



New Kadampa Tradition

International Kadampa Buddhist Union

17th March 2009

To the Chair, Activities Committee and Treasurer of the Network of Buddhist Organisations (UK) (NBO),

Re: On behalf of the New Kadampa Tradition (NKT), concerning the NBO membership issue

As you know, the majority of Buddhist Centres in the UK are NKT Centres, and the NKT became a member of the NBO in 1998. Since that time until now there has never been any problem between the NKT and the NBO.

In 2008, the Western Shugden Society organised demonstrations against the Dalai Lama, yet you falsely blame the NKT for this. You mistakenly believe and state that the demonstrations were organised by the NKT but this is completely wrong because the Western Shugden Society is an organisation that is legally independent from the NKT. In our previous correspondence with the NBO we have clearly told you that the NKT has no connection with these demonstrations, however when individual NKT students and teachers joined the demonstrations they did so independently from the NKT, through their personal choice and individual freedom.

In your previous letters you indicated that the NKT caused disharmony between Buddhist people, but this is completely incorrect and baseless. The disharmony you refer to between Buddhist people arose only because some Tibetan Buddhists publicly say that NKT people are 'bad' because they do not fulfil the Dalai Lama's wishes and do not follow his view. It is clear that they say this because of religious discrimination.

Furthermore, it is known that several authorities within the NBO strongly support the people who falsely criticize the NKT. Therefore the truth is that the disharmony between Buddhist people was in fact created by yourselves and some Tibetan Buddhist people - not by the NKT at all.

Earlier this year, in the letter sent by the NBO Treasurer, you invited the NKT to renew its NBO membership with the condition that the NKT must accept the new rule that you have created for members. On 27th January 2009 we replied explaining that the NKT should continue always to be a member of the NBO, but that we would not accept the new rule you are making which directly violates democratic rights of free speech and action. The NKT asked you not to create such an unfair rule.

Because we are Buddhists, we need to solve our problems and misunderstandings through peaceful methods, with a good heart and an open mind. The NKT has continually made effort to peacefully clarify such misunderstandings held by the NBO but until now there has been little effort from the side of the NBO to understand the truth of this situation. If we fail to resolve this problem through peaceful methods there is no doubt that we will therefore need to engage in



New Kadampa Tradition

International Kadampa Buddhist Union

legal action to clarify the issue of the position of the members of the NBO and to achieve a final resolution.

In conclusion, the NKT asks that the NKT always remains a member of the NBO but, the NKT cannot accept the new rule that you have undemocratically created. And we ask: do you accept this?

We need your reply before the 10th April 2009. If we do not receive your reply by that date, we will regard that you have not accepted.

Yours Sincerely,

For the Directors of the New Kadampa Tradition