

Tibet Lobby Week 2019

Why a lobby for Tibet?

The Tibet Lobby is held every year by Tibet support groups in the UK. It is a key opportunity for supporters to stand up for Tibet and engage with their MPs.

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

This year, the Tibet Lobby will take place across the week of 4 March.

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

Are you planning to meet your MP?

1. Make an appointment to meet your MP

MPs are generally in London between Tuesday and Thursday and in their local constituencies on Mondays and Fridays. Contact your MP's office and ask for a meeting, either at the Houses of Parliament or at the local constituency office. When requesting a meeting explain that you are taking part in the Tibet Lobby 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**.

2. Let us know

It is always great to hear from supporters who are participating in the mass lobby. It helps us track how many people managed to get appointments and is also a way for you to get in touch and ask for any advice before the meeting, should you need it. You can contact us at Gloria Montgomery (Tibet Society) at advocacy@tibetsociety.com or John Jones (Free Tibet) at john@freetibet.org. Please also let us know which MP you are meeting.

3. 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.

4. Meet your MP

Going to Westminster? The nearest tube station is Westminster - parliament is also served by a number of bus routes. Please arrive 45 minutes before your appointment and go through security at St Stephen's Entrance (please note: flags, placards and t-shirts with slogans are not allowed). Once through, stewards will be able to guide you to Central Lobby where you will need to fill in a green card to summon your MP.

The meeting is your opportunity to tell your MP, or a member of their team, your concerns, ask for their view. It is best to be as brief, clear and courteous as possible during the meeting. Please give them the Lobby Card and request they act on the 'asks'. You might also want to ask for a photo with your MP which we'd be happy to receive.

5. Report back to us

After your meeting, let us know how it went. We would be interested to know whether your MP was supportive of the Tibet issue, how they responded to the 'asks' and to any other questions you posed. Let us know at advocacy@tibetsociety.com or 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.

Organisations participating in Tibet Lobby 2019

Tibet Society • www.tibetsociety.com • advocacy@tibetsociety.com • 020 7272 1414 • Unit 9, 139 Fonthill Road, London N4 3HF

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

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

Tuesday 5 March - Wreath-laying Ceremony (12.30pm)

To mark the anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising of 1959, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet and Tibet Society will hold a wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial to Innocent Victims of Oppression, Violence and War, located by West Door of Westminster Abbey. The short service commences at 12.30m. All welcome.

Sunday 10 March - Tibet Freedom March & Rally (from 1:30pm)

Gather from 1:30pm on Richmond Terrace, London SW1 (opposite Downing Street). March starts at 2:30pm. Rally from approx. 4pm outside the Chinese Embassy, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1

Sunday 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.