Greater Visibility: Women in Buddhism Today

Zoom conference to mark the 20th anniversary of Sakyadhita France in English with simultaneous interpretation into French & German

Sunday, 8 November 2026, 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm (CET)

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86479159829?pwd=MEZFTVRiWUxzSkY4Y3hyUE5zZ3JTUT09
Meeting ID: 864 7915 9829 **Code**: 481704

What does it mean today to be a women recognised in Buddhism?

Where are new spaces for responsibility, spiritual authority and collective action emerging?
What is necessary for women's voices in the Dharma not only to be heard,
but also, to play a natural and integral part in shaping it?

To mark the 20th anniversary of Sakyadhita France, together with Sakyadhita Germany, we cordially invite you to an open online conference. The French branch of Sakyadhita was founded in Strasbourg in 2006. In the multilingual border region of Alsace, a special bond with Sakyadhita Germany developed right from the start. Over many years, this connection has grown into a friendly and committed collaboration.

This conference is open to anyone with an interest in Buddhism, women's perspectives in the Dharma and the future of spiritual communities, regardless of their ordination status, gender or Buddhist tradition.

With Ven. Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo, Ven. Martine Batchelor, Dr. Tilmann Borghardt, Ven. Ayya Phalanyani and Ven. Dr. Karma Lekshe Tsomo, internationally experienced voices come together who have been linking Buddhist practice, contemplation, gender equality and social engagement for many years. The presentations are not limited to honoring two decades of commitment to Buddhist women in France and in Europe; they also explore the future of Sakyadhita in Europe, to the power of international solidarity, and to the question of how women in Buddhism today can take up responsibilities with greater courage, increased visibility and as an entirely natural part of society.

Improving visibility doesn't simply happen by itself - *it grows where people encourage one another, challenge old stereotypes and forge new paths together.*

Questions everyone's asking

- Why do women still take on visible roles of responsibility less often in spiritual communities?
- What internal and external obstacles stand in the way of achieving it?
- How do cultural influences, traditional role models and expectations continue to have an impact today?
- What empowers women to follow their own path with clarity, self-confidence and inner freedom?
- How can men and women work together to establish new forms of equality and collaboration?

Program	Topic / Contribution
Welcome	Gabriela Frey, Founding President of Sakyadhita France Dr. Thea Mohr, moderator
Message of congratulations	French Buddhist Union (UBF) European Buddhist Union (EBU) German Buddhist Union (DBU)
Ven. Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo Buddhist teacher, former president of Sakyadhita Int.	Why Sakyadhita and international solidarity are so important today
Ven. Dr. Tilmann Borghardt Ekayana Institute, Buddhist teacher	Clinging to gender identity: an obstacle on the path to awakening?
Ven. Martine Batchelor Buddhist teacher, author	Women in Buddhist traditions today: challenges, developments and prospects
Ven. Ayya Phalanyani Abbess and Chair of Sakyadhita Germany	Sakyadhita Germany and the Brambosch-Schaelen-Foundation, two sister-organisations
Sakyadhita Spain	Representatives from the Spanish branch of Sakyadhita will offer a contribution
Ven. Dr. Karma Lekshe Tsomo Co-founder of Sakyadhita Int., author, Buddhist teacher	The Future of Sakyadhita: What Needs to Be Done?
Concluding remarks **Expressions of thanks**	• Sincere thanks to the **Ekayana Institute** • Announcing the Publication of the book of Ven. Karma Lekshe Tsomo in French: & German: *Women in Buddhist Traditions* • Announcement of the 20th Sakyadhita International Conference 2027 in Magelang, Indonesia.

The conference is open to all free of charge

Sakyadhita France relies on donations and would be grateful to receive your financial support for the organisation

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