

## **RESOLUTION OF THE FIFTH EUROPEAN TIBETAN YOUTH PLATFORM**

The fifth European Tibetan Youth Platform (ETYP) took place from November 3-6, 2017, in Salenstein (Switzerland) under the motto “We Are Tibet”. The ETYP is a unique forum designed to actively engage young Tibetans in the modeling of their future society.

For this year’s ETYP a total of 72 participants, organizers, and speakers gathered from 8 different countries. The youngsters got some insights about the following topics *Tibetan Society*, *Tibetan Identity*, *Tibetan Democracy* and *Tibetan Movement*, which were discussed in different workshops. Furthermore, skills trainings were offered to gain more expertise in verbal as well as digital communication. The main goal was to bring young Tibetans together to learn, discuss with each other, and develop innovative ideas and effective measures to advance the Tibetan movement and society. The ETYP aims not only to inspire, but also to empower the Tibetan youth by defining their position, appreciating their potentials, and strengthening the network.

The fifth ETYP adopts the following resolution:

### **TIBETAN SOCIETY**

The fifth ETYP:

demands a society which

- is inclusive of our diversity and doesn’t discriminate people based on their gender and sexual orientation
- keeps an open-mindedness and respects the freedom of speech
- encourages social responsibility

Thus we encourage raising awareness in the field of gender equality and LGBT\* for example by creating a platform on social media.

### **TIBETAN DEMOCRACY**

The fifth ETYP:

highlights the importance of everyone's participation in the democratization process. Young Tibetans in Europe appreciate democracy and value their right to vote. Tibetan democracy faces various challenges, which need to be addressed and discussed. For example, secularism in the Tibetan democracy has not been implemented fully. Furthermore, in order to take political participation in democracy, it must be assured that each and every Tibetan receives adequate information and political education.

Therefore, it requests the following changes:

- the elimination of multiple votes for monks and nuns
- transparency regarding financial support and its source as well as transparency regarding information on the political candidates and voting procedure

## **TIBETAN MOVEMENT**

The fifth ETYP:

believes in the value of unity in diversity through education and acceptance. To strengthen the Tibetan movement, the Tibetan youth shall develop creative and strategic campaigns and actions. Knowledge forms the community, hence investing in building the new generation of leaders by organizing trainings on strategic non-violence movement as well as trainings on new skills of creative resistance. Furthermore, the Tibetan youth shall take responsibility and take active participation to lead the Tibetan community towards a more open and progressive democratic society.

In order to realize these goals we suggest two concrete measures:

- Create a website to spread awareness on the Tibetan issue and reach the general public
- Use political drama as a creative tool for political action

## **TIBETAN IDENTITY**

The fifth ETYP:

emphasizes that our identity as a Tibetan is one of multiple identities as an individual person. Young Tibetans face struggle regarding their Tibetan identity due language barrier, the imposed views by elder generations and the lack of inclusive growth by the community.

Concerning the language barrier, we suggest creating learning platforms, reforming the way Tibetan language is taught and providing resources and safe environment where the Tibetan language can be studied.

Externally imposed expectation regarding Tibetan culture, language and tradition are only secondary in order to define yourself as a Tibetan: If you feel Tibetan, you are Tibetan.