



Media Release

For immediate release: 10 January 2025

The Chinese Government needs to allow independent aid-workers into earthquake affected areas of Tibet, say Australian Parliamentarians.

It was reported by Voice of America [1] that earthquake affected areas in Dingri Tibet have been made inaccessible for independent Tibetan social organisations and volunteers, by the Chinese Government authorities.

In the surge of Tibetan volunteers delivering help from other regions of Tibet to the disaster-hit areas, the Chinese authorities announced a restriction. Such organisations and volunteers now need to obtain official permission before entering disaster-hit areas, citing harsh winter conditions, high altitude, low oxygen levels, and the remoteness of the affected regions as reasons for the restriction, during a press conference on 8 January 2025.

In a statement [2], Co-Chairs of the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Tibet Group (AAPGT), Susan Templeman MP, Senator Dean Smith and Senator Barbara Pocock called on the Chinese Government to respect the Tibetan people's human rights and access to aid. The statement said, "Chinese Government should ensure they are open and transparent with the international community and ensure that any aid effort does not further displace Tibetans or strip Tibetans of their religion, culture or rights."

The Co-Chairs of the AAPGT also expressed their concerns about the risks of Tibetan people's vulnerabilities being further exploited in such disasters.

[1] Voice of America Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1A8Wb3Dho5/>

[2] Statement from Australian All-Party Parliamentary Tibet Group (AAPGT): https://www.atc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AAPPTG_Statement_Jan2025_Tibet_earthquake.pdf

Full length video of press conference (in Chinese) live stream (Original Source): <https://youtu.be/9LXe5EFrCXQ>

For more information, please contact:

Dr Zoe Bedford, Australia Tibet Council zoe.bedford@atc.org.au (+61) 0408 262 576