

A compassionate response to the European refugee crisis

A statement from the 40th Annual General Meeting of the European Buddhist Union Berlin, 24th-27th September 2015

Those of us present at the 40th Annual General Meeting of the European Buddhist Union in Berlin call upon the governments and peoples of all European countries to show compassion and generosity to those displaced through war and seeking refuge in Europe, safe from violence.

As Buddhists of many traditions and countries in Europe, we hold loving kindness, compassion, generosity and fearlessness to be among the highest values in life; values we share with those of other religions and none.

Seeing our fundamental interconnectedness with all beings, we recognise the "refugees", "migrants" and "asylum-seekers" now streaming into Europe as people like ourselves, desperately seeking relief from suffering and longing for happiness.

Regardless of their ethnicity or religion, may they find open borders and a refuge in Europe.

May all beings find happiness and the causes of happiness. May they be free from suffering and the causes of suffering.

Signed,

Jamie Cresswell

President of the European Buddhist Union 27th September 2015

Organisational signatories:

Lama Ngawang Dorje Dondrub, Sangha Activa, Spain Trudi Fredriksson, Buddhist Co-operation Council of Sweden Ricardo Guerrero, Asociación Hispana De Buddhismo, Spain Bhikkhu Nandisena, Asociación Hispana De Buddhismo, Spain Hans-Erich Frey, Dhagpo Kagyu Ling, Europe Ilona Evers, Jodo Shinshu, Germany
Gabriela Frey, Sakyadhita France
Jonathan Mackaskill, Dechen
Kurt Krammer, Buddhistische Gemeinschaft, Salzburg, Austria
Žarko Andrićević, Dharmaloka, Croatia
Egil Lothe, Buddhist Federation of Norway
Claudine Shinoda, Reiyukai France
Rev. Satyavani Robyn, Amida-Shu, UK
Michael Ritman, Buddhist Union Netherlands
Maria Rita Solimando Romano, Mandala Samten Ling, Italy
Lama Paljen Tulku Rinpoche, Mandala Milano, Italy
Dario Dōshin Girolami, Centro Zen L'Arco, Roma, Italy
Dominique Side, Rigpa International
Martin Schauerhofer, Austrian Buddhist Union
Lama Lhundroup, Rimay Community, France

Personal signatories:

Munisha, Triratna Buddhist Order, Sweden Isabelle Huet, Reiyukai France Ron Eichhorn, Yun Hua Sangha Europe Rafael Ferrer, FPMT Europe Val Stephenson, SGI-UK

Email: president@e-b-u.org www.europeanbuddhism.org