was a historic expression of the determination of patriotic and educated young Tibetans in exile to unite the Tibetan people and dedicate oneself to serve for the nation and it's people, protect the national unity, preserve the distinct culture, Religion and Identity and the restoration of Tibet's independence.

The founding date also carries profound historical significance. On 7 October 1950, Chinese Communist forces launched their military offensive against Chamdo in eastern Tibet, marking a decisive stage in the military occupation of Tibet. This history remains deeply etched in the memory of the Tibetan people.

For 56 years, TYC has remained committed to restoring Tibet's complete independence and sovereignty. Guided by democratic principles and the resolutions of its General Body Meetings and Executive Committee, TYC and its chapters across India, Nepal, Bhutan, North America, Europe, and other parts of the world have consistently worked to advance the Tibetan national cause through peaceful demonstrations, political advocacy, public campaigns, international outreach, and community mobilisation.

Our position remains unequivocal: Tibet is a distinct nation with its own history, language, culture, religion, identity, and political heritage, and the Tibetan people have the inherent right to determine their own political future.

The Chinese Communist government continues to pursue systematic policies of repression and forced assimilation in Tibet. Tibetan language, religion, monasteries, culture, and national identity are under sustained attack. The so-called "Law on Promoting National Unity and Progress," imposed from 1 July 2026, further institutionalises policies aimed at suppressing the distinct identities and rights of Tibetans and other peoples under Chinese rule. Developments at Larung Gar and Yachen Gar, including the destruction of monastic residences and the expulsion of monks and nuns, further demonstrate the continuing assault on Tibet's religious and cultural heritage.

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In response to these escalating policies, TYC organised the Black Hat March from Dharamshala to New Delhi, bringing the deteriorating situation in Tibet to public attention and presenting our demands to relevant institutions. The march demonstrated that, despite decades of occupation and repression, the Tibetan spirit of resistance remains alive and unbroken.

On 2 July 2026, martyr Pawo Lobga Rangzen made the ultimate sacrifice outside the United Nations Headquarters in New York for Tibet Independence. His final testament and his call for Tibet's freedom deeply moved Tibetans and supporters around the world. In honour of his sacrifice and final wishes, TYC launched a Chain Hunger Strike in Dharamshala, which continued for more than a month before the campaign was carried forward at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. These actions once again carried the voice of Tibet to the international community.

Recently, on September 12, when Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping visited India to attend the BRICS Summit, the Central and Regional Tibetan Youth Congress chapters jointly launched a two-day, large-scale political campaign in New Delhi under the banner "Chalo Delhi." Similarly, on September 24, when Xi Jinping visited the United States, the Central and Regional Tibetan Youth Congress chapters in North America organized a major political campaign, "Chalo D.C." The campaign brought together a historic and unprecedented gathering of Tibetans and supporters, marking one of the largest mobilizations in the history of Tibetan political activism in the United States.

While Tibetans in exile continue to exercise the limited freedoms available to us, Tibetans inside Tibet remain subjected to surveillance, repression, imprisonment, forced assimilation, and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Yet they continue to preserve their language, religion, culture, traditions, and national identity. Their courage places a profound responsibility upon every Tibetan in exile to remain united, disciplined, and determined.

On this 56th Founding Anniversary, the Tibetan Youth Congress calls upon all Tibetans to strengthen our unity, national consciousness, and collective determination, while deepening cohesion with governments, organisations, individuals, and peoples who genuinely support the Tibetan cause.

We firmly believe that the day is not far when we will witness a free Tibet, the return of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama to his homeland, and the long-awaited reunification of the Tibetan people in a free and independent Tibet. That day may be only a few steps away, but those steps require our unwavering determination, unity, courage, and collective action.

Let us therefore stand together, strengthen our national unity, and carry forward the torch of our freedom struggle with stronger commitment. Let no obstacle weaken our resolve and let no hardship extinguish the spirit of the Tibetan people. Together, we shall keep the flame of Tibet's freedom burning until our national aspirations are fulfilled.

19th Central Executive Committee
Tibetan Youth Congress
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