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DRIKUNG KYABGON

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In my opinion it is of the utmost importance to foster the dialogue between the various Buddhist traditions on all levels. One issue that needs our special attention concerns the fact, that today the Bhikshuni ordination lineage is only in existence in some Buddhist countries, but notably not in the Tibetan tradition. In the modern globalized world, in which women increasingly share the full responsibility in all fields of society, education, economics, and politics there is a strong aspiration of women to participate fully in religious activities. Therefore nuns and female followers of Tibetan Buddhism are strongly motivated to receive full ordination within the Tibetan tradition. This fact has to be confronted seriously and vigorously, based on Buddhist texts and contemporary practice traditions. Concerning our own Drikung Kagyü tradition there is an ever increasing number of novice nuns and they very much wish to have the opportunity of full ordination. The Bhikshuni vow will permit them to engage in a more profound manner in spiritual development and teaching and thus strengthen the basis of spreading the authentic teachings of the Buddha in the future. Since many years we are in close exchange on the issue of Bhikshuni ordination with Western and Taiwanese nuns. As a result of the present inadequate situation, with my encouragement some Western followers have already taken full ordination from other traditions where the Bhikshuni Sangha has long been established. But it would be desirable for them, let alone much more convenient, to be able to take full ordination and receive the complete training within their own tradition. I am of the firm opinion that nuns will have the same determination to take and keep the precepts as monks. I wholeheartedly support H. H. the Dalai Lama in his efforts towards establishing the Bhikshuni ordination within the Tibetan Buddhist tradition through his consultations with leading Vinaya scholars and Sangha members of the different Buddhist traditions. I pray and sincerely hope that we soon may see progress towards a solution of this issue, so that the teachings of the Buddha may abide for a long time in this world.

His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche