

Subject: Gaywa and Gaden Relief Projects

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Date: Mon, 23 Oct 2006 11:04:38 -0400

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Organization: Gaden Relief Projects

User-Agent: Thunderbird 1.5.0.7 (Windows/20060909)

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="-----060602000901070404040801"

Hi Jennifer and Didi,

On Friday the Gaden Relief Projects Board of Directors met to address issues relating to our application for charitable status for our new incorporated organization. I am sorry to report that the Board has decided that we can no longer sponsor the Gaywa Project because of problems we are having getting charitable status.

As you both know Gaden Relief has been part of Gaden Choling in Toronto. We are trying to split Gaden Relief off as its own organization with its own charitable status but we are having difficulty meeting the government's new requirements for charities. We are discovering that the rules for charitable organizations with foreign aid projects have become far tighter than they were then we first set up Gaden Relief as a branch of Gaden Choling nearly 20 years ago. Because the government is worried about funds getting diverted to terrorist organizations it now requires charities to exert much greater control over its spending in foreign countries. These rules make it very difficult to continue to sponsor some of our current projects where we cannot demonstrate complete control over the use of funds. Unfortunately the Gaywa Project is one of those projects, and we have no choice but to terminate our sponsorship of Gaywa.

We realize that this will come as a shock. There really is no way to soften the blow. But the silver lining is that in the long run the Gaywa Project will be better off as a separate organization with its own board and with its own charitable status. It will be better known, it will grow, and, ultimately, it will continue to do great work in Tibet. We will help Gaywa become its own organization and we will help Gaywa to apply for its own charitable status.

Here is what the Charities Directorate wrote in its letter to us regarding our application:

"Based on the information supplied and communicated to us to date it appears that some of GRP's activities overseas would fall short of the requirements set out by the courts and would, in fact, not permit us to proceed with registration."

The changes demanded by the Charities Directorate require a complete revamping of how we do things in Tibet, Mongolia and India. While we are confident that we will be successful in getting charitable status eventually, Gaden Relief Projects itself has to change for that to happen. The deadline for making those changes is upon us, which is why this has all come to a head so suddenly.

The problem is not that Gaywa or Zuru or the other projects that we are dropping are fundamentally flawed. It's that the only way we can meet the government's requirements is to tighten up the reporting, the funds handling, and the control of our projects, especially in Tibet. For projects to be acceptable to the government now they must be totally under the direct control of the charity's board, and the project staff has to report directly to the board, and the money raised and spent cannot be pooled with other money raised

independently as is the case with Gaywa.

The Board decided that our sponsorship of Gaywa will end at the start of the Tibetan New Year, February 19, 2007. Until then we will continue to collect donations and issue tax receipts on behalf of Gaywa. After that date, we will no longer collect donations, but we will direct donors to the Gaywa Project website. When Didi visits Tibet next year we will make a final payment of all of the money raised for Gaywa to be used for the usual purposes as outlined in our standard contract. As always we require a full report plus receipts for the work done.

While the Board did not discuss how this affects your Rowall Fund application and the Seva eye camp, it is not our intention damage those initiatives in any way. I am sure that we would find ways to allow them to proceed under our sponsorship, if necessary, as neither initiative involves any funds passing through Gaden Relief.

Rinpoche will call Didi to help explain the reasons for ending the sponsorship. Evan and I am available to discuss this with you also. As soon as you are ready, we are ready to help with the set up of the organization and the application for charitable status.

This is a very sad occasion. We deeply regret having to do this, and so suddenly. We love the work that Didi and you are doing for the seniors and for the women of Zadoh. But we also know that Gaywa will adjust and survive, and go on to do much more great work in Tibet.

Conrad

cc: The Gaden Relief Projects Board

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