



STAND UP FOR TIBET

TIBET LOBBY 2017

Why a lobby for Tibet?

The annual Tibet Lobby is a key opportunity to stand up for Tibet and engage with your MP to build support for Tibetan rights and freedom within Parliament.

The aim is to send a strong message to the government urging them to take substantive action on the issue of Tibet.

Tibet Lobby is organised by a coalition of UK-based Tibet support groups and is timed to take place on or near the anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising that took place on 10 March 1959.

By being part of Tibet Lobby, either by lobbying your MP at the Houses of Parliament or in your local constituency, you will be adding your voice to a concerted call for parliamentary and government action on Tibet.



How to take part

1. Sign up to Tibet Lobby

Register for the lobby by contacting one of the participating organisations (details overleaf). In the UK you can receive a free lobby pack by providing your address when you register. Outside the UK please feel free to adapt the materials to lobby parliamentarians in your own country.

2. Make an appointment to meet your MP

Contact your MP's office and ask for a meeting at the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday 7 March, preferably between 2pm & 4pm, or at the local constituency office during the week of 6 March (or the nearest available date). When requesting a meeting explain that you are taking part in the Tibet Lobby on 7 March and you would appreciate a meeting to discuss Tibet.

To find your MP's contact details, go to findyourmp.parliament.uk, call House of Commons Information Office on **020 7219 4272**, or write to: **[Your MP's name], House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**.

Westminster: It is recommended you make an appointment to lobby your MP at Westminster on 7 March. However, even without an appointment it may still be possible to meet your MP at Westminster on the day. (See "On The Day" briefing sheet for further details.)

Local: If you cannot make it to the Houses of Parliament on 7 March, please make an appointment to see your MP at their local constituency office or go along to one of their open surgeries. Ideally try to see your MP during the week of 7 March.

3. Let us know

To sign up, send your name, email, phone number and/or postal address to Ellen Lees (Students for a Free Tibet) at ellen@studentsforafreetibet.org or John Jones (Free Tibet) at john@freetibet.org. Please include your MP's name and time of the appointment (if you have one confirmed).

4. Prepare for the meeting

For your meeting with your MP you should prepare several questions and requests. There are two specific asks that the participating organisations recommend you make of your MP. These can be found on the Lobby Card with relevant background information on two separate fact sheets.

Note: You do not have to be an expert on Tibet or the subjects in the recommended asks; you just need to convey to your MP how important the issue of Tibet is to you and that action is taken on your behalf.

5. Meet your MP

This is your opportunity to tell your MP your concerns, ask for their view, give them the Lobby Card and request they act on the two 'asks'. The "On the Day" briefing sheet provides further practical details and suggestions for when you meet your MP. The sheet also includes further information for lobbyists attending the Tibet Lobby at Parliament, including security issues and the registration process.

6. Report back to us

After your meeting, let us know how it went, if your MP was supportive of the Tibet issue, how they responded to the two 'asks' and to any other questions you posed.

Send your comments to Ellen Lees (Students for a Free Tibet) at ellen@studentsforafreetibet.org or John Jones (Free Tibet) at john@freetibet.org

Not able to meet your MP at Westminster or locally?

If you are unable to meet your MP you can still participate:

- **Send your MP a letter** outlining your concerns along with the Lobby Card with the two asks, plus any other background material you think would be helpful.
- **Send your MP an email** outlining your concerns for Tibet and the two asks from the Lobby Card.
- **Ask a friend who is able to meet your MP to represent you;** sign the back of the Lobby Card and ask them to give it to your MP on your behalf.

Please let us know if you write to or email your MP so we can keep track of which MPs have been contacted by supporters. And do send us a copy of any response you receive from them.

For additional Lobby cards or Lobby packs to encourage others to get involved, please contact one of the participating organisations listed below.

Organisations participating in Tibet Lobby

Tibet Society • www.tibetsociety.com

Free Tibet • www.freetibet.org • info@freetibet.org • 020 7324 4605 • 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT

Students for a Free Tibet • www.sftuk.co.uk • UK@studentsforafreetibet.org • Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road, E17 9HA

Tibetan Community in Britain • www.tibetancommunityuk.org • tibetancommunityinbritain@gmail.com • 07833 107 254
c/o Tibet House, 1 Culworth Street, London NW8 7AF

Further events

Friday 10 March - Tibet Freedom March & Rally (from 2pm)

Gather from 2pm on Richmond Terrace, London SW1 (opposite Downing Street). March starts at 3pm. Rally from approx. 4pm outside the Chinese Embassy, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1

Friday 10 March: Tibet Uprising Commemoration (doors open 5.30pm. Until 9pm)

An evening event commemorating the anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising. The evening will consist of talks, film, music and interactive events on Tibetan culture, history and campaign actions. Refreshments will be available.

Venue: Mahatma Gandhi Hall, Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6AQ.