

Restoration Project Rumtek Nunnery

Dear friends of KHCP,
since 2006, the KHCP has been caring for the nunnery in Rumtek.
And hereby we are delighted to introduce a very important project to you today.
Our 30 Karmapa nuns in Rumtek are living in very difficult structural conditions.

Following planning with Jigme Rinpoche and friends from Switzerland—and with the very kind approval and endorsement of H.H. the Karmapa, granted during my meeting with him in Singapore last September—we are now setting out to raise funds for the construction of a new nunnery building in Rumtek.



Nendo Rinpoche gave me an insightful interview regarding this in Singapore. He knew the 16th Karmapa personally and described the background to me during the interview (please see the attached transcript).
It was the 16th Karmapa's wish that the nuns who had accompanied him from Tibet should have a dignified nunnery in Rumtek.
One of the 16th Karmapa's first actions after his escape was to have the nunnery built. Upon completion in 1982, it was consecrated by the late Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche. The intention was for the nuns to have a place there for teachings and meditation, and to receive a qualified Buddhist education—on an equal footing with the monks regarding both the curriculum and living conditions.

Over time, and due to numerous earthquakes, the site has unfortunately fallen into a state of disrepair. Furthermore, the number of women there has grown from the original group to 30, and there is a lack of basic necessities. Consequently, plans have been drawn up for a partial rebuild that is earthquake-resistant and offers good living conditions; preliminary plans are attached here.

We need your help to make this a reality. To make the fundraising process more efficient, we would like to offer you a sponsorship model.

Approximately 350,000 euros are required for demolition and new construction; of this amount, 41,000 euros have already been raised! The following link offers a slideshow to introduce you to the location, the wonderful nuns, and their unfortunately precarious living conditions.

<https://www.karmapa-healthcare.org/what-we-do/blog/project-nunnery-rumtek>

In addition to standard donations, we are now offering sponsorship options that can be taken up by a center, given as a gift, or undertaken individually:

1. Nun Sponsorship: 30 nuns at €10,000 each
or
2. Diamond Sponsorship: €3,000
or
3. Ruby Sponsorship: €1,500
or
4. Sapphire Sponsorship: €1,000

Any help is welcome - **IMPORTANT!** please use the reference "**Project Rumtek Nunnery**"
We hope to get started soon.

We will keep you updated on donation progress via the KHCP website, where you can also find the latest news and the video on the project:

<https://www.karmapa-healthcare.org/what-we-do/blog/project-nunnery-rumtek>

Anyone wishing to know more is warmly invited to visit the nuns—guest rooms are available.

If you would like to do so, please feel free to contact us, and we will arrange a meeting in Rumtek.

Thank you all, Pia and Peter
(Founder and board of KHCP - Karmapa's Healthcare Project e.V.)

Restoration Project Karma Chokhor Dechen Ling Nunnery

KHCP has opened a special fund raising account only for the construction project of Karmapa's Nunnery in Rumtek/Sikkim.

Account Holder: KHCP e.V.
Bank: Sozialbank AG
IBAN: DE88 3702 0500 0020 2452 61
Account No. 20 2452 61 | BIC: BFSWDE33XXX
Subject "**Project Rumtek Nunnery**"

Or easily scan or click the QR-Code and use Paypal



For special informationen contact us here:

<https://www.karmapa-healthcare.org/about-us/contact-persons>

Interview

Interview of Nendo Rinpoche by Pia Cervený in Singapore, Sept. 2025:
After fleeing Tibet and arriving in Rumtek, the construction of the nunnery began.

It was a dream of the 16th Karmapa that his nuns would have a monastery where teachings would be given and where the nuns would receive important transmissions.

Nuns and monks should receive the same training and transmission.

Importantly, it was the fundamental wish of the 16th Karmapa that nuns and monks be treated equally, and that both - monks and nuns - could work together for the 16th Karmapa on an equal footing.

The nunnery established at that time was then consecrated by the 3rd Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche.

Rinpoche emphasizes that it is the only nunnery of the 16th and 17th Karmapa. The current circumstances are due to the difficult situation in Rumtek, but the 16th Karmapa's wish was to restore the monastery as a functioning and dignified branch of the Karma Kagyud lineage.

During the conflict, it was the nuns who secured important objects and writings from the Rumtek monastery of the 16th Karmapa and brought to their nunnery 2km down. Furthermore, it was also a place where older nuns like Ani Minyur la, formerly from Tsurphu, could live comfortably and pass on their knowledge to the younger one.

Rinpoche emphasizes the importance of recharging this place (the background is the severe destruction caused by earthquakes and the ravages of time). He hopes that the KHCP and its Swiss friends will succeed in making this possible through sponsors. This is the last chance.

(I, Pia, suggested traveling with Peter to Rumtek nunnery in October to look around, get a sense of the situation, and then report back to potential sponsors.)

Rinpoche strongly supported this idea and offered to support me on-site by informing the current head of the monastery Ani Tsultrim.

He also expressed his interest in informing older witnesses, such as Khenpo Chödrag Rinpoche.

At least Rinpoche advised me to revisit all the pilgrimage sites in Rumtek. I promised him to do it.

I thank Nendo Rinpoche from the bottom of my heart for the information and support. This interview was subsequently transcribed by hand and presented to Nendo Rinpoche prior to publication.

At this point I would like to thank Shangpa Rinpoche and Cherlie Foo for their extraordinary help here in Singapore.