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### **Human Rights in Tibet:**

Freedom of religion or belief and the right to assemble and associate freely are restricted by the Chinese Government, and there have been troubling reports of forced labour and Tibetans being arrested for owning photographs of, celebrating the birthday of, or watching videos of the Dalai Lama's teachings, as the Chinese Government has made it illegal to worship the Dalai Lama.

Early in 2023, the UN found that approximately a million Tibetan children had been separated from their families and placed into Government-run boarding schools with no access to traditional Tibetan learning. This is extremely worrying.

I am concerned about suppression of Tibetan cultural, linguistic and religious identity, and that there is a programme of mass forced assimilation and displacement of people in the Tibetan region, where individuals are not permitted to speak in their native tongue. This is a weakening of the way of life and the religious practices of the Tibetan people.

I know there are reports of enforced disappearances of critics to suppress dissent in Tibet, with politically motivated detentions and mistreatment. In the past decade, we have also seen video evidence of the destruction of Buddhist temples and, as you noted in your letter, there is daily repression of nuns and monks, restrictions and increasing state-sponsored surveillance and cultural events that have been stopped by the Chinese Government.

I also worry about the lack of freedom of speech in Tibet.

In my view, human rights, including the freedom of religion or belief, must not be viewed separately when dealing with trade negotiations. The UK Government must raise these matters in the same dialogue and take action to protect human rights worldwide.

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