

PETITION

Buddhism and women: calling for Bhikkhuni ordination and gender equality in the Forest Sangha

Letter to Venerable Elders of the Sangha

Petition text

i-ii

Petition's signatures and comments

1–179

From <http://new.ipetitions.com/petition/bhikkhuni-ordination>

Dear Venerable Elders of the Sangha,

In the spirit of respect and gratitude for the Venerable Elders and Forest Sangha of the late Ven. Ajahn Chah, we bring our heartfelt request for your consideration through the presentation of this petition.

This petition is a means for members of the four-fold sangha to express our shared concerns about the events surrounding the Bhikkhuni ordination in Perth, Australia, in October 2009, and the displacement of women in the tradition.

We ask you to hear the voices of your many supporters around the world who hold the monastic sangha precious and who are committed to ensuring the health and longevity of the transmission of Dhamma in western countries.

The signatures on this petition represent those who signed up until the 30th November 2009. By that date the petition had been open for nineteen days, since 11th November 2009. As at 2nd December 2009, the number of signatories is 2661. The petition is still live and attracting signatures.

with respect and blessings,

The petition organisers

2 December 2009

The production of this petition was a collaborative effort by many concerned members of the international lay community associated with the Ajahn Chah tradition, including:

Jacqui McGirr (Australia – affiliated with Wat Santi Sangha)
Dr Margaret Smith (Australia)
Jitindriya MA (Australia)
Dr Elizabeth Day (Australia)
Jill Chapman (UK – affiliated with Chithurst Sangha)
Joy Esser (US – affiliated with Abhayagiri and Saranaloka sangha)
Thanissara MA (Dharmagiri South Africa – affiliated with Spirit Rock Sangha)
Martin Alyward (France – Member of Vipassana Teacher Group)
Pascal Auclair (Canada – Member of Vipassana Teacher Group)
Sarah Roddie (UK BPP Law School)
Rebecca Green (UK – Affiliated with Amaravati Sangha)
Anna Eisler (Denmark – affiliated with Amaravati Monastery)
Brenda Batke-Hirschmann (Canada – Alliance for Bhikkhunis and affiliated with BC Insight Meditation Society)
Marcia Pimentel (USA – Editor, Present, Alliance for Bhikkhunis)
Dr Sarana Nona Olivier (USA – Affiliated with Forest Sangha)
Andrea Cook (UK and Netherlands – affiliated with Forest Sangha)
Sati Witts (affiliated with Amaravati Sangha) [added 5 December 2009]
and others who wish to remain anonymous

We are happy to be contacted through the email address of contact@fourfoldsangha.org (in the first instance) for further dialogue on these issues.

Buddhism and women: calling for Bhikkhuni ordination and gender equality in the Forest Sangha

In the spirit of respect and gratitude for the Venerable Elders and Bhikkhu Sangha, we bring our considered and heartfelt reflection for your consideration.

This petition is a means for members of the four-fold sangha to express our deep concerns to the Forest Sangha of the late Ven. Ajahn Chah about the events surrounding and challenging the Bhikkhuni ordination in Perth, Australia, in October 2009, and the placement of women in the tradition.

The Forest Sangha has roots in the Wat Pah Pong (WPP) community in Thailand and includes its branch monasteries in the West, among which are: Amaravati (UK), Cittaviveka (UK), Abhayagiri (USA), Bodhinyanarama (NZ), and all its associated monasteries around the world.

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- **We who have signed this petition are disheartened by and disagree with** the expulsion of Ven. Ajahn Brahmavamso and Bodhinyana Monastery (AUS) from the Ajahn Chah community as a consequence of his participation in a recent Bhikkhuni ordination in Australia.
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- **We are disheartened by and disagree with** the Sangha's lack of acknowledgement regarding the legitimacy of Bhikkhuni ordination in this tradition.
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- **We are disheartened by and disagree with** the recent legislation of 5 points created at Amaravati (UK) and Cittaviveka (UK) by Ven. Ajahn Sumedho and the monks of the Elders' Council, which imposes on nuns a two-tier discriminatory power structure favouring monks over nuns in these and associated monasteries.
-
- **We are disheartened by and disagree with** the continued gender inequity played out in the monastic form, particularly in Western cultures where this is a direct affront to prevailing social and legal standards of equality and mutual respect between men and women.
-
- **We request that** the WPP community, particularly those members in leadership positions in the Western monasteries, consider their position and responsibility to the four-fold sangha and initiate dialogue to mend the split that has been caused in the fabric of this larger community.
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- **We request that** the Elders of the Forest Sangha of the Ven. Ajahn Chah make efforts to address the issues of Bhikkhuni ordination, recognising that there are many well informed members of the four-fold sangha who see this as a real possibility and wish to see it happen. We particularly urge the Western Elders of the Forest Sangha to work openly and honestly within its own cultural context, inviting and listening to feedback from the four-fold sangha, as the Buddha modelled.
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- **We request that** the new legislation imposed upon the nuns of Amaravati and Cittaviveka be revoked and a new dialogue be initiated to discuss what would mutually support the monks' and nuns' orders to thrive in their Western communities.
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- **We request that** a dialogue be initiated, including representatives of all four components of the four-fold sangha in the West, which directly addresses gender inequity within the monastic form and how it impacts on people in this tradition, ordained or lay, with the aim of finding a way to move forward in mutual respect as members of this sangha in a Western context.
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We hereby express our dissent and make these requests in the spirit of the Dhamma —
that the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha may find a healthy ground to grow and flourish in the world
for the benefit of all beings.

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jacqui McGirr ~ Manly, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition From Forest Sangha Calendar 2009/2552 ... Cultivate the company / of those who support your aspiration / for energetic practice of the teachings. The beauty of pure conduct / conditions whole-hearted well-being / giving rise to complete freedom from remorse. Dhammapada v.375-6	1
Marie Ericsson ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada other	2
Claralynn Nunamaker ~ Dunfermline, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	3
Andrea Cook ~ Netherlands ~ Buddhist	4
Thanissara (Linda Mary Weinberg) ~ Underberg, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition In the light of recent events, in particular the attempt to legislate the 5 point agreement without due negotiation or sangha process, I would like to invite the Elder council into a forum of dialogue that includes representation from the 4-fold sangha.	5
Marcia Pimentel ~ Lutts, United States ~ Theravada other	6
Sujata Jill Chapman ~ Southampton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	7
Jeff Lewis ~ Exmouth, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition The Buddha, in his wisdom, established a four-fold sangha. Let us not, by omission or commission, undo his work.	8
Rebecca Green ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition May this petition be a turning point away from the old road of ignorance to a new era of dialogue, openness and awareness.	9
Anna Eisler ~ Svendborg, Denmark ~ Theravada Forest tradition I am very happy to put my name on this petition. May it lead to harmony, happiness, and the flourishing of the fourfold sangha in the West!	10
Soraj Hongladarom ~ Nonthaburi, Thailand ~ Tibetan I fully support ordination of women and more active role of nuns and lay women as integral parts of Buddhism.	11
Elizabeth West ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan I hope and pray that an amicable solution can be found to this sad problem. As one who loves this Sangha I feel deeply saddened by what has happened.	12
Pascal Auclair ~ Montréal, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	13
Diane E Murray ~ United States ~ Theravada other It would be wonderful if the Bhikkhunis would also speak for themselves. I have heard nothing from them on the subject.	14
Jill Shepherd ~ barre, United States ~ Theravada other	15
Suzanne Dance ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ Zen Please let there be equality and mutual respect between women and men Buddhist practitioners, nuns and monks, and laypeople.	16
Doug Sawyer ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	17

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JIM BURNS ~ PHOENIX, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	18
Suzanne Hayes ~ Louisville, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	19
Marie Lachance ~ Canada ~ Tibetan	20
Anna Douglas ~ Green Valley AZ 85614, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	21
Nona Sarana Olivia ~ Denver, United States ~ Buddhist Please help reinstate the four-fold sangha that the Buddha created. Please throw out the offensive Five Points and supprt equality for the Siladharas.	22
Alison Moore ~ Berkhamsted, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	23
Adi Bemak ~ amherst, United States ~ Theravada other I full heartedly endorse the above statement calling for full gener equality in the Buddhist sangha worldwide. Anything less diminishes us all. Most sincerely with metta, Adi Bemak	24
Daryl Lynn Ross ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other I am very saddened to hear of Ajahn Brahmavamso's expulsion. I strongly support the call for reflection and dialogue on this important issue in the four-fold sangha, to be done in a spirit of trust and love for the Three Jewels.	25
Quilley Powers ~ petaluma, ca, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	26
Donna McCarthy ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	27
Caroline Hinkley ~ boulder, United States ~ Buddhist	28
Anonymous ~ Gatineau, Canada ~ Buddhist	29
Kester Ratcliff (Ex- Bhikkhu Santi) ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist [comment supplied separately to WAM]	30
Laura Davis ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	31
Anonymous ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Buddhist	32
Anonymous ~ Point Reyes Station, California, United States ~ Theravada other	33
Alison Reitz ~ Santa Barabara, United States ~ Buddhist	34
Lori Smetaniuk ~ Breslau, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	35

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Charles Bergeron ~ Canada ~ non-Buddhist

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Tamanan Suebwonglee ~ BKK, Thailand ~ Buddhist

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It doesn't really matter much to me if the Thai hierarchy decide to collaborate in building fourfold Buddhist sanghas or if they decide to remain in their own threefold Thai sangha and criticise everybody who won't obey them.

Those of us who wish to build a fourfold sangha are doing it anyway, and the actions of the Thai hierarchy have no effect on us whatsoever. The only reasons I'm signing this are (i) concern for practitioners inside Thailand who are under the thumb of the Thai hierarchy and (ii) sadness because the Forest Tradition has taught me much, and I would like them to come along. But if they don't want to, I'll be sad but not too concerned.

Ross Bauer ~ Kensington, CA 94707, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

38

Shaila Catherine ~ Menlo Park, California, United States ~ Theravada other

39

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Buddhist

40

Robin Cohen ~ Sebastopol, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

41

Sara Free ~ Memphis, United States ~ Tibetan

42

Anonymous ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Theravada other

43

Equality For Nuns and Stop Burning Incense For God's and Human's Sake.

Claire Dolby ~ Wellington, United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist

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Evan Kavanagh ~ San Francisco, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

45

Bob Stevens ~ San Rafael CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

46

Erin Hill ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

47

John Snell ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

48

The nature of being, not gender, should be the determining factor for ordination.

Maeve Hassett ~ Meadow Vista, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Everything changes and it's time for this change.

Maureen Kelly ~ Fairfax, California, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Miles Ceralde ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Mahayana other

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Melanie Davies ~ Lewes, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Geetha Krishnan ~ Carlsbad, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	53
Paul B. Coombs ~ Easthampton MA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	54
Beings are beings no matter the gender,;thus justice demands equality.	
Chris Blain ~ hexham, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	55
Sharda Rogell ~ United States ~ Theravada other	56
Ani Mavericka ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	57
Anonymous ~ Sunnyvale, United States ~ Buddhist	58
The current relationship of the monastic sangha towards women has a deep effect of creating doubt in the dharma in many Westerners newly interested in the dharma. I've seen people turn away because of this.	
M.M. Meleen ~ United States ~ Theravada other	59
Clay Howard ~ Cotati, CA, United States ~ Zen	60
John Chapman ~ Southampton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	61
Katherine Wolfe ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada other	62
Laura Hauer ~ Castle Rock, WA, United States ~ Buddhist	63
Gillian Chandler ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	64
Laura Bitts ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	65
Anonymous ~ Newcastle upon tyne, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	66
For a while I didn't think much about the fact that that nuns weren't the same as monks. It would be good if the elders in Thailand could be brought round to the idea that it is Ok. I suppose it would mean importing some nuns from another strand of established buddhism, with the help of the monks. Maybe some Ajahns will start ordaining nuns more often anyway and the viharas without any bhikunnis will become less numerous, maybe over the next twenty years. There is certainly a wind of change blowing, due to global warming, which focuses the mind on what's important. The bhikunni order would be under pressure from the start, so would need a lot of support.	
Vivienne Brett ~ Wisborough Green, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	67
Agree with the above completely	
Heather Fercho ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	68

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Tina Yang ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Mahayana other

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Anonymous ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other

70

Adah Miller ~ Nanaimo, Canada ~ Theravada other

71

I think it is long past time that women be allowed full ordination as Bhikkhunis. Surely we have made some advancement over the last 2,000 years when this rule was first made. It is not rational or just that women are treated as less than men in any sphere of our common humanity. Thank you for your consideration.

Anagarika Jason Chan ~ Bundanoon, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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I fully endorse this excellent petition. There will a day when fear of the emotion and conflict that is a necessary part of dialogue and growth will no longer be the norm. This is one of the first steps towards that goal.

Tony Halter ~ east wittering, chichester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Congratulations to the new Bikkhunis!

May this forthcoming necessary dialogue be carried out with love and compassion, openly and kindly.

There is so much division and hostility in the world that a debate about women wanting spiritual equality in 2009 really does not need to be complicated.

I have supported the Forest Sangha for 32 years and respectfully request you carefully note lay reaction.

Had Walmer ~ Lake Oswego, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Rachel Lewis ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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I take refuge in the four-fold sangha. I call on monastic leaders to help make bhikkhunis a supported and respected part of the sangha.

Kathy Halter ~ east wittering, chichester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Keeping an open heart is inconsistent with the exclusion of women from the same opportunities within the monastic tradition as men. The current inequalities are palpably unfair and militate against wholeness within a tradition I have loved and supported for over 30 years. I respectfully ask that the Elders reconsider their decision.

With love and metta.

Brenda Batke-Hirschmann ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Jacquelyn Miller ~ Australia ~ Buddhist

78

Michael Liebensson Grady ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

79

The monks should be ashamed of themselves for discriminating against women.

Satima Witts ~ Worcester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

80

Anonymous ~ vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

81

Kyira Korrigan ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Kenneth Refsgaard ~ Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ Buddhist

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Lailah Robertson ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada other	84
Mary Grace Orr ~ Aptos, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	85
Geoffrey Lyons ~ Santa Cruz, California, United States ~ Theravada other	86
Tannis Braithwaite ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition Please reconsider your position and offer your support for the ordination of nuns.	87
Martin Carver ~ United States ~ Theravada other	88
Cindy Cowden ~ Beacon, United States ~ Theravada other	89
Jon Gundersgaare ~ Scotts Valley, United States ~ Buddhist	90
Jacqui Balfour ~ Burnaby, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	91
Chris Basiletti ~ Watsonville, CA, United States ~ Theravada other	92
Krista Mennell ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ undeclared	93
Martin Aylward ~ Cubjac, France ~ Buddhist Thankyou for putting this together, I am very happy to be able to register my agreement with all the points.	94
Jacqueline Kramer ~ United States ~ Theravada other if theravadin buddhism is to thrive it must include the other half of the population-woman- not just as recipients but as spiritual leaders alongside their brothers.	95
Elizabeth Shuman ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	96
Ayya Mahacitta ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	97
John Roevekamp ~ Santa Cruz, California, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition Gender discrimination in matters of awakening and enlightenment is not skilful action, nor right action. It is a brazen violation of fundamental precepts found in the eightfold noble path. It is time to do what we know is right. Thank you.	98
Sandra Delaney ~ brookline MA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	99
Cintamani ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Buddhist Here is an opportunity for responsiveness and genuine leadership. Let Buddhism in the west reinvigorate its radical roots and steer clear of the creep of fundamentalism. This shared inheritance is precious to us all. Mettacitena.	100

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Judy Cannon ~ Omaha, NE, United States ~ Theravada other	101
Lee Breeze ~ Liss, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	102
Lisa St. Cyr ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada other	103
Bonnie Yiu ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other	104
Gavin Breeze ~ LISS, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition The tide of history is moving.... ultimately it is unstoppable	105
Amatanandi AN ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	106
Sharon Rose Smith ~ Burnsville, NC, United States ~ Theravada other	107
Anonymous ~ Wellfleet, United States ~ Buddhist I don't think the Buddha was aiming for male dominance. so why should the sangha. This is an Asian cultural attitude and has no real place in the Buddha's teachings.	108
Becky Newbold ~ Worcestershire, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	109
Rhonda KAra ~ Canada ~ undeclared Women are equal to men. Spirit is spirit. It is time for balance in this entire world.	110
John Pickering ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada other It's time for this to change.	111
Emma Kohn ~ Brooklyn, NY, United States ~ Theravada other	112
Ernest Godin ~ OUTREMONT, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition I TOTALLY SUPPORT THIE CONTENT OF THIS PETITION	113
Joy T Esser ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	114
Gwyn Waterfield ~ Austin, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	115
Bhante Sujato ~ Bundanoon, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	116
Anonymous ~ Lewes, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition Communication causes hurt between women and men . How can this hurt be resolved ? How can dialogue and polite communication be set up such that monks and nuns resolve their suffering ? This tradition comes from a poor area of Thailand where the boys are sent to the monastery and given precedence in families and the eldest daughter is unloved and expected to be the bread winner by age of 12-14. These girls leave home and become child prostitutes in Bangkok sending the money home. They become the family ATM thinking they will earn favour by doing this horrible job. They never get recongnised and many suffer severe illness or commit suicide as a result. The dark and light of this tradition is polarised .	117

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Eloise Ross-Jones ~ Bundanoon, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	118
Art Jolly ~ Richmond, Calif., United States ~ Theravada other	119
J B Bell ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	120
I would also respectfully note that support for the position against bikkhuni ordination is not to be found in the Vinaya; and that there is no special authority for particular abbots given within the Vinaya or Suttas. Thus it would behoove anyone opposing bikkhuni ordination to cite on what grounds they do so. If those grounds are not in the Suttas or the Vinaya, how may they be called Buddhist?	
Myra Morris ~ Sana Cruz, United States ~ undeclared	121
Dave Gardiner ~ St John's, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	122
Peter Williams ~ Boulder, CO, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	123
Anonymous ~ New Zealand ~ Buddhist	124
Moha Vaha ~ Coquitlam, Canada ~ non-Buddhist	125
Margaret Smith ~ Lismore, Australia ~ undeclared	126
Kathryn Swift ~ North Vancouver, BC, Canada ~ Theravada other	127
Walt Opie ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	128
Women should have the same opportunity that men have to be fully ordained as monastics in our tradition. It's just that simple. I also hope that some day we can all agree on this for the mutual benefit of all beings everywhere.	
Laura Bernay ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other	129
It is time to have a dialogue about this and try to move forward. Please allow this monumental change to happen in the spirit of the dharma. Equality for men and women in the sangha.	
Elliott Gould ~ Petaluma, Ca, United States ~ Theravada other	130
When the Buddha was about to die Ananda pleaded with him to live out the age. "Who will we ask what is right with you gone?" "Ask yourselves, you know by now" said the blessed one. WE DO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT, And it is about time that we admitted that women are our helpmates and we should treat them thus. Elliott Gould	
Andreas Woods ~ Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	131
Anonymous ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	132
Sean Gardner ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	133

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Steve Olson ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	134
Kami Kanetsuka ~ Bowen Island, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	135
Michael Percy ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	136
Myoshin Kelley ~ Barre, United States ~ Theravada other Until there is bhikkhuni ordination in the west, there will not be a strong monastic presence. It is time to look again at how we can further the teachings of the Buddha in this time in this culture. The Buddha's teachings need to reflect lovingkindness and compassion for all. The rules for women come from another time and another culture and are in the way of the essence of the teachings.	137
Dania Percy ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	138
Shelley Gault ~ Santa Barbara, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	139
Jennifer Lambert ~ Portland, OR, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	140
Sirikul Karuncharernpanit ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	141
Jim Ellis ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other	142
Kim Weeber ~ Northampton, United States ~ Theravada other The sangha depends on monks, nuns and laypeople. At this point, nuns have not been able to fully participate and take their proper place in the sangha. This needs to be addressed by allowing women to fully ordain.	143
Michele Ellis ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other	144
Christina Thomson ~ Canada ~ Theravada other	145
Martin Evans ~ United States ~ Buddhist if only buddhism had democracy as part of the eight-fold path, or justice. probably considered a habit of mind.	146
Susan Pembroke ~ Ventura, United States ~ Theravada other In the Mahaparanibbana Sutta, the Buddha stated that his dispensation would not be complete without accomplished bhikkhus, bhikkhunis, upasakas, and upasikas. In protecting bhikkhunis, we are protecting and preserving the Dhamma.	147
Amber Bemak ~ Amherst, United States ~ Tibetan	148
Hanne Jensen ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada other	149
Charlie Greenwood-Elliott ~ Cape Town, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition	150

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Chris Fox ~ Victoria, Canada ~ Theravada other	151
Judy Chua ~ ipoh, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	152
Mary Cosman ~ Fernie, Canada ~ Tibetan	153
Sarah Savoy ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Tibetan	154
Jane Ellison ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	155
Bonnie Duran ~ Seattle, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	156
Dear Venerable Monks and Buddhist Leaders;	
Please do go forward with offering women the full ordination, teaching, and general responsibilities of the male monks. I truly believe you will be strengthening the Dharma and supporting its flowering and spread well into the future. I love the Dharma and I am a woman and I believe its important for the Dharma to lead by example as an institution that lives the principles of equality and compassion and friendliness for all, regardless of gender.	
Much metta and hugs,	
Bonnie Duran	
Brian Williams ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	157
Martine Charles ~ Gabriola Island, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	158
Katarina Plank ~ Göteborg, Sweden ~ Theravada other	159
Anonymous ~ Santa Barbara, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	160
Rene Bicker ~ Hoogland, Netherlands ~ undeclared	161
Penelope Burton ~ Aptos, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	162
May all beings be free from gender discrimination.	
May all beings be at peace.	
May all being recognize their true nature.	
May all beings be truly happy.	
Sarah Entine ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other	163
Lysistrata ~ Redondo Beach, United States ~ Theravada other	164
Anonymous ~ Albany, CA, United States ~ Theravada other	165

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Douglas Barr ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Buddhist

166

Sue McBurnie ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other

167

Ian Davidson ~ london, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Ajahn Sumedho is a great anchor of goodness and virtue in our society, the benefits of his conduct are far reaching but the full ordination of women, their equal status and equal worthiness of respect is beyond the need for debate. Clinging to outmoded Thai patriarchal values is a cause of sadness and suffering.

Karen Newis ~ Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

169

Mikko Lounela ~ Helsinki, Finland ~ Zen

170

Anonymous ~ Chiang Mai, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition

171

sadhu

Michelle Cobbin ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other

172

Assuntina Cardillo Zallo ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

173

Loraine Keats (Jitindriya) ~ Lismore, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

174

Daniel Ainestrand ~ Göteborg, Sweden ~ Theravada other

175

It's time to give women the opportunity to walk the Holy Path again, just like the Buddha intended to.

Eva Averin ~ Vallentuna, Sweden ~ Theravada other

176

Selina and Russell Dunne ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

177

Felicity Cook ~ Ashted, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

178

Libby Davy ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

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Having recently stayed at Amaravati on three occasions, I was shocked at what I heard and saw on the surface in regards to these issues, and what it suggested in going deeper. Watching senior nuns wait to eat until younger monks had been fed was a visible sign of how far Theravadin has to travel. If positive change requires income autonomy for western centres, then so be it. Until the ying and yang / anima and animus of gender identity and relations are truly lived, there will not be peace on earth. Please be the change. Perhaps this is an example of east/west yin and yang in action. The east does not always know best! Integration not binary opposition is what we need, I truly believe and have experienced.

Jenni Jepson ~ Suffolk, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

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Bhikkhu Khaisear ~ Penang, Malaysia ~ Buddhist

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Shirley Singer ~ South Africa ~ Buddhist

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Tsyen Teoh ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	183
 To practice Dhama and to be enlighten and to be Buddha's disciple is a good path. No one has ant right to object this enlightenment pathway. To be reborn as a Sadagami or to be Anagami to up to individual to obtain by going their level best.	
Anonymous ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	184
	
Jordana Gonzalez ~ Vilnius, Lithuania ~ Zen	185
	
Fran Walker ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared	186
	
Annika Mattsson ~ Umeå, Sweden ~ undeclared	187
	
Valerie Leng ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Zen	188
 I wish for all the bhikkhunis affected and for all living beings to be free from the rigors of samsara. May all never be separated from the Ultimate joy that is beyond Attachment, Aversion and Delusion. Enjoy the day!	
Julia Wilkinson ~ Midhurst, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	189
 I wholeheartedly support the request for an open and balanced dialogue, concerning these key issues.	
K Lafrentz ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	190
	
Ratnadevi ~ Glasgow, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	191
	
Ana Prpic ~ Croatia ~ Zen	192
	
Patrick Hamilton ~ Washington DC, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	193
 Following Lord Buddha's guidance [Mahaparinibbana-sutta] we must address difficult issues which arise after his passing. And we must be generous, open, full of compassion and wisdom in our discussions and when we make our decisions. The issue before the Theravada Maha Sangha -- the restoration of the Bhikkhuni order -- is critical to us all and too large to be determined only in light of the determinations of the Elders of WPP.	
Carol McGuigan ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	194
	
Sasanka Thilakasiri ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	195
	
Jane Clark ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	196
	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Samuel Nordius ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada Forest tradition

197

As the Buddha and his earliest disciples didn't expect that the Dhamma-Vinaya would be put into print and published all over the world they naturally assumed that the Path would be lost with time, gradually becoming corrupted while being orally transmitted generation by generation. For this reason, a continuity in lineage might have been fundamental for the continuity of the Dhamma-Vinaya (although the Tipitaka never mentions that an uninterrupted lineage is necessary for the Sangha).

Now we have the entire Dhamma-Vinaya in book-form. We know exactly what is expected from a bhikkhuni, and how she can lead the Holy Life. Why then should we not give this opportunity to women today? Obviously this is what the Buddha would have wanted - that all people who wish to follow His path fully, as long as the Path is known in the world, will be allowed to do so. What kind of "Buddhist Sangha" wants to PREVENT people from walking the Path and living the 'Fully Perfected Holy Life'?!

Of course we should let women practice at the highest level! Stop all this Vinaya-fundamentalist nonsense immediately and come back to the basics of Dhamma. Then it will become easy to see what is right and what is wrong.

JAN REED ~ NEWCASTLE, United Kingdom ~ Zen

198

THE CREATION OF A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MONKS AND NUNS SEEMS ILLOGICAL, DISCRIMINATORY AND WRONG. GIVEN THE DISCRIMINATION AND ILL-TREATMENT THAT WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD FACE, ONE WOULD HOPE THAT THE BUDDHIST MOVEMENT WOULD OFFER A DIFFERENT AND EQUAL APPROACH.

Thor Jo Wee ~ Penang, Malaysia ~ Theravada other

199

Pake Hall ~ Gothenburg, Sweden ~ Zen

200

Joyce Short ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ undeclared

201

James Baraz ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other

202

Anonymous ~ Gold Coast, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

203

Anonymous ~ gothenburg, Sweden ~ Mahayana other

204

Rory Singer ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

205

Mélanie Chevarie ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other

206

Eva Bruha ~ Castlegregory, Ireland ~ Theravada other

207

Mikael Arvidsson ~ Göteborg, Sweden ~ Theravada Forest tradition

208

Dawn Mauricio ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other

209

Ravindra Jayasinghe ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ undeclared

210

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Edward LeSage ~ Barre, United States ~ Theravada other

211

I'm appalled that such discrimination, unwise action, and speech against women are even present and a necessary discussion within the Buddhist community. It saddens me and I feel shame that it is so.

Sending healing and reconciliatory metta,

Ed LeSage

Elaine Retholtz ~ New York, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

212

Ratna Lim ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist

213

Terry Mandel ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other

214

Anonymous ~ Lismore, Australia ~ Theravada other

215

With much metta and in the spirit of equality of women and men, Bhikkhunis and Bhikkhus and all living creatures, I support the full ordination of women in the Forest tradition, and all monastic and religious traditions. May this transition and evolution come to fruition with peaceful hearts and minds of wisdom by all those who are in respectful dialogue about this issue.

Anonymous ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

216

Sharon H. Weeks ~ Burnsville, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

217

Indira Fernando ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other

218

Ajahn Brahm is most sympathetic to all living beings.... so are his actions.

Diana Dure-Biondi ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada other

219

Please take into consideration the importance of the role Buddhist nuns have for women everywhere in the modern world. Their role in our lives and in the Buddhist Community are so precious and dear. I respectfully ask you to review your decision.

Carla Brennan ~ United States ~ Theravada other

220

Jeff Scannell ~ Montpelier, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

221

Kelly Pedlar ~ Hertfordshire, United Kingdom ~ undeclared

222

Sandra Stern ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

223

GLORIA GOSTNELL ~ Portland, Oregon, United States ~ Theravada other

224

Janet Maxwell ~ Hudson, Canada ~ Theravada other

225

Anonymous ~ Shokan, NY, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

226

This has been an essential issue since the time of the Buddha. He appears to have made enormous change in his time toward gender equality. It behooves us in that tradition to respond in kind by taking the next step to allow women full ordination. There is no lightened reason to hold back on this front (in my view).

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Metta Waisakkha NR ~ Sneek, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	227
Anonimous ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	228
Laura Davin ~ Portland, Oregon, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	229
Joanna Macy ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other	230
Roberta Koepfer ~ Bayside, New York, United States ~ Theravada other	231
Mary Killian ~ Sebastopol, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition May true wisdom and compassion move events forward toward an end to suffering for all. May there be no ill will in this unfolding. May bikkhunis find full acceptance for full ordination throughout the entire sangha. May the goodness of that eventuality become known and clear.	232
Colleen Waters ~ Leamington Spa, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	233
Ellen Wilhelm ~ Kirkland, United States ~ Theravada other	234
Brian Mahanay ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition Fear of open discussion is not indicative of an open mind and heart.	235
Viranani ~ Yangon, Myanmar ~ Theravada other	236
Bruce and Jill Hyman ~ Los gatos, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition Anicca, Anicca, Anicca. What is fair and just must be done.	237
Caroline Forbes ~ France ~ non-Buddhist	238
Rafi Santo ~ New York City, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I whole heartedly support this effort. This is a moment when a core theravadin monastic institution can make a choice: continue with patriarchal practices based on greed, hatred and delusion or take a step toward ending the long history of gender discrimination that has existed in Buddhist institutions.	239
Jim Dalton ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada other	240
Astrid Perez-Lyons ~ Bridgwater, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	241
Louise Rich ~ United States ~ Buddhist	242

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Patrick Butler ~ Farnham, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

243

Holding women in a patronising and protected status may have been appropriate 2,500 years ago when women could expect virtually nothing from society.

However society has on the whole become more enlightened over the centuries and this is no longer appropriate, but represents archaic, culturally-conditioned, created form which has nothing to do with Dhamma.

It's seriously negatively affecting the lives of many women in and around the monasteries and out of compassion and basic respect for fellow humans, the time has come for the Elders to put decency and morality above pedantic adherence to peripheral aspects of the Vinaya.

Buddhism is a living, organic tradition based on personal investigation, discovery and moral responsibility. It is not a dry and empty ritualistic religion based on blind adherence to authority. Please think again Venerable Bikkhus, before the great work of Luang Por Sumedho and other pioneers of Buddhism in the West unravels.

Kim Knuth ~ Vancouver, WA, United States ~ Theravada other

244

This situation is certainly disheartening. It is time to reconsider the cultural climate at the time of the Buddha and bring his intent into the 21st century.

M. Brown ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

245

Ruth R Nelson ~ Watertown, United States ~ Buddhist

246

Siripanya Caplan ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

247

Anonymous ~ Davis, United States ~ Theravada other

248

Eugene Cash ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

249

I am happy to here of the ordinations. May the sangha mature into an equal and diverse community.

Eugene

Tim Hagyard ~ Hertford, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

250

Praying for another great turning of the wheel , so that all disciples of the Buddha's way can go forward together in mutual respect and loving kindness.

Anonymous ~ london, United Kingdom ~ Zen

251

Dori Langevin ~ Spokane, WA, United States ~ Buddhist

252

Rondi Gilbert ~ berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

253

Hello. Just reminding you it's 2009.

Andrew Berger ~ Northampton, United States ~ Theravada other

254

Arline B. Epstein ~ Southport, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

255

Jhananda ~ Tucson, United States ~ Buddhist

256

The resistance within the sangha to ordaining women into the sangha only serves as further evidence of the depth of the corruption of the sangha. As long as the sangha refuses to ordain women they prove themselves not to be sangha

Sister Uppalavanna ~ France ~ Theravada other

257

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Carol Hayden ~ Berkeley Ca, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	258
William Yaryan ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Buddhist	259
The treatment of women by Thai Buddhists is disappointing. Not only are they forbidden to be ordained as Bhikkhunis, but they are untouchables as far as monks are concerned. This is not what I think the Buddha intended.	
Bill Stanley ~ Picton, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	260
Yu Ban ~ Malaysia ~ Theravada other	261
The bhikkhuni sangha is a reality. Let's not cause unnecessary opposition	
Stephen Batchelor ~ Bordeaux, France ~ undeclared	262
The decision by Ajahn Brahm to ordain bhikkhunis in Perth is one I highly commend and applaud. I hope very much that this will provoke a sea change in attitudes towards women in Buddhism and lead to full equality between men and women on all levels within the sangha.	
Bill Scheinman ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	263
Roxanne Dault ~ Montréal, Canada ~ Theravada other	264
Paul Catasus ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	265
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	266
Duane G. Jamison ~ Pantego, United States ~ Mahayana other	267
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Tibetan	268
Patricia Galaczy ~ Salt Spring Island, Canada ~ Buddhist	269
Khoo Siao Tian ~ Batu Caves, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	270
Debbie Ong ~ Malaysia ~ Tibetan	271
Brian Forbes Colgate ~ Napanee, Ontario, Canada ~ undeclared	272
My thanks to Clarelynn Rose for bringing this matter to my attention. Sadly, even within Buddhist circles there seem to be reactionaries who attempt to thwart equality through hierarchies more worldly than spiritually inspired. All blessings	
Iona Mackenzie ~ Surry Hills, Australia ~ undeclared	273
Julia Trewick ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	274

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Dharman Odman ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Zen

275

Piece of Mind ~ United States ~ Zen

276

Alain Bernay ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

277

It is very disappointing that resistance to change comes from the Sangha. I would have thought that they will have be mindful contemplating all the aspects of the BSWA and Ajahn Brahm actions and then clearly establish good intentions in responding to the situation created by BSWA and AB.

Disapointing to see that the Thai/UK/NZ monks could not overcome their Thai/UK/NZ negative Karma.

I just want to express sadness and deep compassion for all involved in this saga.

With Metta

Alain

Gary Bowman ~ Midhurst, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

278

Meta ~ Jakarta, Indonesia ~ Tibetan

279

Varadā ~ Leamington Spa, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

280

Söpa Chölu ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada Forest tradition

281

Balance.

Kathy Butler ~ Alton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

282

Jivan Ronald West ~ Kandersteg, Switzerland ~ Theravada Forest tradition

283

Mei-Ann Lee ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist

284

Sister Mudita ~ chitthurst, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

285

David Preyer ~ phitsanulok, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition

286

its very dissapointing, but not a shock, theres to much tradition in a faith tat teaches against traditions

Sarah Connell ~ Houston, Texas, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

287

May all beings be well and happy. I hope for true healing and true mutual respect to flower through open caring dialogue.

Sam Jerga ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

288

Sylvester ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition

289

I think the "fourfold sangha" should be amended to read as "fourfold parissa", just as it is used in the Canon. As the Buddha envisaged the complete fourfold parissa, it would be -

"wise, well disciplined, apt and learned, preservers of the Dhamma, living according to the Dhamma, abiding by appropriate conduct and, having learned the Master's word, are able to expound it, preach it, proclaim it, establish it, reveal it, explain it in detail, and make it clear; until, when adverse opinions arise, they shall be able to refute them thoroughly and well, and to preach this convincing and liberating Dhamma" - DN 16.

On all other points, Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu!

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Patricia Bessette ~ Wakefield, Canada ~ Buddhist	290
I am truly saddened by this turn of events. Buddhist traditions are famous for their ability both to change the cultures they visit and to be altered by them. The issue of women in Buddhism and the particular question of the ordination of women is crucial to the vitality and health of buddhism in the west. It must be resolved with mindful dialogue, patience and loving kindness.	
Elizabeth Zarek ~ Cubjac, France ~ Theravada Forest tradition	291
Mai Pham ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	292
I fully support Ajahn Brahm's courageous action to revive Bhikkhuni ordination in Theravadan tradition. He acted for the benefit of all Buddhist women, not for himself!. He is fighting for fairness, gender equality and non-discrimination in Buddhist practice. He acted in accordance with the Vinaya, therefore he is truly the Buddha's messenger. Congratulations on his bravery !. We are Australians, our Buddhist community is strong enough to be independent !	
Kim McLaughlin ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other	293
Mary Powell ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	294
Excluding women from ordination is neither in the teachings of the Buddah nor in the spirit of the teachings. Dogmatisim is not Buddhism	
Amalee Liebermann ~ Northampton, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	295
Please honor and respect female nuns. Remember, we were all born of women. We are all indebted to the female gender, we owe them respect and love. Where would any of us be without women?	
Paul Shelvey ~ United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	296
Agata Sobiecka ~ Poznan, Poland ~ Zen	297
Anonymous ~ East Brunswick, NJ, United States ~ Zen	298
Ann Davies ~ Kings Langley, United Kingdom ~ Zen	299
Vanessa Nias ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared	300
Alison Sayer-Jones ~ Frankston South, Australia ~ undeclared	301
Andrew Broadhead ~ Exeter, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	302
Wake up to the disgraceful inequality you are perpetuating by your action.	
Kate Charlesworth ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	303
Maxine Linnell ~ Leicester, United Kingdom ~ Zen	304
Leslee Goodman ~ Santa Barbara, United States ~ Mahayana other	305

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Deidre Sklar ~ Pacific Palisades, United States ~ Theravada other	306
Perhaps I do not understand the consequences of disagreement with the elders in Thailand because I find it especially disheartening to hear that the British and Australian centers have agreed to retain a two-tiered hierarchy that discriminates against women.	
Karenza-Monica Case ~ Exeter, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	307
Brett Richardson ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Buddhist	308
Juditta ~ Israel ~ Theravada Forest tradition	309
Hear hear	
A good time to check the dynamics of power within the Buddhist community... and how tradition can be at times an obscuration of our true nature.	
Patricia Frithiof ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada other	310
Mary Pipes ~ Norwich, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	311
I am in full support of this petition and in the spirit of wisdom and compassion urge that it be considered fully.	
Christine Harris ~ London, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	312
Ian Rees ~ Glastonbury, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	313
Edith Husk ~ Leicester, United Kingdom ~ Zen	314
Jm Cameron ~ Largo, Florida, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	315
Gabriella Monti ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada other	316
Alessandra Vendettuoli ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada other	317
Keren Arbel ~ tel aviv, Israel ~ Theravada other	318
Judy Tobler ~ Cape Town, South Africa ~ Buddhist	319
I live in a country that suffers much conflict and inequity. It is my prayer that Buddhism, no matter what tradition, can one day be a shining light of harmony and equity in the world - East, West, North or South - in the spirit of the Dhamma.	
ArleyTimothy F ~ Nalcrest, United States ~ Zen	320
Patricia Price ~ Kelso, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	321
I am saddened by the news that this kind of discrimination is occurring in this Buddhist Sangha. I would advise any women reading this to check out the following link: http://www.womenontheedgeofevolution.com/	
F. Stuart Smith ~ Ocala, Florida, United States ~ Mahayana other	322

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Robert McCarthy ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Mahayana other	323
Liz Williams ~ Co Durham, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	324
Zsuzsi Schindler ~ Kibbutz Kfar Menachem, Israel ~ Theravada other Vipassana=Insightmaditation, Israel Tavana org. DFP 4	325
Dr Asaf Federman ~ Coventry, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist Without knowing the details of the five points and the actual context of their implementation I sign hereby to encourage the forest sangha to take a brave step in accepting full ordination of bhikkhunis on equal term.	326
Anonymous ~ Gatineau, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	327
Randall Graves ~ Santa Barbara, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	328
Leya Ostell ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	329
Andre Vellino ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	330
Jane Gilbert ~ Berkhamsted, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition Let the bkikkunis lead the way	331
Lois Gerchman ~ San Jose, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	332
Anonymous ~ Hobart, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	333
Anonymous ~ Gatineau, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	334
Robert Nuzum ~ nong khai, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	335
Joan Perry ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	336
Simon Tran ~ sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	337
Eliza Brennan-Pratt ~ Wayland, MA, United States ~ Buddhist	338
Kelli Cotner ~ austin, United States ~ Theravada other	339
Peter Ståhl ~ Sweden ~ Theravada other	340

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Willa Thaniya Reid ~ melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	341
Knowing the opportunity to hear and practise the Buddha's teachings is priceless, I add my name to this petition. May this and other gestures support the flourishing of the 4 Fold Sangha for all our benefits. I feel concern that without suitable discussion current discriminatory attitudes will continue to be harmful.	
Sylvia Bach ~ Nollamara - Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	342
Since when does the "MIND" have a gender?	
I am dismayed and saddened about the recent developments surrounding the ordination of the Bikkhunis.	
Ajahn Brahm, Bodhinyana monestery and the Sangha have my unshakable support.	
I cannot help but thinking that Venerable Ajahn Chah would have a chuckle and would be bemused about the aftermath of the ordination - he can be proud having helped creating such strong Buddhists, who do not falter, but follow the path of the Buddha & the Dhamma, prepared to endure the consequences. I certainly am more inspired than ever.	
Anonymous ~ Eugene, OR, United States ~ undeclared	343
Rodney Charles Johnson ~ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition	344
Valerie Beattie-Dolan ~ Hamilton, Canada ~ Zen	345
What are the monks afraid of? The Buddha ordained women. This is a cultural and, obviously, sexist stance. Hardly what the Buddha taught.	
Kate Gleason ~ Longmont, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	346
Dana Anjali ~ Regina, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	347
Tom Carling ~ New York, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	348
Anonymous ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada other	349
Charles Sienkiewicz ~ Catawissa, United States ~ Theravada other	350
Matthew Cahn ~ Boulder, CO, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	351
Amir Flesher ~ Brattleboro, VT, United States ~ Theravada other	352
I would be curious to hear why the monks justify their actions.	
Amy F ~ United States ~ Zen	353
Hadar Segal ~ tel aviv, Israel ~ Theravada Forest tradition	354
Kathleen Golden ~ Volcano, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	355
For deepening clarity and right action, I sincerely request your open minded and wise attention to these concerns regarding the development of gender equality to sustain the treasure of the Dharma.	
Kevin Dancelme ~ Cubjac, France ~ undeclared	356

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Moyra Keane ~ Johannesburg, South Africa ~ undeclared Fear?	357
Hugo Hanriot ~ Lafayette, United States ~ Theravada other	358
Reni Ovadia ~ Tel-Aviv, Israel ~ undeclared	359
Durten Rohm ~ Pretoria, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition With loving kindness and compassion	360
Sally Timmer ~ Tel Aviv, Israel ~ Buddhist	361
Caterine Cremieu-Alcan ~ ashcott, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	362
Anonymous ~ Israel ~ undeclared	363
Carmit Shaviv Freund ~ tel aviv, Israel ~ Theravada Forest tradition As a practitioner of the dharma, I can't believe that in 2009 people still think that women are unable to reach enlightenment. I strongly believe that this is against the spirit of the dharma, and I hope the situation will be remedied soon	364
Jacqueline Healy ~ Dublin, Ireland ~ Theravada Forest tradition	365
Eric Nelson ~ United States ~ Buddhist	366
Doug Hindson ~ Sommieres, France ~ Buddhist I sign this petition with feelings of the greatest respect for the tradition of Ajah Chah and in the hope that whatever decisions come out of this process will further the blessings of the Buddha's teachings.	367
Birge Bresser ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	368
Robert Brodrick ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	369
Elena Utton ~ London, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	370
Florence Hamilton ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	371
Andrea Legh-Smith ~ Chippenham, United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist I am a psychotherapist trained at Karuna Institute, a psychotherapy training based in Buddhism. I have heard and sat with monks from this tradition of Achan Chah. I am aware of the inequality between the monks and nuns status, I have seen Tenzin Palmo's appeal to the Dalai Lama on video. Although I am not properly informed of Bhuddhist law I would like to support this petition to encourage dialogue in the fashion you suggest; this gender difference seems to speak to patriarchy rather than to the 'heart'.	372
Anonymous ~ Johor Bahru, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	373

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Tracy Van Zandt ~ Woburn, Massachusetts, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	374
Gerald Schinagl ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Theravada other	375
Susan Mickel ~ Memphis, United States ~ Tibetan Theravada forest tradition was my first Buddhist practice	376
Elsie Green ~ Chichester, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan Hierarchies are created by those who are attached to power, and fear the loss of it: every type of inequality arises as a result. A commitment to equality is essential in every field. It sets a good example to all.	377
Mary Brunning ~ huntingdon, United Kingdom ~ Zen	378
Ann Engel ~ Tring Herts, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	379
Zenrin Robert Lewis ~ Jacksonville, FL, United States ~ Zen	380
Roberta Sharples ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	381
Zohar Lavie ~ Bridport, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	382
Sylvia Boorstein ~ Geyserville, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	383
Grant Monsarrat ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition Where are the right view and right action in this? Not found here.	384
Elissa Jane Mastel ~ Willow NY, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition May all beings be free from suffering. May the Elders and find compassion and peace, and may all beings male and female be given Equal Rights to practice and be respected in our community as a whole.	385
Kalmara Jordan ~ Totnes, Devon, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition May all truth be known in our world, and may the Vinaya be lived as it was intended to, by our great Lord Buddha. :-) x	386
Sarah Welch ~ Turkey ~ Theravada other	387
Vanessa Owen ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared A plea from the heart: where can a woman find refuge and comfort in an ancient tradition and be accepted, simply as another human being, without having to battle to be considered equal?	388
Margret Kaufman ~ hellevoetsluis, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	389
Ajahn Thanasanti ~ Colorado springs, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I look forward to being able to embody the teachings of the Buddha, practice the Dhamma-Vinaya and not have to carry outdated cultural biases that compromise one's aspiration, integrity and health.	390

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Peter Albert ~ colorado springs, United States ~ Theravada other	391
Cortlandt Cammann ~ Ann Arbor, MI, United States ~ undeclared	392
Pat Musick ~ United States ~ undeclared my understanding of the Buddha's teachings is that that the Dharma is about liberation and truth and compassion in a spirit of fearless lovingkindness.	393
Diana Winston ~ Santa Monica, United States ~ Theravada other	394
Noelle Imparato ~ Baltimore, United States ~ Theravada other It is my greatest hope that the Council of Elders of the Forest Sangha will promptly acquiesce to this nuns' petition. This issue of gender inequity among the monastics is an opportunity for the Forest Sangha to play a Noble leading role of cosmic proportion in the contemporary movement of awakening on our planet.	395
Haju Sunim ~ Ann Arbor, United States ~ Zen	396
Donald Burrows ~ Colorado Springs, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition This whole series of events has me totally mystified. I cannot even imagine how Bhikkhuni can be a problem.	397
Anonymous ~ Southampton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	398
Stern Martine ~ Vannes, France ~ Buddhist I fully support bhikkuni ordination - I am sure that in their future life - reborn as a woman- monks who are against bhikkuni ordination today, will be happy to be allowed to receive their full bhikkuni ordination. I am grateful for your courage Ajahn Brahm - Go ahead for more bhikkuni ordination. It is good for Buddhism in any tradition - Hoping that many men will send a letter to support bhikkuni ordination. Merci	399
Kim Pyle ~ austin, United States ~ Buddhist	400
Clarissa Schaeffer ~ San Luis Obispo, United States ~ Mahayana other That the world is thus, it need not remain so. Buddha had women in his sangha.	401
Cate Siana ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	402
Rosie Roberts ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist My main practice in the teachings is a Tibetan one which is/has been supported by Theravada teachings and retreats with Forest Sangha monks and nuns alike. I am deeply grateful to them all and I sign this petition in the spirit that I too wish all beings in all traditions to grow and flourish equally	403
Heike Hollerung ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	404
Marilyn Barry ~ Inverness, United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist	405

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Cindi Smith ~ Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	406
Mar Knox ~ Tamale, Ghana ~ undeclared	407
Steve Smith ~ Denver, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	408
Anonymous ~ Boulder, CO, United States ~ undeclared	409
Jane Mathison ~ Horsham, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	410
Anonymous ~ Phoenix AZ, United States ~ Tibetan	411
Letisha Steele ~ englewood, United States ~ Theravada other	412
Anonymous ~ Bordeaux, France ~ Buddhist	413
We are disheartened by and disagree with/ We request that It seems to me that the language might be a little strong and imperative if you address it directly to Bhikkhus. They might not take kindly to it or they might be offended by it. Something like "we are concerned/ we would like to ask humbly/ to suggest" might have been better received. Warmly, Martine	
Wilf Schenk ~ Forres, United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist	414
Sister Dharmapali (Martha Sentnor) ~ Denver, United States ~ Theravada other	415
I was a Theravada bhikkhuni for 5 years; now an anagarika for 17 yrs. My teacher, Ajahn Sobin S. Namto, a highly-respected Vipassana teacher said, that in his opinion, the monastic Vinaya should be practiced in the Middle Way, not too strictly nor too loosely. Clearly the non-observance of major Vinaya rules cause problems for monastic and laity alike!. The too scrupulous practice causes similar problems! Scrupulousity in Vinaya matters is a very serious detriment to Vipassana practice due to so much anger, fear, guilt, etc. being repressed by the over-strict observance of the rules. Our Asian friends are generally mainly concerned with the outward appearance of Sanghins. Even if we could follow Vinaya 100% (impossible due to worldly conditions), if we have no deep insight into anicca, dukkha and anatta, we could only realize a birth into a higher realm (according to tradition). Regarding the Thai Forest Tradition, please read "What the Buddha Never Taught," a real eye-opener. A reliable friend who lived at the wat when Ajahn Cha was alive, verified the accuracy of the book. We have to be very CAREFUL regarding the way Theravada monastic Buddhism in brought into this country. Scholarly research demonstrates that the Buddha did not make all the Vinaya rules. Dhamma is supreme; Vinaya is supportive...not the other way around. Others may disagree. We, in the West, have to find our own way, with attendant mistakes and corrections. Asian monastic modalities are only useful as references. We can pretend that we in the West live in Asia, circa 6th Century B.C. The reality is that we don't! Thank you for reading this and for all your great work.	
Jill Gurney ~ Arundel, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	416
Peter Maier ~ Munich, Ghana ~ Buddhist	417
Bryony Smith ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	418
May the spirit of the creation of this petition help to bring about needed changes within the monastic community in question. I believe it was created out of wholesome intention. May all beings be free from suffering and the causes of suffering.	
Mandy Jordan ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	419
The journey of the heart is the same if in the body of a male or female!	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ven. Susila ~ Gold Coast, Australia ~ Theravada other

420

Perhaps some lovingkindness and the Buddha's true teaching will be understood, we will all come to see that a male body does not give any higher privileges than a woman's body and that we are all equal as human beings.

Aloka Bhikkhu ~ Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

421

Kirsten Kratz ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ undeclared

422

Rob Burbea ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ undeclared

423

Michael Senryo Roehm ~ Washington, United States ~ Zen

424

This is a foolish bureaucratic decision --- self-interested and ultimately self-damaging. The re-emergence of the Theravadin Bhikkhuni-sangha will certainly continue.

Stuart Venables ~ Southampton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

425

Please listen, and why not

Larry Yang ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada other

426

Claire Fricke ~ New York, United States ~ undeclared

427

Daniel Lower ~ Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

428

Yes it's time to move into the 21st century equal rights for all.

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Theravada other

429

Ricardo Collier ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

430

Shelly Frank ~ San Antonio, United States ~ undeclared

431

Anonymous ~ Colorado Springs, United States ~ non-Buddhist

432

Vidushi Abeysinghe ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

433

Karen Mori ~ Ann Arbor, MI, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

434

Kelly ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

435

It is time we came into the modern age. Women have a right to be here, be nuns, and be who they want to be. This is a good thing that happened. Now we can take action, offer support and speak out as women in support of truth.

Marsha Adams ~ St Petersburg FL, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

436

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Terry Gustafson ~ Tucson, Arizona, United States ~ Theravada other

437

I've been practicing since 1967, including time as an ordained Bhikkhu in Burma. A chance to know and savor daily the challenges and rewards of a life dedicated to following the Vinaya, as best I could. Please read - or reread - Bhikkhu Bodhi's compassionate and respectful presentation of viewpoints on both sides of this issue in his essay "The Revival of Bhikkhuni Ordination in the Theravada Tradition", and search for a way to restore harmony within the Sangha that will honor everyone, in accord with the Buddhasasana.. Thank you, dear ones. Namo Tassa.

Janice Hill ~ Wellington, New Zealand ~ Buddhist

438

Eric Field ~ Salt Spring Island, Canada ~ Tibetan

439

I have been a practicing Buddhist since the late 70's. I have found the guidance of women nuns to be very germane to my development. I welcome the feminine energy and wisdom, so different from that of the monks.

I practiced in the Theravadan tradition for many years as lead by a Zen trained teacher. I am now practicing mostly in a Tibetan tradition.

The combination of the two perspectives offer a balance impossible to find without the input of the nuns side by side with that of the monks. How could it be otherwise?

Please support the ordination of women.

Thank you, Eric Field

Sarah Bellefontaine ~ Wilmington, United States ~ Buddhist

440

Dr. Stephen Fulder ~ Nahariya, Israel ~ Theravada Forest tradition

441

As the founder, and senior teacher of the Israel Insight Society, I am deeply involved in the challenging and inspiring process of adapting dharma to the conditions of the Western and Israeli world. Our main 'lineage' is that of the Thai Forest tradition. But at the same time the opening of dharma in the west is an opportunity to refresh, re-assess and refine the teachings within the new cultural context. Therefore it is vital that we accept full ordination of bhikkunis as equal within the sangha. It may cost us a lot of we don't.

KHOO SUIT PENG ~ SINGAPORE, Singapore ~ Buddhist

442

CHRISTOPHER CULLEN ~ LONDON, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

443

Sincere requests made with great respect...

Sanuja Senanayake ~ Calgary, Canada ~ Theravada other

444

I fully support Ajahn Brahm. As a South Asian myself, I am ashamed of what had happened. It was a Buddhist woman who became the world's first female Prime Minister from Sri Lanka, but yet even Sri Lanka has no Bhikkhu Sangha!

Carol G Perry ~ Lismore NSW, Australia ~ Theravada other

445

Scott Magrath ~ Australia ~ Tibetan

446

Adam Anderson ~ Adana, Turkey ~ undeclared

447

Anton Eastick ~ Canberra, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

448

Reiner Moscherosch ~ D-61118 Bad Vilbel, Germany ~ Buddhist

449

May gender be irrelevant to Buddhist ordination + spreading the Dharma in the world.

Elisa Hartwig ~ Marrakech, Morocco ~ Zen

450

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Richard Hayes ~ Milwaukee, United States ~ Theravada other

451

Anonymous ~ Underberg, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition

452

Anna Markey ~ Goolwa, Australia ~ Theravada other

453

I am horrified that a movement preventing the flourishing of the dharma is coming from within the ranks of those who should be encouraging it.

The world needs the dharma. The dharma needs strong, dedicated women and men, nuns and monks. Why would this be prevented? Fear and habit...fear and habit.

Anne Dew ~ gwynedd, Iceland ~ Tibetan

454

I have deep respect for Luang Por Sumedho and his teachings have benefited me and many others hugely. Signing this petition does not alter my respect for him as a teacher. There are difficult times when Buddhism meets the west and becomes part of our culture. How do we let it blend with our culture while not losing it's essence? For me the essence of Awakening has nothing to do with gender so thats why i am disheartened and am signing this petition.

Astrid Bachmann ~ Bonn, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

455

I support the continuous working towards establishing the bhikkhuni ordination as regular within the Theravada tradition aligned/associated with the Thai Forrest lineage - or any other Buddhist lineage that currently dismisses such ordination.

Lydia J van Vuuren ~ Pretoria, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition

456

Bodil Steen ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada Forest tradition

457

Jill Rayna Lippitt ~ Jenner, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

458

Jennifer Gampell ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ undeclared

459

This seems yet another instance of gut-reaction Thai nationalism and anti-foreigner sentiment. How could anyone ever doubt Ajahn Brahm's commitment to Buddhist principles and his unswerving dedication to spreading them throughout the world?

With so many people are desperately searching for meaning in their lives and turning towards Buddhism, it boggles the mind how the WPP can make such an inward looking, petty and small-hearted decision.

Hopefully the global outpouring of support for Ajahn Brahm will introduce these Thai insular monks to the vast world that lies outside the confines of their little forest.

Kalyanavaca ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

460

Miranda Cox ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared

461

Aura Glaser ~ Ann Arbor, United States ~ Tibetan

462

Tamara Kalocsai ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Tibetan

463

Kathleen Ivanoff ~ Ann Arbor, United States ~ Mahayana other

464

Buddhism = Awareness. Please be aware that it is 2009

A M SMITH ~ Cape Town, South Africa ~ Mahayana other

465

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Philippa Cox ~ Taunton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

466

I despair that women are still being discriminated against. I have heard and read Ayya Khema, and know she worked towards Buddhism developing a more enlightened attitude towards feminism.

Erika van Greunen ~ Cape Town, South Africa ~ Mahayana other

467

Jo Francis ~ France ~ Tibetan

468

I am very saddened to hear that Ajahn Brahmavanso has been expelled. I hope that these circumstances can initiate a fruitful discussion to move the wider community towards long overdue gender equality;

Gwyn Halsall ~ Southampton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

469

It's wonderful how the internet has made this possible.

Anonymous ~ Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition

470

Susannah Brindle ~ BRIGHTON, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

471

This makes me very sad as I have tremendous respect for the Forest Sangha and have learnt so much from it and supported it for over fifteen years. It feels sfo important for this issue to be addressed and equality of men and women to be established. If this does not happen my support for the tradition would be deeply challenged.

Rodney ~ Seattle, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

472

With the greatest appreciation and respect for the sangha of monks, I would like to encourage bhikkhuni ordination and complete equality for women. I believe that if the monastic tradition is to survive in the West in will have to include equality for both genders. This value is too highly regarded in the West for it to be past over. The monastic tradition will have a diminishing base of support without it. With deep respect for your offering, Rodney Smith

Stephen Snyder ~ San Rafael, United States ~ Theravada other

473

Tina Rasmussen ~ San Rafael, United States ~ Buddhist

474

Hope Pastel ~ Thirsk, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

475

May men & women unite on the path that is fully open to what the Buddha taught and encourages our hearts to seek the truth with compassion. What is right can only be gained by using wisdom on both sides.

Dinithi Peiris ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

476

Buddha treated both men and women with equal compassion.

I am in favour of bukkhuni ordination.

Friederike Bayer ~ Oberaich, Austria ~ non-Buddhist

477

Louise Dale ~ johannesburg, South Africa ~ Buddhist

478

Anonymous ~ launceston, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

479

Mary Booker ~ Exeter, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan

480

Anna Badar ~ Halesworth, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

481

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Kathryn Turnipseed ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	482
Andrea Fella ~ Mountain View, United States ~ Theravada other	483
Anonymous ~ Paris, France ~ Theravada other	484
Ruby Webber ~ Dillon, United States ~ Tibetan	485
Nick Cape ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	486
Sister Kovida ~ Chithurst, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	487
Amy Tomson ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	488
Ulla Moström ~ Sweden ~ Zen	489
Mark Steele ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada other I am saddened that a tradition of which I am a part still is mired in beliefs and practices that the civilized world has been abandoning for a century or more.	490
Philip Jones ~ Columbia, MO, United States ~ Theravada other	491
Eric Kolvig ~ Embudo, New Mexico, United States ~ Theravada other Laypeople forced a resolution of the dispute at Kosambi during the Buddha's lifetime by denying food to the monks of Kosambi. This was the first organized boycott in recorded history. I propose that lay practitioners today boycott male Theravadan monastics, withholding donations and disinviting them to teach at our centers, until women monastics receive full equality with men, including full ordination.	492
Claudia Cavegn ~ Totnes, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	493
Malin Rosén ~ Sweden ~ Buddhist	494
Joakim Eneroth ~ Sweden ~ Buddhist	495
Rodney Smith ~ Seattle, United States ~ Theravada other	496
Tara ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared A change like this is considered to be monumental in the traditional Buddhist understanding so a positive outcome may take generations to manifest - it is an issue that must be so deeply ingrained in orthodox Buddhism that it would be in the cultural and mental DNA of the monastics generally that truly and unfortunately believe that what is being practised leaves no room for change as that is one of the "Buddha's prescriptions" However the seed has been planted now and given time and the right condition it will someday and surely germinate into its full potential as this is an intention that has already been put out into the universal consciousness that awaits a critical mass to take effect. Tara	497

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Marisa Handler ~ Iowa City, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	498
Every tradition remains relevant to the extent that it takes social context into account, including ours.	
Ellen OSullivan ~ Concord, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	499
Susan Verghese ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	500
It certainly should not have come to this...Bikkuni ordination should have been legitimate long time ago... with the consent of all... where is wisdom in all this??? .. not to mention loving kindness, compassion & equanimity!!	
Doreen Schweizer ~ Iebanon, NH, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	501
Sophie Reynolds ~ France ~ Buddhist	502
I feel it is time and within our capacity to go beyond inherited social , thought, and political structures and ideas which discriminate between genders and rather trust our authority and connectedness to profound truth to create structures which serve and liberate men and women.	
Karen Allen ~ Costa Rica ~ Theravada Forest tradition	503
Bernie Glassman ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	504
Tara Brach ~ Great Falls, United States ~ Buddhist	505
Pam Hinds ~ Cambridge, United Kingdom ~ Zen	506
Samahito T. Lehrer ~ Roseville, CA, United States ~ Theravada other	507
Mitra Bishop ~ United States ~ Zen	508
It is hardly in keeping with the Buddha's deepest teachings that ANYONE—woman or man—be discriminated against.	
Titti Johnson ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist	509
Naruemon Rorick ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	510
Please help support bhikkhuni ordination in Thailand. Thank you!	
Richard Steinberg ~ Boulder, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	511
Anonymous ~ Fallbrook, United States ~ Zen	512
Kathryn Jefferson ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist	513
Bob Parker ~ Taos, United States ~ Theravada other	514
All beings are created equal in the eyes of the great spirit and in the mind-body.	
Mike Libby ~ Clyde, CA, United States ~ non-Buddhist	515

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Roni Blevins ~ El Prado, United States ~ Theravada other	516
Barbara J. Sheppard ~ Taos, United States ~ Theravada other	517
Elizabeth Laren/Pema Yangchen ~ Sacramento, United States ~ Tibetan	518
Barbara Bennett ~ Boulder, United States ~ Buddhist	519
Klia Bassing ~ Washington DC, United States ~ Theravada other	520
Terry Ray ~ Boulder, United States ~ Theravada other Please stop the gender inequity that exists and reconsider your decision. Respectfully, Terry Ray	521
Chris Donovan ~ Weymouth, United States ~ non-Buddhist	522
Terry Ray ~ Boulder, United States ~ Theravada other Please stop the gender inequity that exists and reconsider your decision. Respectfully, Terry Ray	523
Betty Jo Black, DVM, CVH, MCS ~ Chelsea, Vermont, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	524
Sherrylyn Young, MD ~ Tucson, Arizona, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition My son is a Buddhist monk in the Theravadan Forest tradition, and it is my sincere hope that his practice will include metta for the women who wish to have the same opportunity for growth and enlightenment that he has.	525
Neil Allaire ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	526
Hugh Byrne ~ Washington, DC, United States ~ Buddhist	527
Rebecca Richards ~ Torrensvile, Australia ~ non-Buddhist	528
Chad Sawyer ~ St. Joseph, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	529
Wynette Richards ~ Albuquerque, NM, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	530
Gaynor Kim-Sing ~ Canada ~ undeclared	531
Anonymous ~ Hanover, United States ~ Theravada other	532

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anna Ruysseenaars ~ Ballinamore, Ireland ~ Tibetan

533

May all those people who are wholly unjustified, severely punishing Abbot Ajahn Brahavamso, and are causing great distress for the newly ordained Bhikkhunis, for the monks in Bodhinyana Monastery, and for 99% of the female and male buddhist Sangha worldwide, for upholding the command of the historical Buddha Shakyamuni, to allow women to be fully ordained Bhikkhunis, quickly come to their senses, and immediately undo the expulsion of Ven. Ajahn Brahavamso and Bodhinyana Monastery from the Ajahn Chah community.

Sandra Hollander ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

534

Carl Skooglund ~ Washington, DC, United States ~ Theravada other

535

Gabriella Williamson ~ Charleston, United States ~ Zen

536

Jean Smith ~ Taos, NM, United States ~ Theravada other

537

William Lydic ~ China, United States ~ non-Buddhist

538

La Sarmiento ~ Washington, DC, United States ~ Buddhist

539

Geoffrey Hill ~ Irving, United States ~ non-Buddhist

540

Anushka Fernandopulle ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada other

541

Vivienne Bartlett ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

542

Alok Bohara ~ albuquerque, United States ~ Buddhist

543

Dustin Thurmond ~ huntington beach, United States ~ Tibetan

544

Bob Thurman ~ New York, United States ~ Buddhist

545

Gisela Heil ~ Frankfurt, Germany ~ Buddhist

546

Arnold Kotler ~ Paia, Hawaii, United States ~ Zen

547

Tamara Saimons ~ Albuquerque, NM, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

548

Sujata Bohara ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Buddhist

549

Anonymous ~ monument, co, United States ~ undeclared

550

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

EDavison ~ Lismore, Australia ~ Zen

551

Linda Capriotti ~ Levittown, United States ~ Theravada other

552

as a westerner recently becoming a "member" of a Thai Theravada temple I understand the importance of full Bhikkhuni ordination. I believe that in 25 plus years being established here, the Theravada tradition has not drawn in many like myself unless they are married to a Thai partner. I recently discovered Buddhism and I love my temple and the peace I have come to know from the community. The fact is that in America women's voices are heard. If the Theravada's do not adapt to this, as the original Thai communities move to their next rebirths the tradition will fade away in the west. American born Thais, being the larger majority, will lose interest. I find it far more important to expound the Dhamma, putting the Buddha's excellent path into action, leading to a far better world in which to live. Giving more the ability to end Samsara.

Anonymous ~ Thailand ~ Theravada other

553

Jennifer Wong-Larsson ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist

554

Joan B Granger ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

555

I have a great love for the dharma and it has had a great impact for good in my life.

However, I have long been distressed by the inequality that is shown to women.

This may have been valid 2000 years ago, but in today's world it is time that women of Sanghas be allowed the same status as in the rest of the civilized world.

In Metta

Lesleyann Watson ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

556

I completely agree whole heartedly with the petition

Kim Clancy ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

557

Thank you very much whoever has coordinated this!

Issa Cochran ~ United Kingdom ~ Zen

558

Alice Kennedy ~ Australia ~ undeclared

559

Jeanette Bunting ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

560

Do you guys really want to go the same way as the catholic church which I grew up in and left 30 years ago?

Elizabeth Mattson ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

561

Sexton Bourke ~ Bellingen, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

562

Anonymous ~ Netphen, Germany ~ Theravada other

563

Narumon Arunvaranont ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada other

564

Manuel Guerrero ~ Chonburi, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition

565

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Bianca Alexander ~ Coombabah, Australia ~ Theravada other	566
Mary O'Callaghan ~ Dublin, Ireland ~ Zen	567
The evolution of Buddhism has always taken account of cultural contexts. In a culture where the equality of women is beyond question not alone are we doing harm to women by this inequality but we are also doing potential harm to the mature integration of Buddhims in western contexts.	
Kathleen Monaco ~ High Wycombe, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	568
Joy Magezis ~ Cambridge, United Kingdom ~ Zen	569
Anonymous ~ Basildon Essex, United Kingdom ~ Zen	570
Huisang ~ Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa ~ Mahayana other	571
Bernard ~ South Africa ~ Tibetan	572
Patricia Cheesman ~ Chiang Mai, Thailand ~ Buddhist	573
May the teachings of the Buddha prevail and the connectedness of all living things be realised.	
Mahesi ~ totnes, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	574
Rosa ~ Sheffield, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	575
Zhu Jie ~ Witbank, South Africa ~ Mahayana other	576
Let the Buddhas true Dharma teaching be the guide.	
Dbuys ~ United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	577
Jill Ferraz ~ Durban, South Africa ~ Tibetan	578
Nurith de Vries ~ Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	579
Kindly request the direct possibility for females to be ordained as nuns in the theravada tradition and all other Buddhist traditions.	
Jean McDonald ~ Durban, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition	580
Karma Tsegyal ~ Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa ~ Tibetan	581
When will males stop being bullies, and not interpret the Dharma only for their own benefit. It was never the Buddhas' intention for anything he taught to cause division nor to in any way disadvantage. That aside, we are now no longer in BC, but in the 21st Century.	
Helen Terre Blanche ~ Pretoria, South Africa ~ Tibetan	582

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

David Patterson ~ Banda Aceh, Indonesia ~ Tibetan	583
Mihaela Andronic ~ Canada ~ Zen	584
Lisa Jorgensen Schuyler ~ Sacramento, United States ~ undeclared	585
Judy Lown ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	586
Samantha Wettimuny ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I respectfully support this effort and the Buddha's original intention to give women the opportunity to join the Sangha. With Blessings of the Triple Gem to all on both sides of this issue.	587
Annabel Faraday ~ London, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	588
Christine L. Wells ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	589
Minh Trinh ~ United States ~ Zen	590
Alan Blundell ~ durban, South Africa ~ undeclared	591
Jesse Maceo Vega-Frey ~ mebane, United States ~ Theravada other	592
Oli Cosgrove ~ Ottawa, ON, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition With all due respect to the Ven. Elders, I commend the Ven. Ajahn Brahavamso for participaing in the ordination of a Bhikkhuni. I further feel that at some point in the near future, it should become common practice for senior nuns to ordain nuns. If the Buddha declared that women (nuns) are equal to men (monks) then that declaration should be put into action, not just words. Although the lineage of Theravada nuns may have died out, if nuns are ordained by monks whose lineage continues, does that not legitimize the nuns? If not, then perhaps the monk's ordination of nuns has no validity, either. The Buddha advised us to question everything. I question the outdated practice of the subtle discrimination that the male-dominated Buddhist hierarchy continues to apply against women. After 2.550 years, it's time to move on.	593
Suzanne Sluizer ~ Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States ~ Theravada other	594
Jennifer Woodhull ~ Cape Town, South Africa ~ Tibetan	595
Ethan Gilson ~ Essex, United States ~ Theravada other Ajahn Brahavamso is and has been a inspiration to my life. I support him 100%	596
Beth Hitesman ~ Mauldin, United States ~ Theravada other	597
Sheryl Norris ~ tucson, United States ~ Theravada other	598

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Sara Douglas Scott ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ undeclared	599
Richael Faithful ~ Washington DC, United States ~ Mahayana other	600
Jaclyn Ortiz ~ Boston, United States ~ Tibetan	601
Tiska Blankenship ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	602
Mary Ann Demaree ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada other	603
Greg Laybourn ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	604
Kyoen ~ Oslo, Norway ~ Buddhist	605
Ayesha Ali ~ Washington, DC, United States ~ undeclared	606
Anne Pm Williams ~ Frome, Somerset, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	607
Josh ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	608
Brian Lesage ~ Flagstaff, AZ, United States ~ Theravada other	609
Elizabeth Herb ~ Palo Alto, United States ~ Tibetan	610
Shawn Comrie ~ South Africa ~ Buddhist	611
Jacob Karlins ~ New York, United States ~ Tibetan	612
Airdrie Thomsen/Drolkar Tsekyi ~ Edmonds, Washington, United States ~ Mahayana other	613
Original Sutras of The Buddha support nonseparation of all sentient beings -nondistinction, nonseparate self-therefore neither male nor female are designated, as they are mere categories imposed by discursive mind . Even such a debate as represented herein is too much extra on the path of uncovering intrinsic Buddhanature. May all beings be respectfully reminded that our lives are very brief!	
Anonymous ~ Plettenberg Bay, South Africa ~ Zen	614
Kristin Barker ~ Washington, DC, United States ~ Theravada other	615
Anonymous ~ United States ~ undeclared	616

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Dr. Elizabeth H. Fisher ~ St . Petersburg, FL, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	617
Georgia B Wright ~ san rafael, United States ~ undeclared	618
Karen Hastings ~ Albuquerque, NM, United States ~ Theravada other	619
Judy Young ~ San Jose, United States ~ undeclared In the spirit of understanding, wisdom, and loving-kindness, I request that a dialogue regarding moving toward gender equality be started and sustained so that we may all fully understand the wisdom of equality within the Buddhist communities and how equality is within the Dharma and Buddhist practice.	620
Gretchen Berger ~ Edmonton, Canada ~ Zen	621
Lyndy Hurst ~ Durban, South Africa ~ undeclared	622
Marley Fein ~ Santa rosa, United States ~ Buddhist	623
Lol Kane ~ United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	624
Tamar Read ~ Grand Forks, United States ~ Tibetan I believe equality is the order of the 21st century, as well as a deeper understanding of Buddhism.	625
Margaret Darby ~ Richmond, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I support the inclusion of women, as ordained members of the monastic community within the Theravadan Forest tradition - where they've served for hundreds of years with equal dedication and reverence for the Buddha's teachings. It is of utmost importance that those with the deepest regard for honoring the Buddha's teachings receive proper recognition for doing so. Thank You, Margaret Darby	626
Máthé Veronika ~ Budapest, Hungary ~ Theravada Forest tradition	627
Paula Jorgensen ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist It is clear that women and men shall share rights and duties equally, including in Buddhism.	628
Sandy Boucher ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition Women must be given the same empowerment as men.	629
Pamela Kirby ~ Redwood Valley, Ca, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	630
Sebene B Selassie ~ Brooklyn, United States ~ Theravada other	631
Mark Ferguson ~ Portland, United States ~ Zen May we all listen and deliberate with wisdom and compassion remembering that the Lord Buddha created a four-fold Sangha of monks, nuns, laywomen and laymen and that we need the support and unique practice of each other. Homage to the Triple Treasure.	632

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Francois Perez ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Tibetan

633

Stephen Hillard ~ santa rosa, United States ~ Buddhist

634

Bhiksuni Trime Lhamo ~ Princeton, New Jersey, United States ~ Tibetan

635

May the hearts and minds of the Elders be open and generous

Betsy VanLeit ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

636

Katinka Hesselink ~ Netherlands ~ non-Buddhist

637

John Snell ~ San Geronimo, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

638

Enkyo O'Hara ~ NYC, United States ~ Zen

639

Please open your hearts and minds to the restoration of a woman's right to ordain and to teach the dharma, equally with men.

Ven. Konchog Shenphen, Sayo ~ Orlando, United States ~ Mahayana other

640

As an Ordained Monk of the Buddha-dharma, I believe in equality for all, including the Nun tradition!

Lorena Loo ~ Canada ~ Buddhist

641

Thich Chan Phap Son (Brother Michael) ~ 24240 Thenac, France ~ Mahayana other

642

Dear friends in the Dharma,

I support women receiving full ordination as Bhikkunis. In the West I see this as a natural expression on the Dharma and the Buddha's teachings taking roots on our soils, not just geographic one's, but also cultural one's. This includes obviously our minds.

I am also saddened that there is such a resistance and possible lack of openness to consider this subject (full ordination for women).

There should be room for acknowledgment, room for looking honestly and openly in to this subject, which the natural request of women to ordain, as we have done as men, including receiving the full ordination.

A tradition is not threatened by change, but can be threatened by blindly adhering to forms that are causing suffering (the Catholic Church is a good example of this).

I have been ordained in Ven.Thich Nhat Hanh's tradition since 1997, as a novice, and 1998 as a Bhikshu. I have been in many of the full ordination ceremonies where our teacher has transmitted the full ordination to women, with an ordination < platform > of ten high monks and ten high nuns (mostly Vietnamese). Through these important ceremonies and through Ven.Thich Nhat Hanh's teachings and actions, I have seen that the full ordination of women have posed no threat to the Bhikshu community or to our monastic tradition, on the contrary, some times I have felt that it may actually be women that will maintain and carry through this tradition on to the future.

Imagine it would be the other way round, that women where "in power" and that we as men, could only aspire to live in the sangha as "second class citizens", that major activities, including ordination, transmission of precepts and other important sangha decision making processes, that condition our life style as monastics, would only taken by women and that we as men where relegated to just passing figures with no real and eloquent < function > in the sangha. As a Westerner, living in a mostly Asian sangha, I know how it feels like to be a " second class citizen", this is not a critique to our Vietnamese brothers and sisters, but I recognize the mind set that looks at us at times as " children " or not able to fully grasp the depths of the Dharma, or not being really " fully Buddhist ".

This is changing, and it needs to. As Westerners, we are not " second class Buddhists " or monks.

The same goes regarding the theme of full ordination for women within the Theravada tradition.

I do hope there can be a deeper dialogue and a deeper practice of looking inside of our motivations and what it means to be a monk or a nun now, in this modern world. I believe we should be open to explore wider horizons for the sake of the continuity of the Buddha, the Sangha and the Dharma.





































Thich Chan Phap Son,

Plum Village, France.

Lois Lommel ~ Richmond, United States ~ undeclared

643

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Alex Raedish ~ New York, United States ~ Tibetan	644
 The Buddha walked side by side with ordained Nuns in his time, why would modern men, especially Buddhist Monks treat Nuns/women as second-class?	
Sarah Herlem ~ Oxford, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	645
	
Bill Coffin ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	646
 Comments from Pali scholars convince me that there is no reason to bar ordination of women. The ban therefore shows unreasonable attachment to rites and rituals (and meaningless traditions) -- the 3rd fetter.	
Sharon Ghamari-Tabrizi ~ Orlando, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	647
	
Patricia Reiter ~ Santa Monica, United States ~ non-Buddhist	648
	
Sarah McKusick ~ Colrain, United States ~ Buddhist	649
	
Rev. Kano Kenshin Catherine Cascade ~ Berkeley, CA, United States ~ Zen	650
	
Jason Morrow ~ Addison, United States ~ Buddhist	651
	
Barry Whiteman ~ richmond, United States ~ Theravada other	652
	
Dustin A. Lydic ~ Beaumont, United States ~ non-Buddhist	653
 Equality is something that should be shared and celebrated by all mankind.	
Susan Orr ~ Sacramento, United States ~ Theravada other	654
	
Joan Halifax ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Buddhist	655
	
Lumi & Oliver Armstrong ~ New York, United States ~ Buddhist	656
	
Ruth Huber ~ United States ~ Theravada other	657
 Full ordination of women is essential to the validity of Buddhism in the West and throughout the world.	
Robert Hiller ~ Arlington, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	658
 Please reconsider the ill advised decsion.	
Anonymous ~ Sacramento, United States ~ undeclared	659
 Please consider the enlightenment of all beings, and the fact that they take all forms, male, female, LGBT, etc.	
Lynda Gordon ~ United States ~ Theravada other	660
	
Jymme Golden ~ Minneapolis, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	661
 May wisdom and compassion guide us all. May we see the truth of what is and be at ease.	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Milena Mathie ~ Darwin, Australia ~ non-Buddhist	662
It is my wholehearted wish to suport this petition.	
Mary Anne Moore ~ Sacramento, California, United States ~ Zen	663
Dorothy Rogers ~ United States ~ Buddhist	664
Lynn Isaac ~ Chilliwack, Canada ~ Theravada other	665
Our birth in this human body as male or female cannot be used to discriminate...to prevent a consciousness from reaching the truth. How curious and absurd that this occurs in Buddhist organizations.	
Nancy Sta. Romana ~ Beijing, China ~ Buddhist	666
Pratt Remmel, Jr ~ Little Rock, Arkansas, United States ~ Zen	667
my name in the Mindfulness Tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh is "Protector of the Source". I sincerely hope you listen to the voices on this petition. Blessings and a bow to you, Pratt Protector of the Source	
Christopher Bowers ~ santa rosa ca, United States ~ Theravada other	668
i am a practicing buddhist in the theravadan tradition and i'd like to see women be able to ordain. the buddha ordained women so why stop now/	
Anonymous ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Tibetan	669
It is time to remember that a strict patriarchy is not what the Buddha taught, Respectfully, please consider the petition, and your actions.	
Susan MacDonald ~ Toronto, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	670
Paul Frischknecht ~ SYDNEY, Australia ~ Buddhist	671
We live in an egalitarian, democratic society where women and men have the same rights and should have the same opportunities in life. Any form of discrimination, based on gender, race, religion or ethnic background is regarded as illegal on the Australian Federal Law, contravenes the public opinion of a multicultural, tolerant, modern society.	
Margrit Frischknecht ~ Middle Cove, Australia ~ Buddhist	672
Ivor Frischknecht ~ St. Kilda, Australia ~ Buddhist	673
Annie Leatt ~ Johannesburg, South Africa ~ Mahayana other	674
from a sincere and devout Buddhust	
Roger Milliken ~ Cumberland ME, United States ~ Theravada other	675
Margot Milliken ~ Cumberland ME, United States ~ Theravada other	676

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Michele Lortscher ~ Highlands, United States ~ Zen

677

Jim Russo ~ hadley, United States ~ Buddhist

678

Linda Valenti ~ Highlands, United States ~ Zen

679

Louise Kligman ~ tucson, United States ~ Buddhist

680

Phyllis Gordon ~ toronto, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

681

Lucy Sauer ~ United States ~ Zen

682

Martina Schneider ~ berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

683

justice needed.....

Doug Bartley ~ St. Louis, MO, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

684

Schism in the west is almost definitive of our culture...I support this move towards gender equality, but patience (khanti) and kindness (metta) are desperately needed to make this work. May all beings be well, including all those men at WPP.

Jo Verceles ~ New York, United States ~ Zen

685

I support Ajahn Brahm and the ordination of the Bhikkunis

Chuong Tran ~ tucson, United States ~ Theravada other

686

Sarah E. Schwartz ~ Albuquerque, NM, United States ~ Theravada other

687

Chimae Say ~ davis, california, United States ~ Tibetan

688

Tom Anderson ~ Toronto, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

689

I hereby express my dissent and make these requests in the spirit of the Dhamma — that the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha may find a healthy ground to grow and flourish in the world for the benefit of all beings as is clearly stated in the above petition.

Tom

Christine Mauro ~ Salt Spring Island, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

690

What do you think the Buddha would have done if he had been setting up the monastic order today in the West? Would he not have been aghast at the discrimination?

Myrna Castaline ~ Boulder, United States ~ Theravada other

691

Anonymous ~ South Africa ~ Mahayana other

692

Esther Loh ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition

693

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Daniel Donner L.Ac. ~ Oakland, United States ~ Tibetan	694
Martha Craft ~ Carmichael CA, United States ~ Theravada other	695
Michel Clasquin ~ Centurion, South Africa ~ undeclared	696
Toby Ouvry ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared	697
Anonymous ~ Newton Abbot, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan May those who receive this petition apply the wisdom of the dharma when considering it.	698
Claus Sandler ~ Kempton, Germany ~ Buddhist	699
Paule Sachs ~ St Kilda East, Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada other I find both the position of the nuns at the UK monasteries, and the expulsion and delisting of Ajahn Brahms and consequences for Wat Bodinyana, extremely distressing and quite deplorable. While I do not know them at first hand, I am absolutely sure that these wonderfully spiritual people have only ever done their best in the best of Buddhist traditions. I cannot express strongly enough my horror at this situation which I find totally unacceptable. I urge the decision makers to rethink these matters and reverse their decisions. Sincerely Paule Sachs	700
Brigid Lowry ~ New Zealand ~ Theravada other	701
Revato Wasmann ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Buddhist	702
Brett Collins ~ Waitakere, New Zealand ~ Theravada other we all walk the same path	703
Anthony Loo Tiong Ngee ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	704
Anonymous ~ Munich, Germany ~ Zen	705
Brigid McKenna ~ Dalkeith, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition With deepest respect and gratitude to the elders of the Buddhist tradition I choose to follow with all my heart, please don't hinder the spiritual development of any adult person who comes to the Buddhaddhamma for refuge. Please consider this issue with open hearts and reasonable minds. Every human being on this planet deserves the right to find their way out of suffering.	706
Barbara Parker ~ Athens GA, United States ~ Tibetan The Lord Buddha established a Bhikkuni order, and so re-establishing it would seem to be consistent with his intention.	707
Dhammiko ~ Turin, Italy ~ Theravada Forest tradition	708
Melanie Chevarie ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other	709

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Gillian Perrett ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	710
Dar Rafael ~ Tel Aviv, Israel ~ non-Buddhist	711
Nicole Bartels ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Buddhist	712
Streibert Susanne ~ Gelterkinden, Switzerland ~ Theravada Forest tradition	713
Ven. Jetsun Khusola ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Buddhist	714
Shigetsu Evelyn Cash ~ United States ~ Zen	715
Anne Henry ~ Highland, NY, United States ~ undeclared It's sad that, once again, the fight for equality brings punishment to those who do what is right by those who profess to know better.	716
Steve Epstein ~ Chiang Mai, Thailand ~ Mahayana other	717
Kittisaro ~ Underberg, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition	718
Robert L. Lockridge ~ Orlando, FL, United States ~ Zen	719
Patrick De Bortoli ~ montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other	720
Lois Vanderkooi ~ United States ~ Theravada other	721
Anonymous ~ Santa Cruz California, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I fully support the EQUAL ordination of the nuns and the monastics who participated in the ordination. I offer Metta to ALL who have influence in the matter. May we align our practices with the 21st century. Thank you	722
Anonymous ~ Tucson, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	723
Anonymous ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ undeclared I greatly believe it would benefit all beings to create equal gender opportunities and representations within all Buddhist and other religious orders which are committed to serving humanity.	724
Melanie Baise ~ albuquerque, United States ~ undeclared	725
Francesca Denegri ~ Lima, Peru ~ Zen	726
Doug Dillon ~ Altamonte Springs, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	727

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Thubten Rinchen Palzang ~ Poolesville, United States ~ Tibetan	728
<p>The full ordination of women is an idea whose time has come for all schools of Buddhism. I fully support the actions of Ven. Ajahn Brahmavamso and his monastery and pray that the Venerable Elders of the Forest Tradition reconsider their actions in this regard.</p>	
Kev and Sam Bull ~ United Kingdom ~ Zen	729
<p>We believe Buddha taught us about equanimity, non-attachment to views and inclusiveness. Buddha practiced non-discrimination he ordained 'untouchables' and noble men, men and women. Buddha's foster mother became the first Buddhist nun. If we are to continue the work of the Buddha we need to be in touch with the spirit of what he taught through his example and not get caught up in dogma.</p>	
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Zen	730
Juliann Rhodes ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	731
Daniel Bernstein ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	732
Sangye Hatchion ~ United States ~ Tibetan	733
Gina Sharpe ~ Bedford Hills, New York, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	734
Ebby Bowen ~ Southsea, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	735
<p>The discordance in the Sanghas of Amaravati and Cittaviveka is so upsetting and unsettling for us all but sadly has become necessary to achieve gender equality.</p> <p>I salute the brave monks in Perth Australia.</p>	
Anonymous ~ kato gouvres heraklion crete, Greece ~ Theravada Forest tradition	736
Tashi Dawa ~ Poolesville, United States ~ Tibetan	737
<p>According to Buddha, men and women are equal</p> <p>and equally have the Buddha nature,</p>	
Clare Bowen ~ Southsea, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	738
<p>I would like to see fairness and equality within the Nun and Monk communities.</p>	
Clare Bowen ~ Southsea, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	739
<p>I would like to see fairness and equality within the Nun and Monk communities.</p> <p>Well done to the courageous Monks Sangha in Australia for the Ordination of The Bhikkhunis.</p>	
Elizabeth Gaywood ~ Pinetown, South Africa ~ Tibetan	740
Deb ~ Cape Girardeau, United States ~ Tibetan	741
Sandra Finkel ~ Ann Arbor, United States ~ Tibetan	742
Susan Purcell ~ Pagosa Springs, United States ~ Tibetan	743
<p>I support this equanimity in ordination wholeheartedly. It is the only Dhamma way.</p>	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Seth Krentcil ~ TEWKSBURY, United States ~ Zen

744

If it wasn't the Venerabl Ajahn Brahmavamso now, it would be another Venerable later.
Gender equality is long overdue in Buddhism and I wish for women to be treated equally.

Scheiber Martin (Dhammavaro) ~ tirol, Austria ~ Theravada Forest tradition

745

the most of my dhammateacher are women.
Buddha start with Bhikkhuni ordination in his lifetime.
Its time to go back to our roots.
I support Bhikkhuni ordination , and i hope all Buddhists support the Bhikkhuni ordination too.
May all beings are free from suffering
martin (dhammavaro)

Ani Thupten Tselha ~ germantown, United States ~ Tibetan

746

Sue Dirksen ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada other

747

Bob Stahl ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

748

Dear Dhamma Community (All Sanghas and Lay Community)

This is an appeal to bring equal rights to all who practice Dhamma. Since the Dhamma ultimately says there's no self - anatta), why distinguish between male and female which are just concepts in the first place? Females have long been oppressed as well as males who have lived in fear. Peace and love is the answer, what's the question? Let's open to our fears and transform our hearts - so more wisdom and love can grow... I am not a Tipitaka scholar, but I do know a couple of important sources of consideration where the Buddha offers us flexibility in the future to help make decisions so the Dhamma can grow, thrive, prosper and benefit all...

In the Maha-parinibbana Sutta: Last Days of the Buddha (DN 16), the Buddha tells Ananda that after he is gone - the Sangha can drop the lesser rules if they decide they are no longer relevant. Even the Buddha in his foresight wanted to give space in the future for what's reasonable... The Buddha also left us a set of principles that can still be used as a standard to judge new circumstances. These are known as The Great Standards. Although the Vibhanga and Khandhakas cover an enormous number of cases, they do not cover every possible contingency in the world. As for cases that did not arise during his lifetime, The Buddha established the following four guidelines for judgment, called the Great Standards (a separate set from those he formulated at Bhoganagara) for judging cases not mentioned in the rules.

Four Great Standards, (from Vinaya, Mv.VI. 40)

1. "Bhikkhus, whatever I have not objected to, saying, 'This is not allowable,' if it fits in with what is not allowable, if it goes against what is allowable, that is not allowable for you.
2. "Whatever I have not objected to, saying, 'This is not allowable,' if it fits in with what is allowable, if it goes against what is not allowable, that is allowable for you.
3. "And whatever I have not permitted, saying, 'This is allowable,' if it fits in with what is not allowable, if it goes against what is allowable, that is not allowable for you.
4. "And whatever I have not permitted, saying, 'This is allowable,' if it fits in with what is allowable, if it goes against what is not allowable, that is allowable for you."

Treated with care, these Great Standards should enable bhikkhus to live according to the Vinaya Rule in, for example, isolated communities in non-Buddhist countries with non-tropical climates. They form a touchstone for modern conditions.

Through the years, the Mahathera's have been cautious and protective in wanting to preserve the Dhamma - so they have kept things the same for generations. They are uncertain on agreeing on what's lesser and what's not – so they decided to not change anything.

The time has come to bring more equality to women who want to dedicate their lives to Dhamma. I hope the monastic sangha can rise together to support this. This can only help the Dhamma grow and prosper. The world is moving towards equality, it's time for an update.

I am a former Bhikkhu and also lived as a lay person in a Theravada forest monastery in the Burmese tradition over 8 years - living very closely with the monks. While living at the monastery, I remember many women coming to the monastery and seeking full ordination. They were treated very kindly and told they could take 10 precepts. That was the best that could be offered. I saw first hand the deep disappointment and despair of women not being treated equally and the profound pain it generated.

How can the Dhamma grow if we are unequal? Is wisdom measured by gender or by insight and compassion? Place yourself in their position, how would you feel if this was a Bhikkhuni dominated world and you could not fully ordain as Bhikkhus? How would you feel? It has been said that we as lay people have all the teachings to attain deeper freedom but why not support women to have full status as Bhikkhunis if that is what they want? What is at risk if women become Bhikkhunis? Let us not forget how important women and men are. In truth, we cannot survive without each other.

I have great reverence for the monastic sangha and apologize if I am offending anyone. I do however feel a need to speak out.

With folded palms, In peace, Bob Stahl

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Susie ~ United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	749
E.E. Cerezo ~ Elk Grove, United States ~ Theravada other	750
Donna Dufresne ~ El Prado, United States ~ undeclared	751
Annagarika Annie Keating ~ Bundanoon, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition Oh how wonderful it is to be a woman aspirant to the holy life in Australia at this moment and how grateful I am to my great friends and teachers Bhikkhuni Ajahn Vayama and Bhikkhus Ajahn Brahm and Bhante Sujato.	752
Shirley Cox ~ Cheltenham, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	753
Rosalind Dean ~ Southampton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition I do not know enough about the expulsions to make a judgement one way or another, but I do support all the other statements. As a 'Westerner,' I respect both monks and nuns in the same way, because as I see it, they lead the same way of life and they have made the same commitment.	754
Elaine & Richard Allen ~ Winchester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	755
Andrea Escher ~ Albuquerque, NM, United States ~ Theravada other Please take the right action to support the full ordination of women. Thank you.	756
Lhasha Tizer ~ Tucson, AZ, United States ~ Theravada other I hope the decision by the senior monks will be re-visited and that all will come back into wisdom and wake up. Hopefully greed, aversion, and ignorance will not continue to dominate the minds of these men and they will see clearly the truth of equality and the meaning of freedom for all.	757
JENNY CONNATTY ~ Cambridge, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan Equality for women... after all... this is 1959!	758
Melvin D Schneider ~ Albuquerque, NM, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	759
Anonymous ~ Richmond, United States ~ Tibetan	760
Mary Xuereb ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	761
Joanne Broatch ~ Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	762
Danielle Holland ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	763
Tonda March ~ Columbia, Missouri, United States ~ Theravada other I humbly request that dialogue be engaged on this topic in a spirit of openness, mutual respect, and truth-seeking.	764

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ani Miranda Coates ~ United States ~ Tibetan

765

I fully support the movement towards Bikkhuni ordination as soon as possible. I now live in the USA but am originally from Australia/New Zealand.

Please keep me informed of your progress.

Ani Seltong Dronma ~ Crestone, United States ~ Tibetan

766

Beth Baker ~ Woodacre, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

767

René Buhler ~ Katoomba, Australia ~ Theravada other

768

Cheryl Brooks ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

769

Tempel Smith ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada other

770

Tasha Sojinn ~ Taipei, Taiwan ~ Zen

771

In addition to signing this petition to bring gender equality, I would like to draw attention that, TAIWAN IS NOT A PROVINCE OF CHINA. TAIWAN IS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY as we all know. While Hong Kong is now part of China, why is isn't it listed as Hong Kong, China? And while Taiwan is an independent country, it is listed as a province of China. Please correct this immediately.

Anonymous ~ Katonah, United States ~ Tibetan

772

John McIntyre ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

773

I respectfully request that there be open dialogue and debate on the question of bikkhuni ordination

Shelby Leigh ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

774

Peter and Alana Richardson ~ Tai Po, Hong Kong ~ Theravada Forest tradition

775

As long time members of Bodhinyana we support everything Ajahn Brahmavamsa has done as is doing for Buddhists in the Western World to promote the teachings of the Lord Buddha. Long may he continue giving inspiring teachings and maybe WPP and Ajahn Sumedo should listen to dhamma talks by Ajahn Brahm to gain insight, tolerance and metta themselves. We cannot allow ourselves to become a mirror of the Vatican ways of faith. Think about it .."you must agree with us or your OUT' What rubbish!! Long live AB and Bodhinyana

Allen Rowley, MD ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Buddhist

776

Jessica Abelson ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist

777

Hartmut Essor ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other

778

Ad Watering ~ Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ Theravada other

779

K Aubichon ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other

780

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jean DuCharme ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other	781
M Matheson ~ Beverly Hills, United States ~ Theravada other	782
Evelyn and Gerald Smith ~ Calgary, Canada ~ Theravada other	783
Kenneth Munoz ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	784
Jennie Hicks ~ San Anselmo, United States ~ Buddhist	785
Anne Powell ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Buddhist Women have been integral to Buddhist teachings since the beginning. It is beyond the time to give women the equal treatment they deserve. Think about it- What Would Buddha Do? :)	786
Laura Constantinescu ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Zen	787
Ben Schmeiser ~ Normal, United States ~ undeclared	788
Sioux & Mel Drabic ~ Adelaide, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	789
Joshua Doherty ~ Australia ~ undeclared	790
Lindy Warrell ~ Adelaide, Australia ~ Theravada other	791
Anonymous ~ Chiang Mai, Thailand ~ Tibetan	792
Darren Proctor ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	793
Moh Lai Meng ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Buddhist	794
Mari Rhydwen ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen	795
Carel Weevers ~ Gennep, Netherlands ~ Tibetan Should have been done long ago. Hopefully it will also happen soon in the tibetan monastic tradition	796
Kit Lee Pang ~ Wilson, Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist We our living in the 21 centry, there shouldn't be any women's discrimination. I believe women who whole heartely and willingly be ordianed as bhukkuni truly followed the path of the Buddha and be enlightened. What are the anti-bhkkuni ajahns afraid of? Are there enlightened yet?	797
Stephen Parker ~ Totland Bay, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	798

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Pema Chalmers ~ Petersfield, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

799

We all have fear of change, we all cling and crave security, this is part our conditioning and our challenge. To cling to any form of spiritual practise has everything to do with fear and the need for an identity, and it has nothing to do with awakening. We need to remain aware and compassionate about our own fears and clinging, and the fear and clinging of others.

Authentic Buddhist practise requires all of us to master the challenge and challenge the master.

May all beings be well and happy x

Jean-Emery Gagnon ~ montreal, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

800

by removing the barrier of gender in it's own community the Sangha is sending a strong message of openness and acceptance to the rest of the world...

Barbara McDaniel ~ Newport, United States ~ Tibetan

801

Dallas Marie Becker ~ Edmonton, Canada ~ Buddhist

802

I fully support the points on this petition and I hope that the elders and everyone involved come to a wise and peaceful conclusion

Dianne M. Pratt ~ Newport, United States ~ Tibetan

803

Dhammika Chawner ~ Portsmouth, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

804

I whole heartedly support the nuns and their struggle with this antiquated and mean spirited injustice. What are these men so afraid of. Are they so insecure despite their supposed practice that they need to resort to the subjugation of females to protect themselves from some perceived threat?

J Warner ~ yarmouth, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

805

Anonymous ~ United States ~ undeclared

806

Jenny Girvin-Baker ~ Isle of Wight, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan

807

Anton Baron ~ Asuncion, Paraguay ~ Theravada Forest tradition

808

Lisa Friedland ~ santa fe, United States ~ Zen

809

Thank you!

Ulrike Mueller-Glodde ~ Botswana ~ Tibetan

810

James Sutherland ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

811

Marian Morgan ~ Charlottesville, United States ~ Zen

812

Gregory A Mengel ~ United States ~ Buddhist

813

Susan Fischer ~ United States ~ Buddhist

814

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ken Magee ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

815

Joyce Rybandt ~ Albany, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

816

The petition says it all. It is distressing to see the elders hardening around a concept, a fixed view. We need more openness and clarity of vision.

Tara MacLachlan ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

817

Zenshin Florence Caplow ~ Olympia, United States ~ Zen

818

Although I am a Zen priest, I also practice in the vipassana tradition, and have a deep respect for the Thai Forest tradition. I understand that it is difficult to revoke old cultural forms within a monastic tradition that extends back to the Buddha's time, but I respectfully urge you to consider that these forms are no longer helpful or appropriate. Bows.

Olivia Martin-McGuire ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist

819

Sue Bidwell ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen

820

Rev. Peter Schireson ~ United States ~ Zen

821

As a Zen priest practicing with women - lay and ordained - I think Buddhism's historical disrespect toward and disempowerment of women is a disgrace that must be acknowledged and remedied.

Tai Sheridan ~ Kentfield, United States ~ Zen

822

May Kwan Yin and Majushri continue the eternal dance of the masculine and feminine, a dance of complete recognition and visibility, without which there would be no Buddha, Dharma, or Sangha. May the ignorance of Exclusion be washed away by Buddha's tears.

[removed ~ signup test]

823

Jan Howell ~ United States ~ Buddhist

824

John Moge ~ berkeley, United States ~ Zen

825

Angie Zuiko Enji Boissevain ~ los gatos, CA, United States ~ Zen

826

Margaret Porter Alexander ~ Healdsburg, United States ~ Zen

827

The Buddha in justifying the relegation of the nuns to a status below all monks invoked only one reason: the cultural standards of his day. The Buddha also taught "Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations." What are the reasons for denying bhikkhuni ordination and rules which subordinate women?

Deborah Good ~ Alameda, United States ~ Zen

828

Katherine Thanas ~ santa cruz, United States ~ Zen

829

Alexcia Trujillo ~ albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada other

830

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada other	831
Nancy Kessels ~ cairns, Australia ~ Theravada other	832
Sister Thitamedha ~ Chithurst, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	833
Thank you for your support	
Kristi ~ millbrae, United States ~ Buddhist	834
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Zen	835
Ben Baroncini ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Theravada other	836
Joanne Yeaton ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other	837
Dhammananda ~ Nakhonpathom, Thailand ~ Theravada other	838
with the spirit of the Buddha, it was the Buddha who gave us this heritage. Noone can take away this noble heritage from us, the daughters of the Buddha. What we are facing is mostly our brothers are lack ing of the true spirit. Decision is made from the agreement drawn neither from the intention of the Buddha nor the study of the text. Before we are Theravadins, we must be Buddhists. Our brothers seems to insist on being Theravadins continuing the intention of the first council rather than the respect for the Buddha. Indeed it was the Buddha's intention to establish Buddhism with the responsibility of the fourfold Buddhists. with respect to my brother bhikkhu sangha and all within these fourfold Buddhists. dhammananda By the way it is not Theravadan but Theravadin.	
Ulric S. Legouest ~ Portland, United States ~ Tibetan	839
Cynthia Embree-Lavoie ~ Sacramento, CA, United States ~ Theravada other	840
Liz Turnbull ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen	841
Ven. Karma Konchok Lhadron ~ Surfers Paradise, Australia ~ Tibetan	842
Katharine Kaufman ~ Longmont ,CO., United States ~ Zen	843
Sally King ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada other	844
Anita Li ~ Boulder, United States ~ Tibetan	845

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

John Fullerton ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada other

846

Molly Stepanski ~ Portland, United States ~ Tibetan

847

Emily Breder ~ Columbus, United States ~ Buddhist

848

Thank you for drafting this petition!

Chris Fortin ~ sebastopol, ca, United States ~ Zen

849

Vishal Lama ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Theravada other

850

Michelle Anderson ~ Denver, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

851

I will be in total disgrace of the Buddhist religion if women are not treated as "equal" to men. In order for a woman to be treated and respected as an expert in a field of study she must be "recognized" as being equal, not subordinate, with men.

Julia Claremont-Brown ~ colchester, United Kingdom ~ Zen

852

Diane Montag ~ Weed, United States ~ non-Buddhist

853

Jürgen Beck ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Theravada Forest tradition

854

Nirosha Moonasinghe ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Buddhist

855

I have a great respect to the Forest Sangha of Achan Chah lineage.

At the same time, I sincerely believe that the Theravada Bikkhuni ordination is possible and legitimate, based on the facts I learnt from many research findings published by respectable buddhist scholars.

Therefore, I humbly request the great Sangha to re-consider the decision based on original Vinaya.

Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!

A. M. Jones ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Mahayana other

856

Lucy Waverman ~ Monaco ~ Theravada other

857

Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

858

Daneila Ulrich ~ Rotterdam, Netherlands ~ Theravada other

859

Pierre Banks ~ Paris, France ~ Theravada other

860

A M Bullock ~ Switzerland ~ Tibetan

861

Anonymous ~ Woodacre, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other

862

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Grace Hoo ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	863
Jason Price ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	864
Anonymous ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	865
Gabriel Laera ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	866
Ron Storey ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	867
Chris Lafrentz ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	868
Meico Edsutan ~ Jakarta, Indonesia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	869
The ordination of Bikkhuni is re-forming the Buddha's Sangha, and it have my full support.	
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	870
John Walsh ~ Johannesburg, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition	871
Women who wish to ordain as Buddhist nuns should have the exact same rights as men and be able to ordain to the highest level available to men.	
Kaspar Wolf ~ Germany ~ non-Buddhist	872
Debra Hall ~ Australia ~ Buddhist	873
The Buddha didn't discriminate between the sexes; nor should we.	
Julian Cowan Hill ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	874
I feel there should be equal rights for all Buddhists and teachers of Dharma, and sense this move is lacking in equanimity.	
DavidBloor ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	875
I thought all this myopic closed mind view was unravelling with the advent	
Maya ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen	876
Albert Mah ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	877
Biata Walsh ~ Johannesburg, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition	878
With respect to the elders of the Sangha, but is time for change!	
Jean-Loup Rebours-Smith ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	879
Geoff Caplan ~ Ashburton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	880
I believe wholeheartedly that the time has come for courageous and enlightened action if the Sangha is to continue to grow and thrive in the West.	
The current position of women in the Sangha is surely more to do with cultural traditions than with the spirit of Dhamma	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Nicolas Ardila ~ Bogotá, Colombia ~ Theravada other

881

Victor Thomas ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

882

Hilary Shearman ~ Buckfastleigh, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan

883

Discrimination against women practitioners and those wishing to take robes has been an issue in other branches of Buddhism, but has been resolved by and large. Please take the example from them and re-visit your decisions recently taken. Men and women are all HUMAN BEINGS and for that reason alone, there should not be discrimination. The modern world is not in the same position as at the time of our Lord Buddha, when women's lives were at risk should they have become wandering sangha.

I thank you, in the Dharma for your consideration.

Hilary Shearman

Anonymous ~ Beijing, China ~ Tibetan

884

I first met Ajahn Chah in 1977 in Thailand, as well as Ajahn Sumeto in a group with Joseph Goldstein and Jack Kornfield. Since then I have become an advanced practitioner in Tibetan Vajrayana Buddhism. There is no obstacle in Tibetan Buddhism for women to receive full teachings and ordination. It is unthinkable, but fully believable that rampant sexism exists in Asian countries, and thus their male dominated monasteries. I currently live in mainland China and although Buddhism is frowned upon, the same type of outrageous and unacceptable sexism exists here. Shame on the elders, for trying to contain women based on gender.

Dee ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

885

Happy to accept support and service from the lay women. Happy to deny those same women the same opportunities that long ago, even the Buddha himself granted them. Where is skill in these actions?

Marlene Matheson (Dipa) ~ Underberg, South Africa ~ Theravada Forest tradition

886

I feel incredible sad about what is happening, and wonder how the practice of the Buddha's teachings have resulted in such a lack of compassion

Ursula Noircent ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

887

Bill Wood ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared

888

Kevin Wyman ~ Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada ~ Theravada other

889

We have, in the Dhamma, all the necessary tools and guidance to effect a compassionate response to allow for the full ordination of Bhikkhunis.

I wish peace, harmony and goodwill to all involved in this issue and its resolution.

Marie Lloyd ~ Kingston, Canada ~ Zen

890

Thank you, honoured leaders, for reading this petition and considering it thoughtfully and compassionately. My best wishes to you .

Since 1992, I have been a fellow practitioner of Buddhism like you, but by chance clothed in the body of a woman.

José Vaz ~ Lisbon, Portugal ~ undeclared

891

Natalie Wendt ~ Madrid, Spain ~ Tibetan

892

Sandra Olney ~ Kingston, Ontario, Canada ~ Zen

893

Change is long overdue - look to other traditions for confirmation of benefits of broader view.

Schwab Bonnie ~ Lafayette, United States ~ Tibetan

894

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Janice J Hess ~ Santa Rosa, CA, United States ~ Zen

895

Justin Merritt ~ Northfield, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

896

Thomas Heaton ~ Manchester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

897

Michael Beisert ~ Vargem Grande Paulista, Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition

898

May the Western WPP elders show their wisdom and compassion

TMH ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada other

899

To spread Theravada Buddhism to the west and the western educated world, we will need to address the lack of nun ordination issue sooner or later.

I am glad that Aj Brahm took the step to participate in the nuns ordination.

Lastly I hope all parties would come together to resolve this issue peacefully and let there be no bad feelings (which only serve as obstacles to enlightenment)

Ngoc Bich Huynh ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

900

Margaret Ayton ~ United Kingdom ~ Tibetan

901

I wholeheartedly agree that we, especially women, should support this cause!

Anonymous ~ Richmond Hill, Canada ~ non-Buddhist

902

Rosario Simoes ~ Lisbon, Portugal ~ Theravada Forest tradition

903

Matthew Drew ~ Des Moines, United States ~ Theravada other

904

Anne Maltais ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Mahayana other

905

in the spirit of the Dhamma — that the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha

Yvone Beisert ~ São Paulo, Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition

906

Well don! Saddhu, Saddhu, Saddhu!

Kathleen Herron ~ Newport WA, United States ~ Tibetan

907

Nancy Petrin ~ United States ~ Zen

908

Judith Putnam ~ Fort Collins, United States ~ Zen

909


































Bart A. Benthul ~ Bryan, Texas, United States ~ undeclared

910

Sean Tanaka ~ New York, United States ~ Buddhist

911



































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Adrian Cichecki ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	912
	
Dawn Fairbairn ~ Canada ~ undeclared	913
	
Anonymous ~ Portland, United States ~ Tibetan	914
	
Ishara Hudson ~ Santa Rosa, United States ~ Zen	915
	
Susan Rosen ~ Minneapolis, United States ~ undeclared	916
	
Amy Martindale ~ San Jose, CA, United States ~ Theravada other	917
	
Jennifer Block ~ San Francisco, United States ~ undeclared	918
	
Anonymous ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Zen	919
	
Rev. Gloria Lee ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Zen	920
 We are here together.	
Irene Nelson ~ United States ~ Buddhist	921
	
Collette Sell ~ Mill Valley, United States ~ Buddhist	922
	
Colleen Shaw ~ Nelson, New Zealand ~ Buddhist	923
 Discrimination of any person due to creed, colour, race, cultural group or origin or gender is contrary to the spirit of the Dharma.	
Meg Madden ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	924
	
Phyllis Kirson ~ Farifax, CA, United States ~ undeclared	925
 Women should enjoy equal rights in all forms, in all practices, and in all realms of any and all religious, spiritual, wisdom traditions and in all aspects of life in general.	
Anonymous ~ Redwood Valley, United States ~ Theravada other	926
	
George Lundin ~ Pasadena, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	927
	
Jude Schneiter ~ Aptos, California, United States ~ Buddhist	928
	
Kathy Abromeit ~ Oberlin, OH, United States ~ Zen	929
	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Judy Pham ~ Montclair, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	930
<div></div> Please allow women to embark on the Middle Way	<div></div>
Mary Chase ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist	931
<div></div>	<div></div>
Tamara Matthews ~ United States ~ Theravada other	932
<div></div>	<div></div>
Sascha Berger ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	933
<div></div>	<div></div>
Lars Underbakke ~ Temple Terrace, United States ~ Theravada other	934
<div></div> The Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara of Tampa supports full equality for bikkhunis.	<div></div>
Florence Rastogi ~ Dehradun, India ~ Tibetan	935
<div></div> As a friend of Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo, who has quietly fought, all her life, for a full ordination for Tibetan Buddhism nuns, i feel strongly about this issue. With humility and persistence, she pursued this aim, and won the respect and support of most Tibetan Lamas including HH Dalai Lama, who now fully support her on this issue, and fully support the nuns' aspirations in general.	<div></div>
Carol Spooner ~ United States ~ Zen	936
<div></div>	<div></div>
Paula Jones ~ san diego, United States ~ Zen	937
<div></div>	<div></div>
Esme B ~ Gloucestershire, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	938
<div></div>	<div></div>
Michelle McIntyre ~ Australia ~ Tibetan	939
<div></div>	<div></div>
Jan Watts ~ York, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	940
<div></div> I passionately hope this petition brings about gender equity within monastic environments - it has been far too long unaddressed.	<div></div>
Bhikshuni Thubten Saldon ~ Crestone, United States ~ Tibetan	941
<div></div> Hallo friends, I would like to know more about the recent legislation of 5 points created at Amaravati and the monks of the Elders' Council, may I please have more details about it? Thanks and my best wishes for your struggle	<div></div>
Hugh Greenaway ~ Nottingham, United Kingdom ~ Zen	942
<div></div>	<div></div>
Callie Justice ~ Durham, N.C., United States ~ Buddhist	943
<div></div> With deep gratitude to all who enabled the recent Bhikkhuni ordination in Australia. May all beings be free from suffering and from the causes of suffering.	<div></div>
Geraldine Farrell ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared	944
<div></div>	<div></div>
John Harrington ~ Newton Valence, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	945
<div></div>	<div></div>
John Rauck ~ United States ~ Zen	946
<div></div> mahaprajapati	<div></div>

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Meggie Wittig ~ Canada ~ non-Buddhist	947
	
Thich Dong Hoa ~ Paderborn, Germany ~ Mahayana other	948
 well done ajahn brahm and sangha! no reason not to ordain woman as bhikkhunis.	
Rachel Lofthouse ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Zen	949
 Dear Friends, I hope that one day, like in the tradition I practice, that that which is deeper in all life is not judged by gender or anything else..... With deep bows to all beings, all of life, Rachel	
Siobhan Cassidy ~ Oakland, United States ~ Zen	950
 thank you for doing this important work	
Martie H. Leys ~ Cotati, United States ~ Buddhist	951
	
Mia Hansson ~ United Kingdom ~ Zen	952
	
Mary Rose ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other	953
	
Maite Alonso ~ Totnes, Devon, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	954
	
Andrew Mellion ~ United States ~ Theravada other	955
	
DR Nichols ~ Novato, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	956
 All reach enlightenment. All.	
Marinell Daniel ~ El Sobrante, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	957
	
Bonnie Wittig ~ Canada ~ undeclared	958
	
Anonymous ~ seattle, United States ~ Theravada other	959
	
Mijo Horwich ~ berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other	960
	
Lama K. T. Shedrup Gyatso ~ Portland, Oregon, United States ~ Tibetan	961
	
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Buddhist	962
	
William VanZevern ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	963
 This issue is has become a 'political' one. It needs to be resolved from the Dhamma not be authority.	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Dafna Blum ~ San Anselmo, United States ~ undeclared

964

Catherine Brousseau ~ United States ~ Theravada other

965

As full human beings, women are fully capable of entering, progressing, and gaining full attainment on the Buddhadhamma path, including full ordination in the Buddhist monastic sangha. The censure of Ajahn Brahm (for participation in the full ordination of nuns) is, quite simply, attachment to views. He is a teacher of great achievement, loving kindness, and compassion.

Mary Elizabeth Nelbach ~ Oakland, CA, United States ~ Zen

966

Donatella Picasso ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

967

Geoff Dawson ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen

968

Women have an enormous and unique contribution to give to the teaching of the dharma and should be considered the equals of men in this regard. There is no superior or inferior in the Way, including gender.

Donald Rothberg ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

969

Tan T. Le ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Theravada other

970

Jurgen Mollers ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada other

971

Gabrielle Cusack ~ Australia ~ Theravada other

972

Ruth Minka ~ oakland, ca 94509, United States ~ Theravada other

973

We need to empower women to take the tradition forward.

Anna Barnard ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada other

974

Roberta Werdinger ~ Ukiah, United States ~ Zen

975

The dharma does not discriminate. Human beings do. In this time of great suffering for humanity, we need the empowerment of as many enlightened beings as possible. If you stand in the way of women, you stand in the way of a powerful force for healing the planet. Please wake up to the moment.

Sylvia Israel ~ San Rafael, CA, United States ~ Theravada other

976

Please allow women to be ordained. Women can practice buddhism as well as men. Please cultivate the highest principles of the Buddha-- loving kindness for all people.
Thank you.

Karen Waskow ~ United States ~ Zen

977

Anonymous ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Buddhist

978

Every human being has the same elements of rupa and nama. And as buddhist one should treat others as a holistic being, not the appearance.

Irene Melaugh ~ derry, Ireland ~ Theravada other

979

Those monks who disagree with the ordination of nuns have no hope of reaching enlightenment. And their karma must surely be, to be reborn as women who wish to be ordained, but are refused by unenlightened monks.



































BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Sebastopol, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	980
Megan ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	981
Jenna Chikasuye ~ Boulder, CO, United States ~ Tibetan	982
The reason that I am a Buddhist is because it was Buddha who stood up against the dominant culture in India 2,500 years ago and accepted ALL peoples onto the path equally - the caste system was denied, and women were allowed to practice Buddhism. This is why Buddhism spread like wildfire and had such appeal at that time: an enlightened person stated that all people could practice the path, and that women could ordain. I am a Buddhist, and I am a feminist. I would not be a Buddhist if Buddhism did not have it's roots in egalitarianism. In history and now, the distortions of the teachings do not come from Buddha, from enlightenment, they come from humans making human errors on the path - and falling into fear and the 3 poisons - passion, aggression, and ignorance. Please stay true to enlightenment - to the Buddha, and allow women to ordain with equal rights.	
Sol Hanna ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	983
Whilst the aim of Buddhism is to get beyond the conditioned world, Buddhist institutions operate in the world. There is no reason why at this historical juncture that bhikkunis should be barred from learning from, participating in and eventually contributing to the wisdom of the Forest Tradition. I support this partition and look forward to the Forest Sangha, both East and West, permitting the ordination of bhikkunis.	
Judith Johnson ~ Boulder, United States ~ Tibetan	984
Anonymous ~ Boulder, United States ~ Tibetan	985
Ned Kahn ~ Sebastopol, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	986
Marte Milks ~ San Anselmo, United States ~ undeclared	987
Harrison Malson-Smith ~ New York, United States ~ Buddhist	988
Rev. Marion Rogers ~ Miami, United States ~ non-Buddhist	989
Anonymous ~ San Anslemo / Woodacre, United States ~ Theravada other	990
Caroline and Karl Kovach ~ Toronto, Canada ~ non-Buddhist	991
Maren Rusche ~ Munich, Germany ~ Theravada other	992
Bud and Susan Vigoda ~ Dallas, United States ~ Zen	993
Babs Johnson ~ Chicago, United States ~ Zen	994
Chris Cook ~ Milan, Italy ~ Zen	995

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ellen Bishop ~ New York, United States ~ Zen	996
Joachim Ochsenknecht ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Theravada Forest tradition	997
Judith Schumacher-Jennings ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada other	998
Corinna Bates ~ Saskatoon, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	999
Holly and Edward Small ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1000
James Stewart ~ United States ~ Theravada other It is unbelievable that blind tradition had kept the Buddhist community from doing the right thing for so long. Buddhists! Unbelievable, and disheartening. I urge the lay community of the western monasteries to demand from the monks their position, and to boycott dana to them if they are sexist.	1001
R Gere ~ United States ~ Tibetan	1002
Karin Sullemann ~ Seattle, United States ~ Mahayana other	1003
Justin Doman ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1004
Gus & Julie Giles ~ Kelmscott, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition We wholeheartedly support these aspirations	1005
Janie Rezner ~ Ft Bragg, United States ~ Buddhist Please do the right thing--lets get patriarchy out of the monasteries - - flinally.	1006
Ian and Andrea Johnson ~ Gold Coast, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1007
Meri Furnari & Angelica Chiong ~ Oakland, United States ~ Buddhist It's time to bring balance back to duality through the embracing of the Sacred Feminine.	1008
John Tarrant ~ Santa Rosa, United States ~ Zen	1009
William Zoller ~ United States ~ Zen What would the buddha say?!	1010
Kathleen Fairchild ~ United States ~ Zen	1011
Simon Menasche ~ Portland, United States ~ undeclared	1012
Anonymous ~ Thailand ~ Buddhist	1013

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Sophie Muir ~ Helston, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	1014
 As a woman lay practitioner I would like to see balance and fairness between the four-fold Sangha reflecting common, universal values of equality and harmony and to see full ordination for Bikkhunis within each tradition.	
Katrinka McKay ~ Santa Rosa, United States ~ Zen	1015
	
Visakha Kawasaki ~ Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	1016
	
Shane Lestideau ~ hanvec, France ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1017
	
Anonymous ~ United States ~ undeclared	1018
	
Hugh Carroll ~ Swindon, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1019
	
Catherine Rachmat ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1020
	
Polapat Jittivuthikan ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Buddhist	1021
	
Noel Pierson ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1022
	
Mai Tran ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1023
 I fully support Ajahn Brahm's courageous action to revive Bhikkhuni ordination in Theravadan tradition. He is fighting for justice, gender equity and non-discrimination in Buddhist practice. He acted for the benefits of Buddhist women, not for himself. He acted in accordance with the Vinaya, therefore he is truly the Buddha's messenger. Congratulations on his bravery ! We are Australians, our Buddhist community is strong enough to be independent !	
Natasha Humphrey ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1024
	
Matthew Jenkins ~ Cardiff, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1025
	
Justin Andrews ~ Ashburton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1026
 How can there be such inequity, inequality, lack of respect etc. Surely this sexism goes against all the Buddha taught and the dharma teaches.	
Andrew Hamilton ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1027
	
Alasdair Gordon-Finlayson ~ Liverpool, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1028
	
Ylva Powlett ~ United Kingdom ~ Zen	1029
	
Angie Tinkler ~ Chichester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1030
	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

WonGong So ~ Chapel Hill, United States ~ Mahayana other ■■■■■	1031
Jin-Ho,Shi ~ Taipei, Taiwan ~ Mahayana other ■■■■ You have all my heart and good wishes supporting you.	1032
ALexandra Marchi ~ Brazil ~ Buddhist ■■■■■	1033
Mike Holmes ~ Chichester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■■	1034
Dr Brian Gutkin ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen ■■■■■	1035
Gillain Holmes ~ Chichester, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■■	1036
Roger Belanger ~ United States ~ undeclared ■■■■■	1037
Gianni Barbosa Rodrigues ~ Volta Redonda - RJ, Brazil ~ Theravada other ■■■■ Full support and compassion for the bhikkhunis and their just cause :-)	1038
Isabel Losada ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan ■■■■■	1039
Carolyn Mabry ~ Raleigh, United States ~ Buddhist ■■■■■	1040
Jo Marie Thompson ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■ Astounding that we find the need to address basic human rights in a "wisdom" tradition.	1041
Ursula Flückiger von Allmen ~ Ittigen / Bern, Switzerland ~ Buddhist ■■■■■	1042
Charlotte Ranz ~ fuquay Varina, United States ~ undeclared ■■■■■	1043
Diane Wolkstein ~ new york city, United States ~ Buddhist ■■■■ We are one people. Buddha ordained his mother and there was a woman's sangha.	1044
August Andersson ~ Sweden ~ Zen ■■■■■	1045
Larry Green ~ Chapel Hill, NC, United States ~ Buddhist ■■■■■	1046
Margaret Ray ~ United States ~ undeclared ■■■■ It is time that all the world was validated as equal and sovereign . The evolution of Gaia is constant and inevitable . We are one.	1047
Anonymous ~ Sao Paulo, Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■■	1048

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Victor White ~ San Diego, United States ~ Theravada other

1049

Teh Seng Hin ~ Malaysia ~ Buddhist

1050

In Buddhism, everyone is equal - whether man or woman. What is important is for us to walk the Path to Enlightenment. What's wrong with bhikkunis having equal status as a bhikku? In fact, the founder of one of the largest Buddhist charity organisation in the world Tzu Chi of Taiwan is a woman, Master Cheng Yen. Remember the teaching of non-self and we can then see how silly this issue was handled by the WPP elders. Tradition and lineage do not mean a thing as the broader teachings of Buddha hold supreme.

Rev. Edward Keido Sanshin Oberholtzer ~ Oakland, United States ~ Zen

1051

Jeff Oliver ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1052

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Theravada other

1053

True Nature is neither masculine nor feminine, yet all expressions have this true Buddha Nature. How can we exclude any human from full participation in the path to awakening?

Jim Snarski ~ Santa Rosa, Ca., United States ~ Zen

1054

Nyima Dolma ~ Ward, United States ~ Tibetan

1055

Mokshini ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

1056

Sandra Lucas ~ United States ~ undeclared

1057

Antonio de La Maria ~ Recife PE, Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1058

Jessica Mollet ~ Raleigh, United States ~ Buddhist

1059

Adding women to the ranks of monks is the only right and humane choice to consider. It will only strengthen the power of Buddhism.

Peter Kaufman ~ Madison, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1060

Diana England ~ Ivybridge, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan

1061

Colin and Moninna Simpson ~ tunbridge wells, United Kingdom ~ Zen

1062

As Zen Buddhists where the tradition has no differentiation between male and female ordination we strongly feel that it is time that certain traditions should respect the equality of the individual.

Vanee Songsiridej ~ Onalaska, Wisconsin, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1063

Erwin Mollet ~ United States ~ Zen

1064

Katrina Etherington ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1065

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jo Hunken ~ Woodstock, United States ~ Tibetan	1066
Julia Hoyle ~ Durham, United States ~ undeclared	1067
Eeva Kulmala ~ Turku, Finland ~ non-Buddhist	1068
Joan Federman ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1069
Julia French ~ Cornville, United States ~ Zen	1070
Kathy Forsythe ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1071
Helen Kupetis ~ Tulsa, OK, United States ~ Theravada other	1072
Anonymous ~ Port Angeles WA, United States ~ Zen	1073
Daniel S. Evans ~ Santa Rosa, United States ~ Zen It should be open to ALL genders!	1074
Tricia Straub ~ Columbia, United States ~ Theravada other I presently have two female teachers which I study under both of whom I have and continue to learn a great deal. There is no reason to not ordain women other than sexism. We are all human beings.	1075
Anonymous ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Zen	1076
David Loy ~ Cincinnati, United States ~ Zen It is time for the Thai sangha authorities to grow up. Shakyamuni Buddha would be shocked at what is being done in his name.	1077
Merilyn Britt ~ San Diego, United States ~ Theravada other I join with others signing this petition.	1078
Anonymous ~ portland, United States ~ undeclared	1079
Deborah Wright ~ South Elgin, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1080
Rodney Sanchez ~ United States ~ Buddhist It's sad to see that this is still an issue here in the 21st Century. The View of the Buddhadhama does not have any room for discrimination of any kind. View and action are different. And it's clear that the action of the Sanghas throughout Buddhist history have not been in line with View when it comes to gender relations. Hoping for an enlightened approach to the ordination issue soon. Peace, Rodney	1081

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

David Daniels ~ Palo Alto, California, United States ~ Theravada other	1082
Shalini ~ Australia ~ Buddhist	1083
Carl Willmott ~ newport, United States ~ Tibetan	1084
Peter Kemble ~ madison WI, United States ~ Tibetan I support Bhikkhuni ordination in all Buddhist traditions.	1085
Jonathan Fafard ~ Earth, Canada ~ undeclared Life is complete by itself fulfill by Loves. It has create animal, humans, insects, fish in both two gender. There is no way we can say that one is «better then the other» Deepening Life exploration is a gift that everyone can make for our self and by the way the self of each living beings	1086
Anne Romans ~ Bucksport, Maine, United States ~ Buddhist	1087
BARBARA TOMIN ~ SANTA ROSA.CA, United States ~ Buddhist	1088
Bhirom Buranakul, M.D. ~ Danville, Illinois, United States ~ Theravada other	1089
Ken Knabb ~ Berkeley, California, United States ~ Zen	1090
Dr Jennifer Malin ~ Oak Park, United States ~ Theravada other It is difficult to believe , in this day and age, that any western organization, religious or otherwise would face any sort of reprisal whatsoever for endeavoring to move women onto equal footing with men. I don't care that Achan Brahm belongs to a hidebound Thai tradition. The idea that he should have sought approval or have given notice of his intent to ordain women is ludicrous given the entrenched patriarchal hierarchy that governs Thai monastics - as if they are even open to any discussion!	1091
Glauco Ferreira ~ Brasília, Brazil ~ Theravada other I support the nuns in the Theravada.	1092
Anonymous ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Tibetan It is long overdue. Thank You.	1093
Lisa Elander ~ Squamish BC, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1094
William Faust ~ United States ~ undeclared	1095
Kelly Thrasher ~ Los Angels, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1096
John McCulloch ~ Toronto, Canada ~ Buddhist	1097

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Yeshe ~ victoria, Canada ~ Buddhist	1098
<div></div> <div>Through the practice of meditation, one experiences non physicality of ones body..There's Oneness with All that is.</div> <div>Therefore, there's no gender..We are simply One.</div> <div>Non-equality between men & women is Ego at it's finest!!</div> <div>Metta..yeshe</div>	<div></div>
Ellen Rendulich ~ Lockport, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1099
<div></div>	<div></div>
Letizia Baglioni ~ Rieti, Italy ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1100
<div></div>	<div></div>
Michael Zieve ~ Laporte, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1101
<div></div>	<div></div>
Matthew Dillon ~ Houston, United States ~ undeclared	1102
<div></div> <div>Emptiness is gender neutral.</div>	<div></div>
Arinna Weisman ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada other	1103
<div></div> <div>I call on our Buddhist communities to cease from making distinctions and creating power structures to enforce them around gender, sexual expression/orientation, race, age or ability. May all beings have equal conditions to awaken.</div>	<div></div>
Gordon Livermore ~ Worthington, Ohio, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1104
<div></div>	<div></div>
Michael Nyein ~ Wellington, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1105
<div></div> <div>I have been a supporter (formally as a steward as well as a lay supporter providing the material needs of the Sangha) of the Ajahn Sumedho group of monks and monasteries (in particular Bodhinyanarama in Wellington) for over 25 years. I am deeply in accord with the view that in order to awaken one's heart, the environment and the conventions must provide a more conducive and supportive elements suited to the time and place.</div>	<div></div>
David Gish ~ Chicago, United States ~ undeclared	1106
<div></div>	<div></div>
Mark Coleman ~ mill valley, United States ~ Theravada other	1107
<div></div>	<div></div>
Joan Doyle ~ Oakland, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1108
<div></div>	<div></div>
Gail Williams O'Brien ~ Raleigh, United States ~ Zen	1109
<div></div> <div>We all inter-are with one another and with everything in the universe--why can't women--who inter-are with men--ordain as monastics?????</div>	<div></div>
Lucas Leardmann ~ San Diego, United States ~ Buddhist	1110
<div></div>	<div></div>
Uttama Walker ~ London, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1111
<div></div>	<div></div>
Anonymous ~ Falmouth, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	1112
<div></div>	<div></div>
Kyle Williams ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1113
<div></div>	<div></div>

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Roger Nehring ~ Chamberlain, United States ~ Buddhist	1114
Thomas Stazyk ~ Auckland, New Zealand ~ undeclared	1115
Todd Fields ~ Raleigh, United States ~ Zen	1116
Barbara Hammes ~ La Crescent, MN, United States ~ Theravada other	1117
Loretta Outram van Schalkwyk ~ Pennington KZN, South Africa ~ Buddhist	1118
Rafael Trevisan Ortiz ~ Sao Paulo, Brazil ~ Theravada other	1119
Amy Wit ~ Raleigh, United States ~ Zen	1120
Barbara and Ed Tonningsen ~ Walnut Creek, United States ~ undeclared	1121
The Buddhist women teachers who have influenced our Buddhist beliefs and brought us so much peace, guidance, joy, health and energy are surely the equals of the Buddhist men teachers we have experienced. In this day and age, we would urge you to recognize the equality of the sexes and affirm that all who have the wisdom and dedication to teach should be allowed to be recognized. Thank you.	
Alice Pettyjohn ~ raleigh, United States ~ Zen	1122
women are an important voice in sharing the Dharma. We need more women in leadership positions in all traditions of Buddhism.	
Scott McKendree ~ Raleigh, United States ~ Zen	1123
Ms Nicole Moustakas ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1124
YAH, go women monks go!!!	
Anonymous ~ Malaysia ~ Theravada other	1125
Anonymous ~ Raleigh, United States ~ undeclared	1126
Nancy Randleman ~ Chicago, IL, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1127
I send metta to all those participating in this discussion.	
Anonymous ~ River Forest, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1128
Sarah Conover ~ spokane, United States ~ Theravada other	1129
Angela Sands ~ wombarra, Australia ~ Tibetan	1130
It would be useful to har why the sangha excludes women's ordination? In general I am dismayed at the expulsion of such a great teacher. I cannot imagine Buddha doing that.	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Helen Palmer ~ Berkeley, California, United States ~ Zen

1131

As a practicing Episcopal, I heartily accept the ordination of women as priests and Bishops. The ordination of women has vastly enhanced the tradition. In no way has the acceptance of women as spiritual guides at a high level deterred the spiritual diligence of men.

Anonymous ~ Mountain Home, Arkansas, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1132

Rebecca del Rio Marlborough ~ Barcelona, Spain ~ Zen

1133

Thrity Mistry ~ Auckland, New Zealand ~ undeclared

1134

Mahrukh Stazyk ~ Auckland, New Zealand ~ undeclared

1135

Diane Dougherty ~ ayase, Japan ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1136

Marianne Wiseman ~ Canberra, Australia ~ Buddhist

1137

It is deeply saddening to read of these events at a time when it is no exaggeration to say that the possible future of humanity is at stake, due to global heating, over-population, excessive consumption and the resultant shortages of water, food and other resources to sustain life. We need a quantum change in our thinking to understand that we are all interdependent, and live on a planet where everything is interconnected. At a time when more than 2 billion of our sisters and brothers do not have access to the four requisites, it is indeed saddening that the Buddhist community still finds it so difficult to overcome wrong thinking, and apparently lacks the wisdom and compassion to see that all human beings have the capacity - if they hear the Dharma - to reach enlightenment.

May wisdom and compassion prevail!

May we all live and share the Dharma in this troubled world!

Kevin Havener ~ Chicago, United States ~ Buddhist

1138

Traditions change, times change, and if Buddhism wants to survive it has to change too. Women are spiritually and ethically equal to men. Get used to it.

Jill Hibben ~ Perth, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1139

Andrew Miller ~ Downers Grove, United States ~ Tibetan

1140

Anonymous ~ HAYWARD, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1141

Bhikkhuni Poonsirivara ~ Samutsakhon, Thailand ~ Theravada other

1142

It is time!!

Mary Cunov ~ Carmel Valley, United States ~ Zen

1143

Dr. Paul Fuller ~ Sydney, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1144

Rev. Thomas Lane Chin Thien ~ Chicago, United States ~ Zen

1145

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Judi Rushforth ~ Denmark, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1146
Until Nuns were fully ordained there would be no Four Fold Assembly which the Buddha himself endorsed. Therefore Buddhism could not in this modern world continue to thrive. What ordaining Bikkhunis has done is to ensure the survival of Buddhism throughout the world and given women from all nationalities a place to be seen as equal to the male sangha.	
May Oo Lwin ~ Yangon, Myanmar ~ Buddhist	1147
Malcolm Huxter ~ Lismore, Australia ~ Buddhist	1148
I feel the Buddha taught a Dharma that can be integrated into all cultures. To condemn and hinder equal opportunities for humans based on gender is not in accordance with the Dharma as I understand it. I honour the courage and the commitment to Dharma of all those involved in this Bhikkhuni ordination. Well done.	
Anonymous ~ Chapel Hill, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1149
Gregory Primosch ~ Chicago, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1150
The four-fold sangha should be restored immediately. As a householder, I refuse to give support any monastery that does not support bhikkhuni ordination.	
John Douglas ~ Richardson, TX, United States ~ Zen	1151
Kane Ramunno ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1152
Regarding the following point - " We are disheartened by and disagree with the recent legislation of 5 points created at Amaravati (UK) and Cittaviveka (UK) by Ven. Ajahn Sumedho and the monks of the Elders' Council, which imposes on nuns a two-tier discriminatory power structure favouring monks over nuns in these and associated monasteries. " I do not believe Suhedo would create any system that deliberately " imposes on nuns a two-tier discriminatory power " from what I know of Sumhedo this would have been done as a stepping stone into initiation....after all Siladhara is 10 precept and is a step up from the 8 precept mae chi in thailand.... what was his intention ? Thats the question, and I believe its unskillful and mispresentful to frame this point with the words " impose " with regards to Ajahn Sumhedo.... I also have the feeling that Ajahn Sumhedo as the eldest brother of the Western Thai Forest Tradition would understand the concerns from Wat Pah Pong about due process being their biggest issue. Justified or not, probably not, I believe he is simply moving things along in a more gradual way out of great respect for his parent branch monestary. I'm signing the petition, but please think about rewording this point.	
Cynthia LeardMann ~ San Diego, United States ~ Buddhist	1153
Kungshih Shi ~ United States ~ Mahayana other	1154
Kay Krasin ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1155
Susan Quipp ~ Perth, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1156
Manora Caldera ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1157
I support the Bhikkuni ordination in Theravada tradition.	
David N. Snyder Ph.D ~ DhammaWiki.com, United States ~ Theravada other	1158
Lisa Fancott ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1159

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Bob Mikesic ~ Lawrence, Kansas, United States ~ Theravada other	1160
Mariza Machado ~ Santa Catarina, Brazil ~ Buddhist	1161
Scott Cairns ~ Holualoa, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1162
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Zen I would have liked to see on the petition "respectfully disagree". Thank you for your efforts to emphasize inclusion--of which Buddhism is about.	1163
Craig Johnston ~ Darlinghurst, Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other I have 1 word for the 4 bhikkhunis: mahamudita!	1164
[removed]	1165
Lea Peace ~ Portland, OR, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1166
Lisa Pitkin ~ Portland, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1167
Margot Murphy ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1168
Maureen Temple Richmond ~ Pittsboro, NC, United States ~ non-Buddhist Spiritual intelligence operates through the female mind just as it does through the male. Women are no lesser beings. Religions which treat them as so are practicing hypocrisy. All beings are innately entitled to experience enlightenment and compassion. These are the values of Buddhism and to say that females can't adequately understand or express them is to discount the intelligence of nature, which created two sexes on this planet. Let the voice of nature speak without fetter, therefore, and let the Thai women pursue whatever spiritual path they so choose, with all rights and powers accruing to males of the same faith and trainings accorded to the women. Sexist discrimination is not acceptable in any context.	1169
Ady ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist It makes the tradition look very narrow hearted which I would like to think is not the case! Can only serve to create distance and disrespect between men & women practitioners	1170
Sheyli Johnstone ~ sausalito, United States ~ Buddhist	1171
Giles Patrick Barton ~ Annandale, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition we should thank them because if the future Buddha can not be born until this dispensation has ended, so they are doing a good job in making Buddhism increasing irrelevant and unappealing and helping this dispensation come to its end	1172
Simone Parris ~ Falmouth, United States ~ undeclared	1173
Binh Anson ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1174
Premalal Mirihagalla ~ perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition Ajahn, please do not settle for a guarantee that Ajahn Brahm would not conduct any further bhikkhuni ordinations. This should go on as long as deserving and practicing nuns are seeking full ordination.	1175

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Luke Hindmarch ~ Oslo, Norway ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1176
Ulrike Kreis ~ Geiswasser, France ~ Buddhist	1177
Wendy Klein ~ Cambridge, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1178
Helen Beard ~ Burgess Hill, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other I think it is about time that this issue is being considered now for the real buddhism to progress.	1179
Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1180
Lisa Bowett-Jones ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	1181
Pinchevskaya Lena ~ Moscow, Russian Federation ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1182
Danil Osipchuk ~ Moscow, Russian Federation ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1183
Dr Wai Mun Tang ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist This action is not Buddhist in spirit, it is ignorant. I ask individual members to look within themselves in the decision to back this. What scientific evidence do you have that women are inferior and warrent such an action. What did the buddha mean when he stated that a female child is as worthy as a male? What righ do you have to deminish the human right of another.	1184
Michael Kneafsey ~ witney, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	1185
Ken Allen ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition The full ordination of women into Buddhism and in fact all religions is what is desperately needed in the world today. We live in a global thought that is hedonisticly patriarchal that has caused machismo to invade all sectors of our lives in an unpleasant way especially for females. The full integration of both sides of humanity (or the balancing of yin and yang) can only lead to health and goodness for all. Ajhan Brahm's talk last night touched on the subject why we bow to a statue of Buddha and to the monks well, in my view Ajhan Brahm deserves the respect of the bow not only for him being a teacher but also for the decision to fully ordain the nuns.	1186
Ann Steele ~ hobart, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition very best of luck for instigating a long overdue change in the forest tradition..	1187
Richard Armstrong ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	1188
Yulianto Lukito ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition There's no longer a place for gender discrimination in today's society. It's such a shame that a noble religion can be tainted by this.	1189
Linda Cutts Weintraub ~ Sausalito, United States ~ Zen	1190
Rev. Nonin Chowaney ~ Omaha, United States ~ Zen I fully support Ajahn Brahm and the full ordination of women in all Buddhist traditions.	1191
Anonymous ~ Chicago, United States ~ Theravada other I am a theravad buddishm male from Thailand. Although, I am not really support Bhikkhuni ordination in Thailand. I do support it in the western culture. There are many reasons that I don't think Thailand is ready for this.	1192

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jeanne Robinson ~ Bowen Island, BC, Canada ~ Zen

1193

I was lay-ordained in the Soto Zen tradition in 1992 along side other men and women of the sangha. In North America -- in our culture -- equality among men and women is a given. If it were not, we would not be honouring Buddha's teachings. If it were not, I would not be a practicing Buddhist.

With respect,

Buchi Eihei

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1194

Brian Thompson ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Zen

1195

It's time for change!

Akincano M. Weber ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Buddhist

1196

Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1197

Rosalind Kaye ~ Evanston, Illinois, United States ~ Theravada other

1198

Lorraine Bell ~ emsworth, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1199

I value the commitment to maintain the original teachings of the buddha within th FS tradition, from which I have received great benefit. However, I believe that bikkhuni ordination and equality is unquestionably what the Buddha would advocate if he were teaching in this era. Also it seems to me that both change and preservation in the form can come from a place of wise reflection; that to cling to one and reject the other is not in the spirit of the Dhamma.

Lorraine Bell

Lyndi Brown ~ United States ~ Theravada other

1200

Anonymous ~ Raleigh, United States ~ undeclared

1201

Virginia Wolf ~ Eau Claire, WI, United States ~ Buddhist

1202

Susan Schabilion ~ United States ~ Theravada other

1203

Dean Kaufer ~ chicago, United States ~ Zen

1204

Please extend compassion and ordain women.

Anonymous ~ leamington spa, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1205

I think everyone, male and female should be welcome into the Sangha should they wish too, Dhamma is for everyone.

Leyla ~ moscow, Russian Federation ~ Tibetan

1206

Ann Leeds ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1207

Cecilia So ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Mahayana other

1208

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

John Corbaley ~ Kansas City, Missouri, United States ~ Theravada other	1209
Adelheid Pramhas ~ Pittsfield, MA, United States ~ Theravada other	1210
Sarlo ~ Canada ~ non-Buddhist	1211
If the Buddha were here today, he surely would not countenance a discrimination of this kind. Empowerment of women may be the area where the West has the most to offer.	
Jak Ratiwanich ~ Raleigh, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1212
Ani Konchog Lhamo ~ Oslo, Norway ~ Tibetan	1213
Anonymous ~ York, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	1214
Judith Cohn ~ Chicago, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1215
Lise Loubert ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Zen	1216
As a long time Buddhist practitioner, including a year at Panditarama in Burma, I am saddened that the community of elders continues to uphold the practice of discrimination preventing full recognition of the equal dignity and evolutionary potential of women. Very sad and disappointing.	
Sharon Allen ~ Sunnyvale, United States ~ Theravada other	1217
In changing times, Buddhism must reach all people. Women are just as committed as men in preserving the precious teachings of the Buddha. They must be given equal opportunity to teach and be models for the Dhamma.	
Bruce Fletcher ~ Adelaide, Australia ~ Buddhist	1218
Madelaine Fahrenwald ~ Sebastopol, United States ~ Theravada other	1219
Consider how women have fought for and received equal rights in the West -- we deserve to continue to enjoy and expand these rights in the West, and allow women/nuns in other parts of the world/sangha to follow at their own pace. When in Rome...	
Bryan Hugill ~ Thailand ~ Buddhist	1220
Richard Clifton-Smith ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen	1221
Patricia Komarow ~ colorado springs, CO, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1222
I support the nuns as the Buddha would have.	
Christopher Titmuss ~ Totnes, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	1223
It is time for men and women, East and West, to take a shared and full responsibility for realisation of the Four Truths of the Noble Ones. The ordination of the bhikkhunis in Australia on October 22, 2009 are an important contribution in this direction.	
Ricky Quah ~ Ipoh, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	1224
With true wisdom from everyone, there will be peaceful ending in this minor shortcoming.	
Jundo Cohen ~ Tsukuba, Japan ~ Zen	1225

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Havindra Caldera ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other I support Bhikkuni ordination	1226
Kavindu Caldera ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other I support Bhikkuni ordination	1227
Dinithi Caldera ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other I support Bhikkuni ordination	1228
Paul R Bilger ~ State College, United States ~ undeclared I fully support Bhikkhuni ordination.	1229
Ooi Soon Kok ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada other I give full support to Ajahn Brahm as he has done the ordination with good intention without breaking the vinaya rules. The tradition imposed by the Thai Sangha is not really important to the practice. However, they should encourage more women to go into the practice rather than restricting them with their traditional practice.	1230
David Sugiman ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1231
Max Milne ~ Australia ~ Theravada other This deeply saddens me to hear about inequality within Buddhism. Let us put aside genders and allow for all to practise the best they can.	1232
Saffron Garrad ~ Lismore, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1233
Karen Ollice ~ United States ~ Zen	1234
Ramiro Borja ~ Riverside, Ill., United States ~ Theravada other	1235
Anonymous ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1236
Julie Thoms ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1237
Barbara Smith ~ Oklahoma City, United States ~ Theravada other The Buddha accepted women as well as men, so this is not right. This is not the Dharma. to turn away women from ordination.	1238
LIM CHE KIEONG ~ Sg.Pelek, Malaysia ~ Theravada other Sadhu 3x to Ajahn Brahm.	1239
James Brand ~ eagle river, United States ~ Theravada other	1240
Anonymous ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1241
Teresa Tay ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1242

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Victor von der Heyde ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Buddhist

1243

I think it would be wonderful if nuns were treated equally as monks. From what I understand of the conditions that existed in the Buddha's time, there were good reasons why the Buddha treated women monastics differently from men. I think those conditions have changed and it not just appropriate but about time that there was full equal status.

Joyce Gad ~ Cary, United States ~ Buddhist

1244

Women should be able to be monks. In many countries , the option to be a monk and receive the support of the community would give little girls who now have no other option than sex work the spiritual and economic freedom to live, by the grace of Buddha's teachings.

The choice of male monastics to limit full ordination to boys and men is the strongest support of the sex trade imaginable. It is also the continued support of tremendous suffering.

Anonymous ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

1245

Anonymous ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

1246

Anthony Yeo ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other

1247

Is Bhikkhuni ordination contrary to the teachings of the Lord Buddha? Let not uncritical decision enfeeble the religion, subjugating women to the whims of learned men (in robes, at that), not unlike the other so-called world religions which supposedly protect all their adherents rights and aspirations.

Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist

1248

Leahsandra Powell ~ United States ~ Zen

1249

Christoph Köck ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1250

Mabel Loon ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared

1251

Peace. I hope the issue will be resolved amicably and also with wisdom.

Prof. Susanne Mrozik ~ South Hadley, United States ~ Theravada other

1252

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi put it best at the 2007 Hamburg conference when he said: "When we ask what line of action would be appropriate for today, we should not ask what the Buddha did twenty-five centuries ago but what he would want us to do today" (conference proceedings).

Buddha established a fourfold Sangha. Does his inclusive vision of Buddhist community count for less than select vinaya passages? If we put the same energy into searching out vinaya passages that support bhikkhuni ordination as we do into passages that generate obstacles to bhikkhuni ordination, where might we be?

Vinaya reflects diverse views on bhikkhunis. There are positive and negative statements. Why do some monastic authorities give more weight to passages that impede the establishment of a fourfold Sangha than to those that underscore the centrality of bhikkhunis to Buddha's vision of Buddhist community?

I write this in support of the many monks, nuns, lay men, and lay women working hard to make bhikkhuni ordination possible for all women in all Buddhist traditions. Thank you . . . thank you . . . thank you.

Budu Saranayi

Niva Golsberg ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1253

Morwenna Breeze ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1254

Charles Beal ~ United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist

1255

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Brazil ~ Theravada other	1256
Tamara Dyer ~ Fort Wayne, United States ~ Theravada other	1257
Per Hagman ~ Malmoe, Sweden ~ Tibetan	1258
Rodrigo ~ São Paulo, Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1259
JOSEPH ~ SEATTLE, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1260
Marilyn Gilmore ~ Springfield, United States ~ undeclared	1261
Anonymous ~ Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1262
Sarah Napthali ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other Let the Dharma do its good in the world, unimpeded by harmful 'traditions' telling the world that Buddhists don't even respect the basic value of gender equality.	1263
Aida Rodriguez ~ St. Louis, United States ~ Mahayana other It's all One Mind, whether the earthly manifestation is female or male! And the nature of everything is always changing, so... why all the clinging? Could it be fear of something? Don't worry so much - Lighten up! :) Enlightened Mind is always Expanding!	1264
Stephen Wigney ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1265
Philip Auriat ~ sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1266
Cristina Lincoln ~ Cary, United States ~ undeclared	1267
Anonymous ~ Italy ~ Theravada Forest tradition there are too many gender inequalities in the Forest Sangha	1268
Simon Mundy ~ Botany, NSW, Australia ~ Mahayana other It is very difficult for me to see how discrimination against half the human race on the basis of their gender can be in accord with Buddhist principles.	1269
Barbara Dale ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1270
Winton Higgins ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition I have commented at length on the supportthebikkhunis.org website. Full equality and inclusiveness for both sexes is a basic human right in international law and morality, and Buddhists should be affirming this morality, not frustrating it.	1271
A.Langhammer ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Buddhist	1272

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

John Millard ~ Turramura, Australia ~ Theravada other

1273

... I believe that a sincere consideration by and response from the Forest Sangha would be considered Right Action.

Christopher McLean ~ Blackheath, Australia ~ undeclared

1274

If we're going to have monks and nuns, they should be equal. The social standards of the Buddha's times are inappropriate for this century.

Daria Levy ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

1275

I'm sure if Buddha were alive today he would support women becoming Bhikkunis. Prohibiting women from becoming fully ordained is not acceptable or warranted in the 21st century, a time that needs more spiritual guidance than ever before. It is also cutting off at least 50 percent of the total population from contributing their skills, compassion and devotion to the dharma to the wider community. Gender bias is discrimination which is the opposite of what I understand the dharma professes to teach.

K H Tan ~ perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1276

Betsy Faen ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist

1277

I feel very strongly that this is a pressing issue that can no longer be ignored, at least in the Western world where women have been To continue to implement policies based on gender inequality is not in keeping with the teachings of the Buddha, as I understand them.

Betsy Faen

Shirley Snow ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1278

Lenore Lambert ~ Dee Why, Australia ~ Buddhist

1279

I'm at a complete loss as to how a sexist attitude is in any way consistent with the Buddha's teachings. I urge those who support this decision to reflect honestly on the all-important intention behind it. It is impossible to conceive that it is aiding the genuine practice of the dharma. It points more honestly towards the protection of ego via the upholding of status-bound rules.

Angela Cantafio ~ Seaforth Sydney, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1280

Leona Dawson ~ SYDNEY, Australia ~ Theravada other

1281

Gender (in)equality is a key concern of mine as a practising Buddhist and I would wish to see equality in the treatment of women (both lay and monastics) and in the systems & structures that support monastics and our practice.

Timothea Goddard ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

1282

Ewan Gemmell ~ Robertson, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1283

If Buddhism cannot find a place for full equality for women in its monastic order then I can't see how it is going to survive in any relevant and meaningful way in the west. Buddhism has transcended sexual politics but fails on gender politics

Elizabeth Foley ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Tibetan

1284

Lindy Lee ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen

1285

Anonymous ~ Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1286

Jordan Van Voast ~ Seattle, United States ~ Tibetan

1287

Anonymous ~ Malaysia ~ Theravada other

1288

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1289
Chandini ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	1290
Renia Gryc ~ sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1291
Barbara Davenport ~ San Diego, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1292
Nils Heymann ~ Bangalore, India ~ Theravada Forest tradition May this issue be a vehicle for unity and true compassion. May women everywhere feel the support of their brothers in the Sangha.	1293
Victoria McClafferty ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1294
Alexandra Cooke ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition This is such an important issue. May wisdom prevail	1295
Jennifer Taylor ~ alice springs, Australia ~ Theravada other	1296
Richard McHale ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition I am struggling to comprehend how any member of our community can fail to rejoice in the recent actions carried out by Ajahn Brahmavamso. I also fail to understand how any member of our community can continue to support a system of such open discrimination that has no concrete validity in either the heart or the theory of our tradition.	1297
Geoffrey Law ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition I support ajahn Brahm.	1298
Tina Bell ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1299
Manny Mansbach ~ Oakland, United States ~ undeclared There should be no room for gender inequality in the precious dharma. I believe the Buddha himself would be way out in front on this score, as he was on many other issues of his time!	1300
Laura Bartko ~ portland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1301
Ayya Mahacitta ~ Bundanoon, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1302
Jill McAlister ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared	1303
Kahren White ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1304
Ven. Phramaha Khampol Adhichitto ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada other	1305

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

John Simon ~ Tampa, United States ~ Zen

1306

Ajan Brahm's work is the future of the type of Buddhist thinking that will lead the way of liberation in the modern world.

Thank you Venerable Ajan Brahm!

Sanford Harry Jaffe ~ Narrabeen, NSW 2101, Australia ~ undeclared

1307

As there is valid Bhikkhuni lineage, from the view point of the Vinaya, there appears no legitimate reason not to grant full ordination to woman. Thank you.

Father Tim Mansfield ~ Sydney, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1308

With the greatest of respect, coming from outside your tradition, I submit that in our experience doing what is necessary to fully include women in all aspects of religious life benefits everyone in our tradition.

I feel that contemplative traditions should remove all barriers to direct realisation from all people without discrimination. Please listen with gentleness and respect to what is being requested and then act with boldness and directness.

Humbly,

Tim+ Mansfield

Berget Jelane ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1309

Luke Fullagar ~ Sydney, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1310

Let's heal these ignorances of tradition, and allow a right view to flourish.

Phil Benezra ~ Novato, United States ~ Zen

1311

Dr Ralf Muhlberger ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Zen

1312

A/Professor Baden Offord ~ Lismore, Australia ~ Buddhist

1313

This is an important issue.

Rachel Boughton ~ Seattle, United States ~ Zen

1314

Sarah Nicholson ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared

1315

Manoja De Silva ~ Australia ~ Buddhist

1316

Chelse Williams ~ United States ~ undeclared

1317

CJ Hinke ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1318

Freedom Against Censorship Thailand (FACT) ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ undeclared

1319

Father Peter Day ~ Queanbeyan, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1320

The Most Rev. Shaun McCann, Ep.Gn. ~ Calgary, Canada ~ non-Buddhist

1321

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anton Koziej	~ Saint Louis, United States ~ Mahayana other	1322
		
Mila Myasnikova	~ Moscow, Russian Federation ~ Zen	1323
		
Sunil Samaraweera	~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other	1324
		
Margaret Zoe Day	~ Australia ~ undeclared	1325
	I beg you to practice mindfulness at any cost	
Anonymous	~ Chiang Mai, Thailand ~ undeclared	1326
		
Kendall	~ Byron Bay, Australia ~ Buddhist	1327
		
Maria Stephenson	~ Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1328
		
Peter Hughes	~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1329
		
Peter Wild	~ Littleborough, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1330
		
David Burstin	~ Elsternwick, Australia ~ non-Buddhist	1331
		
Mary Jamieson	~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1332
		
Jonathan Page	~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1333
	My letter on this matter has been published on the Santi website.	
Molly Pang	~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1334
		
Mae Wilson	~ Glasgow, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	1335
		
Mili Badic	~ Vienna, Austria ~ undeclared	1336
	practice - practice - practice	
Orsolya Molnár	~ Hungary ~ undeclared	1337
		
Klaus Langhammer	~ 27472 Cuxhaven, Germany ~ Buddhist	1338
	I think this is not a good Buddhism treatment, it is more a Catholic practice.	
Margaret Tung	~ Australia ~ Buddhist	1339
		

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Vivy ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1340
Rena Czaplinska ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1341
I am amazed by lack of wisdom, compassion and love and shaken by the display of authoritarian old fashioned conservative and outdated value system which has no place in 21st century world we live in. This action will create a stronger division between east and west Buddhists. What a lack of vision (right view) and wisdom (samadhi)!	
Heidit Trondsen ~ Oslo, Norway ~ Tibetan	1342
Rena Czaplinska Archer ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1343
It takes courage to see through the tradition and amend the ways which need to be amended to bring gender equality to Buddhism today. The teaching helps to open the heart, to develop heart-mind, wisdom, compassion and courage. It is time that we acted on this teaching.	
Bettina Hilpert ~ Munich, Germany ~ Theravada other	1344
Discrimination is not what the Buddha taught.	
Anders Honore ~ Copenhagen, Denmark ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1345
Sabina Rabold ~ Balgowlah, Australia ~ non-Buddhist	1346
Peggy Tan ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1347
Humbertson ~ Nice, France ~ Theravada other	1348
Yong Joh Lin ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Buddhist	1349
Eric Van der Borcht ~ Sint-Niklaas, Belgium ~ Buddhist	1350
thank you ajahn brahm for your courage !!!	
Nicholas Allott ~ Oxford, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1351
Fontaine Nadia ~ Paris, France ~ Buddhist	1352
Guiglaris ~ Lyon, France ~ Theravada other	1353
Anonymous ~ Denmark ~ Zen	1354
Christopher Bush ~ Bonlee, United States ~ Zen	1355
Rohantha Rodrigo ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	1356

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Sylvia Saunders ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Zen

1357

It is such a shame that Ajahn Brahm has been treated so disrespectfully. I fully believe that had Ajahn Chah still been alive this never would have happened. To me, this goes entirely against the teachings of the Buddha.

Steve Terry ~ Aylesbury, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other

1358

Jaime McLeod ~ Lewiston, Maine, United States ~ Zen

1359

Geetha Mendis ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other

1360

Jeffery Tan ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

1361

Here is another good motivation why Ajahn Brahm and the Bodhinyana Sangha should attain Arahantship within this lifetime to demonstrate the wisdom of their effort. Then the opposition will be silent in due course.

Dusty Smith ~ Raleigh, NC, United States ~ Zen

1362

Jon Weaver ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1363

Traudel Reiss ~ Germany ~ Theravada other

1364

Phyllis J. Sturges ~ Lacey, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1365

Nina Torcoletti ~ United States ~ Theravada other

1366

Michael Pesole ~ Orlando Florida, United States ~ undeclared

1367

I subscribe to the Buddhist Society Channel because of Ajahn Brahm's Dhamma talks, he is a God send and a life saver. Please do not kick him out. In my humble opinion there should be more of an open mind about initiating Buddhist nuns after seeing the documentary about Robina Courtin Chasing Buddha I believe it would be a very good idea to have more nuns in the sect.

Thank You.

Saw Leng Ghee ~ Selangor, Malaysia ~ Theravada other

1368

We are living in the 20th century. There should be more understanding and tolerance among all.

Eric Bentley ~ Colorado Springs, United States ~ Tibetan

1369

Hans Rippel ~ Budapest, Hungary ~ non-Buddhist

1370

Loren Powell ~ tulsa, oklahoma, United States ~ Buddhist

1371

Ciprian Paul Salagean ~ Bistrita, Romania ~ Theravada other

1372

Jennifer Jameson ~ Portland, Oregon, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1373

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jason Pajski ~ Charlottesville, VA, United States ~ undeclared	1374
Wolfgang Lindner ~ Hard, Austria ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1375
Evi Zoepnek ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Buddhist	1376
Grace Boyle ~ Glasgow, United Kingdom ~ undeclared I hope that this petition brings healing and a change of heart for the men who are tied to the male hierarchy. We are all human beings. I believe that women's position in this world has been a cultural phenomenon and has no place in a truly spiritual path. May all beings be happy and free.	1377
Bernd ~ Solingen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1378
Shari Naismith ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Zen Equal rights for spiritual worship.	1379
Catherine Nguyen ~ Washington, DC, United States ~ undeclared	1380
Hana Hanibalova ~ Prague, Czech Republic ~ Theravada other	1381
Nelson Santini ~ New York, United States ~ undeclared	1382
Liselotte LENZ ~ Munic, Germany ~ Theravada other I cannot understand, that bikkhunis are still "a problem" for certain monks/men! Where do they find foundation in the dhamma ???	1383
Peter Uremovic ~ Chicago, United States ~ undeclared	1384
Lama Sönam Lhündrup ~ Biollet, France ~ Tibetan I am really touched and sorry to hear that this expulsion has happened and from my whole heart ask all sangha members to reinvestigate the question so that nuns and monks can finally be on equality terms as the Buddha himself would certainly have preferred if the time in India had been ripe. It is ripe now in this world of great strive!	1385
Michael Pantaleoni ~ United States ~ Zen	1386
Anonymous ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada other	1387
Gayle Markow ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada other	1388
Ursula Baatz ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Zen	1389
Ilsa Evans ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ non-Buddhist	1390

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Nicky Baruch ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen

1391

■ If Buddhism is the practice of humility, acceptance and the understanding that we are all connected, I would urge all who persist in practices of separatism to revisit the basic tenets of their faith.

Eric Ménard ~ France ~ Theravada other

1392

Susanne Steinhusen ~ Freiburg, Germany ~ Theravada other

1393

Christian Schultz ~ Freiburg, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1394

Hadas Rin ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1395

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Zen

1396

■ This grave, human rights failure to recognize the legitimacy of the Bikkhuni sangha is leading to a new kind of cyber violence. My computer was harmed by a malicious virus simply by visiting a Bhikkunhi web site that had been compromised. We stop the violence and uphold the FOURfold sangha that Buddha established.

Franziska Siegenthaler ~ Switzerland ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1397

P. J. Siegl ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared

1398

Alena Kusa ~ Bratislava, Slovakia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1399

Anonymous ~ Leeds, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1400

Anonymous ~ Norfolk Island ~ Theravada other

1401

Melinda Rand-Kenefic ~ albuquerque, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1402

Nick Downing ~ Hitchin, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1403

KATE LUNGER ~ LONDON, United Kingdom ~ Zen

1404

Janet Lironi ~ Gabriola Island BC, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1405

■ May your hearts be open and compassionate, may your minds be clear and open... may we all work toward the alleviation of discord and suffering.

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Stephanie Tate ~ san jose, United States ~ Theravada other

1406

It is not just as a woman but as a human, who has dedicated a life to the Dharma, please stop marginalizing such an important part of our population. Our lineage and for the continuing growth of Buddhism in the west this is an important issue to be reconsidered.

In consideration of the Buddha's words, you do have the ability to let go of lesser rules. Please let go of fixed views based on gender. We are supposed to be a four corner Sangha. Today we are only three. For the health of fostering all corners, the health of our lineage, I urge you to deeply and thoughtfully reconsider the current stance.

Metta,
Stephanie

René Scheibel ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1407

Thank you to the organisers of this petition.

Everything else is stated in this petition.

Susanne Mackey ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1408

To deny the existence of half of the whole is to deny your self. To embrace and to love all as it should be is to live with grace, dignity and light.

Alfred Kaszniak ~ Tucson, United States ~ Zen

1409

Christa Beal ~ Taunton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1410

Karen Clausen ~ United States ~ Buddhist

1411

Julie Schlein ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1412

I support these ordinations and am impressed with Ajahn Brahm, a true Buddhist.....I have been moving away from the patriarchal structure for years now, even as I hold onto my love of the Buddha and his teachings.....it has been hard and I am heartened by the openness engendered by this conflict.....

Anonymous ~ Denmark ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1413

Alan Cossitt ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1414

Louise Southerden ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Zen

1415

Hilary Denholm ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist

1416

Anne De Moor ~ Torbryan, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

1417

Mark D. Wise ~ United States ~ Zen

1418

Sandra Davis ~ United States ~ Tibetan

1419

From a Buddhist point of view, men and women are equal... HH 17th Karmapa

Mary Miller ~ Seattle, United States ~ Theravada other

1420

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Wayne Lee ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Buddhist	1421
<div></div> Please give women the same rights as men. No exceptions.	<div></div>
Merna Tesarski ~ Calgary, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1422
<div></div> Metta to all of us. may this be solved according to the heart of what the Buddha taught.	<div></div>
Dheerayupa Sukonthapanthu ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1423
<div></div> We will see only what we want to see... When one starts with the attitude that bhikkhuni ordination cannot be done, one will limit one's view and thus research. Please all the male monks of all Theravadan traditions open your heart and search for ways to give back to women what the Buddha did give them over 2,500 years ago.	<div></div>
Chon Chee Keong ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	1424
<div></div>	<div></div>
Phyllis Montgomery ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1425
<div></div>	<div></div>
Roberta Learner ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist	1426
<div></div>	<div></div>
Barbara McHugh ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1427
<div></div>	<div></div>
Pej ~ North York, Canada ~ Zen	1428
<div></div>	<div></div>
Mark Antony Heath ~ Mexico City, Mexico ~ Theravada other	1429
<div></div>	<div></div>
Pierre Zakarauskas ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1430
<div></div>	<div></div>
Rukshan Abeyaratne ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ undeclared	1431
<div></div>	<div></div>
Suresh Matta ~ Perth, Australia ~ non-Buddhist	1432
<div></div> Yes I support of Bhikkhuni ordination and gender equality in the Forest Sangha.	<div></div>
Pan Shixuan ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1433
<div></div>	<div></div>
Ango Neil Heidrich ~ Ann Arbor, United States ~ Zen	1434
<div></div>	<div></div>
Susan Barber ~ Alameda, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1435
<div></div>	<div></div>
Robin Chan Tuck Wai ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Mahayana other	1436
<div></div> If the Forest Sangha does not ordain Nun, why should we be "attached" to them. The Buddha taught about non-self and impermanence. This too shall pass.	<div></div>
Anonymous ~ Canada ~ Theravada other	1437
<div></div>	<div></div>
Minako Sato ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	1438
<div></div>	<div></div>

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Danielle Montgomery ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Tibetan	1439
Anonymous ~ Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	1440
Jeannine Davies ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada other	1441
M Teoh ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	1442
Erin Evans ~ Australia ~ undeclared	1443
Sandra Newhouse, Ph.D. ~ Charlottesville, Virginia, United States ~ Tibetan	1444
Sock Gee Gan ~ Canada ~ Buddhist	1445
Tan Hui Cheng ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Tibetan	1446
Mr.Boon Chom Suvanpratum ~ Jitra,Kbg.Pasu,Kedah, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1447
I'm requesting to all Buddhist in this world to considering and understanding to the real teaching of our beloved Buddha and followers for harmony and get unite for the Buddhist world. God Blessed	
Anonymous ~ Qualicum Beach, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1448
Please help to bring about equality and end the ongoing discrimination against women in this tradition. Metta.	
Zeldon Ribeiro ~ Sao Paulo, Brazil ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1449
Sheila Squillante ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist	1450
Jessica Albrow ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1451
Kevin Durkin ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1452
Amy EHead ~ New York, United States ~ Tibetan	1453
It is most important that equality be established in the monastic and nuns orders. What purpose does this inequality serve in terms of protecting and promoting the Dharma? If you want a strong vibrant sangha into the future you must address these issues now. I hope you will consider this request with open heart. Sincerely, Amy	
Sherry Brenner ~ United States ~ Zen	1454

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Eva Papadopoulo ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Tibetan	1455
Tammy Yeoh ~ perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1456
Thank you Ajahn Brahm, Bhikkhu Sujanto and all Sangha of Bodhinyana Monastery for making it possible for women of today & future, to be given the chance to practise further as a Bhikkhuni. Sadhu Sadhu Sadhu.	
Mat Witts ~ lower moor, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	1457
Richard Chua ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1458
Palmer Kanshin Ward ~ Pt Pleasant, PA, United States ~ Zen	1459
There is no separation that can be made, so how can one create one?	
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1460
Magdalena Ekdahl ~ Perth, Ballajura, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1461
Please.	
Analeya ~ Chung-Li, Taiwan ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1462
Teoh Ren Shang ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1463
An-Chi Chang ~ China ~ undeclared	1464
Lael Ambrose ~ la selva beach, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1465
Anne Murphy ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1466
Women have the right just as men do to seek enlightenment and live a monastic life to fulfill that wish. We are all souls, sentient human beings seeking relief from suffering and in light of the bodhisattva vow everyone (men or women) should be given every opportunity to live the Buddhist way.	
Nina L. Scalora ~ Taos, NM, United States ~ Theravada other	1467
Please open this tradition to women.	
Coralie Kronenberg ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1468
Scott Van Nostrand ~ United States ~ Buddhist	1469
Katy O'Neill ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1470
Mahapajapati Gotami	
Sandra D. Lee ~ Vallejo, United States ~ Zen	1471
Waruna Weerasekera ~ New Zealand ~ undeclared	1472

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Reuven ~ Taiwan ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1473
Santa Aloï ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1474
Des Kahn ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1475
If impermanence is paramount, then gender is irrelevant. Stop emulating the narrow-minded fundamental Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions in regard to the status of women	
Bodhitan ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Mahayana other	1476
Instead of squabbling over this Bhikkhuni ordination, should not more energy be focused on spreading Buddhadharma worldwide and helping followers to address their sufferings.	
The most important aspect is intention. If we can have highly motivated Bhikkhunis transmitting the Dharma and helping others, then, we should view it as a skilful means to achieve that purpose.	
I think current modern environment really calls for more expediency than sticking to rigid rules and rituals!	
May wisdom prevail and metta.	
bodhitan	
Steve Simpson ~ Australia ~ Theravada other	1477
Benjamin Brady ~ Bristol, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1478
I'm not a Buddhist nor do i know a whole lot about Buddhism but listening to talks gives me an inner peace that lets me pass on to everyone i meet on the this side of the world ; theres a lot of things that I'm ignorant on but i know a good person when I see one	
John Seed ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1479
Paul ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1480
Jennifer L ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada other	1481
Edward ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Buddhist	1482
Equality for all.	
Dan Holmes ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada other	1483
May we let go of limiting ideas and accept and assist all sincere practitioners. Anjali.	
Maria Straatmann ~ Inverness, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1484
SHAWNEE SMITH ~ Venice, United States ~ Theravada other	1485
Guy Craft ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1486
May the Four-Fold Sangha prosper for a long time to come!	
Molly Keys ~ Seattle, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1487
Nipon Rintanalert ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Buddhist	1488

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Maggie Norton ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1489
Ruth Hayes ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1490
Jessica ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition GO BHIKKHUNIS! YEAH!	1491
Suki Tasire ~ White Rock, Canada ~ Tibetan i took bhikkhuni ordination in the vietnamese tradition, together with a 'forest' nun from germany and many other western tibetan nuns from all over the world. it was a wonderful experience, never the less, it would have been great if we were all able to take bhikkhuni ordinations in our own traditions, regardless of what tradition we belong to. i congratulate Bhikkhu Ajahn Brahm for his courageous action and wish the new bhikkhunis a life of devotion, discovery and enlightenment.	1492
Dianne Brubaker ~ North Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1493
Charles Jesudasan ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1494
Anonymous ~ Israel ~ Buddhist	1495
David Giannini ~ Santa Cruz, CA, United States ~ Buddhist	1496
Shari Gent ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1497
Karl Ross ~ Australia ~ non-Buddhist	1498
Barbara Thibeault ~ East Lansing, United States ~ undeclared	1499
J Knoke ~ Germany ~ non-Buddhist	1500
Gen Mangan ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition Buddhism needs to reflect wisdom in it's selection process so that those chosen are demonstrating spiritual qualities suited to ordination. These deeper spiritual qualities transcend the surface qualities of gender.	1501
Anonymous ~ Rangoon, Myanmar ~ Theravada other	1502
Ryan Miller ~ Lantana, FL, United States ~ undeclared	1503
Robert Mueller, MD ~ Aptos, United States ~ Tibetan All of us have the potential to realize the cessation of suffering and to work to benefit others, regardless of gender. May the ordained sangha grow to help all of us in the great work.	1504
Mark Dilley ~ Portland, United States ~ undeclared I have much respect for Buddhism and at the same time I am highly distressed at the roles it keeps women in. Please take steps to rectify this.	1505

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jessica Thomas ~ United States ~ Buddhist	1506
Ksn Rong Hui ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1507
Tan Kah Tee ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1508
Monika Hubler ~ Muttenz, Switzerland ~ Theravada Forest tradition Practicing the Theravadan Forest tradition since 11 years, beeing a woman and and believing, that the buddha never made a difference between man and woman. It would be a successful development and a global contribution in religious equalization between man and woman	1509
Rebekah Laros ~ MiLL Valley, United States ~ Theravada other	1510
Ronald Ames ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition Thank you for your efforts to end sexism in all it's forms.	1511
Gavin Milne ~ Newton Abbot, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	1512
Gawaine Powell Davies ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared	1513
Gerhard Weißgrab ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Buddhist	1514
Irena Opacak ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1515
Lakshmi Jayasekera ~ Kandy, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other I wish this Bhikkuni sangha rift to be resolved soon. I fully support the Bhikkuni ordination. After all this is something Lord Buddha established 2500 years ago and therefore how can we go against it.	1516
Dr. Ulrike Pastner ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Theravada other This initiative is great. Gender inequality in the 21 th century is embarrassing and not to follow. With love all disputes will come to a good end. So there is still a need of practise in this direction. With all my hope and appreciation.	1517
Jerry Conner ~ Sacramento, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I defer to Chatsumarn Kabilsingh (Dhammananda Bhikkhuni) on this very important matter.	1518
Stephanie Mertens ~ Unterdietfurt, Germany ~ Theravada other	1519
Katie Enders ~ Winchester, VA, United States ~ Theravada other	1520
Bhikshuni Jampa Tsedroen ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1521
Poto ~ Cincinnati, United States ~ Buddhist I would like to express my full support for the Bhikkhunis. It's good to see new Bhikkhunis being ordained, and I wish them the very best.	1522

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Clermont FD, France ~ Tibetan	1523
Venerable Yanatharo, Ajahn Jose ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1524
I will be happy to travel anywhere to be in the ordination of bhikunis or preceptor. Ajahn Jose	
Baumann ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	1525
Hannes Huber ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Theravada other	1526
Paul O'Berry ~ Redondo Beach, United States ~ undeclared	1527
DavidBloor ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other	1528
Lord Buddha as some people refer to him as ordained his own mother or "wet nurse" after she threw dust over herself in order to confirm her determination to go forth. One would may presumed that the debate over Bikkhuni ordination was well and truly "done and dusted" since that momentous occasion 2500+ years ago. It dissapoints me somewhat to hear that to ordain or not ordain Bikkhunis is still alive in this current era. Ajahn Bramavamso is to be respected and regaled for takking what some might refer to as unilateral action by his recent ordination ceremony at Bodhinyana Monastery. Lets all strive to make gender discrimination history. Thankyou	
Emily Rayson ~ Kalgoorlie, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1529
Claus-D.Blessmann ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1530
Donna Lavelle ~ newcastle, Australia ~ Theravada other	1531
Rainer Künzi ~ Switzerland ~ Theravada other	1532
Maskow ~ Lüneburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1533
Ai Ling Lim ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1534
Damian Han ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Mahayana other	1535
Kaevin ~ Singapore ~ Theravada other	1536
Phra Paisal Visalo ~ Chaiyaphum, Thailand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1537
Michael Schoenauer ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1538
Helen Hancke ~ Faro, Portugal ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1539

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Michael Schmidt ~ 31711 Luhden, Germany ~ Theravada other	1540
<div></div> Frauen sind gegenüber den Männern in allen Bereichen gleichberechtigt zu behandeln.	<div></div>
Bo Schafers ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1541
<div></div>	<div></div>
Kelvin Wong ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Zen	1542
<div></div> I totally support the ordination of women within any Buddhist tradition.	<div></div>
Magda Zon ~ london, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1543
<div></div>	<div></div>
Hans - Joachim Schumann ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	1544
<div></div>	<div></div>
Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	1545
<div></div>	<div></div>
Anjani Karunaratne ~ Kandy, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1546
<div></div>	<div></div>
Manfred Meyer ~ Lippetal, Germany ~ Buddhist	1547
<div></div>	<div></div>
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	1548
<div></div>	<div></div>
Sarah Cameron ~ Australia ~ Buddhist	1549
<div></div>	<div></div>
Guptila De Silva ~ Canberra, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1550
<div></div> As a Buddhist lay person, I respectfully request that the English Sangha and Sangha of WPP explicitly state whether they agree in principle that women should be allowed to gain higher ordination. Everything else is including the legality or otherwise of the bhikkhuni ordinations is irrelevant. Please be honest and I will respect you for your honesty.	<div></div>
Gabriele Hendricks ~ 33014 Bad Driburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1551
<div></div>	<div></div>
Susan Poloway ~ carlsbad, United States ~ undeclared	1552
<div></div>	<div></div>
Johannes Pelzel ~ Mannheim, Germany ~ Buddhist	1553
<div></div>	<div></div>
Anonymous ~ hohenau, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1554
<div></div>	<div></div>
T Crosbie ~ Japan ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1555
<div></div>	<div></div>
PunnaWong ~ JB, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	1556
<div></div>	<div></div>
Linda Feldstein ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Tibetan	1557
<div></div> I have been a female, lay, practitioner for 40 years. The Dharma does not discriminate or manifest favouritism...nor should the communities of dedicated practitioners.	<div></div>

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Heng-ching Shih ~ Taipei, Taiwan ~ Mahayana other

1558

Volker Junge ~ Reinbek, Germany ~ Buddhist

1559

The followers of the Buddha are building only one fourfold sangha. Especially there is a living tradition of bhikkhunis from China. So please let every man or woman live a life as a bhikkhu or bhikkuni who wants to follow the Buddha in this way. What do you think would the Buddha think, say and do? He did allow the bhikkhuni ordination!

sarvamangalam

Shirley McDonald ~ Maidstone, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1560

Saliya Mudannayake ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1561

Venerable Elders and Bikkus Sangha,

Please get back to the basics.

With metta,

Saliya

Patsy Glover ~ gloucestershire, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1562

Nicole ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1563

Roger Stalder ~ Weinfelden, Switzerland ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1564

Marie Schofield ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

1565

Françoise Bassand ~ Zürich, Switzerland ~ Buddhist

1566

Marie-Pierre CLERET ~ NEWTOWN, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

1567

On the spiritual path, whatever that may be, there is no place for discrimination on any grounds. And certainly not in Buddhism of all places! Equality for seekers of every background please!

Patricia Yih Shyuan Tan ~ perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1568

Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

1569

Thorsten Grigat ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

1570

Though there are two kind of sexes

There is only one kind of Buddha Nature.

Anonymous ~ Malaysia ~ Buddhist

1571

Volker Wortmann ~ Oberhausen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1572

Kai Hamdorf ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

1573

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Schulte-Wülwer ~ berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	1574
Kelsang Jorlam ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared	1575
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1576
Reinhard Türk ~ Mechernich, Germany ~ Tibetan	1577
I would like to request to answer my question: Out of which concern the Venerable Elders have decided, that the ordination of bikkshunis is not to be supported?	
Noon ~ hemel hemostead, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1578
Anonymous ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	1579
Tan Jin Tuan ~ Ipoh, Malaysia ~ Buddhist	1580
we are now no more living in medieval times! Buddhism can only progress and spread if it keeps up with the times.	
Louise Hopkins ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1581
Davy Matthyssens ~ Antwerp, Belgium ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1582
Linda Blanchard ~ Midland, TX, United States ~ Buddhist	1583
Mike Lowe ~ West Kirby, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1584
Sabrina Peh ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1585
Sandra White ~ apeldoorn, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	1586
Tan Kwang Wei ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1587
I sincerely hope that the Venerables could use compassion, tolerance and understanding as the guiding principles in this saga and not be bogged down by too much rules and traditions. Lord Buddha had taught us not to be engrossed in rites and rituals. Hopefully, wisdom and kindness could prevail. Sadhu!	
Anonymous ~ Singapore ~ undeclared	1588
Wynn Seishin Wright ~ McDonough, GA, United States ~ Zen	1589
Michael Kelly ~ Harper Woods, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1590
Any soul which seeks to serve and love is a treasure to be nurtured by the coimmunity to which they are a gift. I truely pray that the community of those who seek truth by folllwing the path of the buddha will come to accept the gift being offered.	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Wendi Sargent ~ Seattle, United States ~ undeclared I firmly believe that gender should have no barrier on ordination-	1591
Tan Jui HHorng ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada other	1592
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1593
Lena Seah Shuling ~ singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1594
Rocky Roberts ~ Denton, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1595
Katie Jackson ~ Northumberland, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1596
Veta Jacquilin ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1597
Elaine Petrucci ~ South Africa ~ Buddhist Calling for gender equality	1598
Brian Burke ~ Pittsburgh, United States ~ Theravada other Fight the power fight the powers that be -public enemy	1599
Andrew Ng ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1600
Angela Sumegi ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Tibetan	1601
Alex Chen Jincal ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared	1602
Kate Booth ~ Longmont, United States ~ Zen Great teachings arise from wise and enlightened beings. Gender need not be a barrier.	1603
Henry Yeo ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist I strongly support this petition.	1604
Ming Cassim4342445 ~ Perth, W.A., Australia ~ Theravada other	1605
Shannon Sng ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1606
Shirley Yeo ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist I strongly support this petition.	1607

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Hansen Edda/Choying Wangmo ~ WESTERLAND-Sylt, Germany ~ Tibetan	1608
<div></div> thousands of tashi delek and success to all of YOU- world -wide!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	<div></div>
Ruth Q. Leibowitz ~ Portland, United States ~ undeclared	1609
<div></div>	<div></div>
Elizabeth Bryant ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1610
<div></div>	<div></div>
QUEK Cher Ping ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1611
<div></div> Monkhood should not be limited to the male gender.	<div></div>
Belinda Ang ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1612
<div></div> Even though I'm only starting to learn more on Buddhism in depth just starting from this year, as far as I know, Buddha's teachings does not convey a tinge of discrimination, be it gender, race, caste etc. Everyone is equal in the eyes of Buddha and hence I believe the equality should prevail in Sangha as well. We are supposed to treat each other with respect, compassion regardless of our differences in any aspect.	<div></div>
Samantha ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1613
<div></div>	<div></div>
Michaela Doepke ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan	1614
<div></div>	<div></div>
Mary L Nicoletti ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1615
<div></div>	<div></div>
Yong Jie An ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada other	1616
<div></div>	<div></div>
Catrin Pichler ~ herzogsdorf, Austria ~ Tibetan	1617
<div></div> With a deep trust in your innate wisdom and compassion I hope from deep of my heart that the equality of nuns and monks will be realised in all the different traditions of Buddhism in order to create a better future for all beings! Sarva mangalam!	<div></div>
Shiriley VanAbbema ~ Cincinnati, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1618
<div></div>	<div></div>
Dietmar Mokry ~ herzogsdorf, Austria ~ Tibetan	1619
<div></div>	<div></div>
Joshua Summers ~ Boston, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1620
<div></div> Please consider and honor these requests. I've been a student of the Forest monks for years, and I'm utterly baffled by the systemic intransigency on this issue. It's time to change! Deepest respect, Josh	<div></div>
Rachel Toh ~ singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1621
<div></div> Heartfelt thanks to a great teacher, Ajahn Brahm. Thanks for being so compassionate and kind.	<div></div>
April Theod ~ United States ~ Theravada other	1622
<div></div>	<div></div>

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Elizabeth Hunter ~ United States ~ undeclared	1623
Yann Lovelock ~ Birmingham, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	1624
Beate Zweytick ~ Graz, Austria ~ Tibetan	1625
Anonymous ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist The teachings of this lineage has inspired many, and I am very grateful to learn from the many great Ajahns. I hope that the issues can be resolved peacefully in the spirit of following the Dhamma-Vinaya as guidance. May all the participating abbots be well and happy, and walk their paths towards Enlightenment.	1626
Amy Gutman ~ Cambridge, MA, United States ~ Theravada other	1627
Romana Halbig ~ gramastetten, Austria ~ Buddhist	1628
Edelgard Müller ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1629
Linda Tennant ~ Seattle, WA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1630
Ulrike Holzer ~ Graz, Austria ~ Tibetan	1631
Andrea Apachou ~ Graz, Austria ~ Tibetan	1632
Gabriele Burkert ~ Detmold, Germany ~ Tibetan	1633
Elmar Scheiwiller ~ Ittigen, Switzerland ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1634
Richter, Sebastian ~ Rottenmann, Austria ~ undeclared	1635
Cornelia Horn ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1636
Jayson Goh ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition Apply Wisdom, Peace and Compassion in all things we do. Reflect with Wisdom, Peace and Compassion in all things we have done. Be humble. Be at peace. Purify the Mind and all actions follow.	1637
Axel Brintzinger ~ Dresden, Germany ~ Tibetan	1638

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Paul Hunn ~ Weymouth, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1639

Disallowing the ordination of women into the Sangha is against the spirit of buddhism. The Buddha himself ordained nuns. I'm totally with Ajahn Brahm and give him my full support. His talks have really enriched my life and got me through some really hard times.

With Metta

Paul

Anonymous ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Tibetan

1640

Anonymous ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Tibetan

1641

Gayani Ganegoda ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Buddhist

1642

I support Bhikkhuni ordination because of the following reasons,

1. It is a sin to prevent another(male or female) sila from following the noble path, specially someone with an aspiration to join the order to attain nibbana or to practice a higher sila
2. We are following the steps of Lord Buddha. The Blessed One had given the consent after considering Venerable Ananda's appeal
3. Although we represent different communities like Thai, Burmese, Sri Lankan or Australian we are here for a common purpose. We should thank Indians for allowing us to join the Buddhist community without any discrimination. Why can't we be impartial to the gender problem as well?
4. If a female can be a mother to a male, why can't she join the order for her liberation just like her son? Why can't the venerable sons of the Buddha who are opposing this consider these females as mothers and sisters? At least out of gratitude which is the first lesson of Lord Buddha.
5. Other religious groups can highlight these disputes and discrimination to win people.
6. Finally our kamma will follow like a shadow. A male in this birth can be a female in another birth. I read in a Jathaka Story that even Venerable Ananda had to suffer as a female in a previous birth due to a sin

With Metta

Manfred Wiesberger ~ Haar, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1643

Manuela Klesy ~ 76829 Landau, Germany ~ Tibetan

1644

Kate Livingstone ~ Belfast, Ireland ~ Tibetan

1645

David Percial ~ United States ~ Mahayana other

1646

Jean Gier ~ Castroville, CA, United States ~ Theravada other

1647

Renate Seifarth ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other

1648

Taylor David Sundheim ~ chicago, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1649

let the true dhamma...true nature...true heart shine forth,,,not out of fear..but out of compassion to let all be all they can be...so they can fully let go

Shanna Landry ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist

1650

Sydney Gressel ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Buddhist

1651

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Bryan Buss ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ undeclared	1652
Anonymous ~ Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada ~ Buddhist	1653
Anonymous ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Tibetan	1654
Anna Caplan ~ St Andrews, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1655
Marion Frauenglas ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Tibetan	1656
Aleksandrs Apinis ~ Riga, Latvia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1657
Chasu Nina Alviar ~ Missoula, United States ~ Zen	1658
Mary Macgregor ~ evansville indiana, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1659
Nate Hribar ~ Boston, United States ~ Zen	1660
Barbara Dietz-Waschkowski ~ D-79104 Freiburg, Germany ~ Theravada other	1661
Anonymous ~ Bloomsburg, PA, United States ~ Theravada other In this day & age , I am surprised there is gender inequality.	1662
Dr. Ruth Richards ~ Berkeley, CA, United States ~ Tibetan We all have Buddha nature. We all have the potential for great growth and to spread the dharma, to help countless others. When we are reborn, we may be male, we may be female. There have been great realized masters in a female body. All nuns should have available the option of ordination, not just for them but for the benefit of all beings. With thanks for creating this petition, Ruth Richards	1663
Jason Green ~ Vaerloese, Denmark ~ Theravada Forest tradition Shocked and disappointed at this illogical decision.	1664
Clemens Ziegler ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Zen	1665
Nina Hayes ~ United States ~ undeclared	1666
Malaika Tabors ~ United States ~ Buddhist	1667
Diana Panita Vernooij ~ Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ Theravada other Having received temporarily ordination from Ven. Dhammananda in Nakhonpathom, Thailand, april 2009 - I do request you urgently to reconsider bhikkhuni ordination for women as a means to enrich the 4fold sangha.	1668

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Xaver Loehner ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1669
Mary E. Paolino ~ East Greenwich, United States ~ Zen	1670
Koho Vince Cousino Anila ~ Detroit, United States ~ Zen	1671
Linda Trenholm ~ San Anselmo, United States ~ Buddhist You are totally missing belief in your own teachings if you avoid inclusiveness due to gender. Please reconsider. Many Blessings	1672
Eilish Bouchier ~ Australia ~ non-Buddhist	1673
Matthew Jee ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other Compassion. Meditate upon it.	1674
Stuart Spoard ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared	1675
Anonymous ~ Boston, United States ~ undeclared	1676
Francis Deas ~ Melksham, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan The pain that is caused when when people are treated unequally has transgenerational consequences . please ensure a return to the DO NO HARM principles that underlie all spiritual integrity.	1677
Amanda Gibson ~ Lake Macquarie, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1678
Rachel ~ Hoabrt, Australia ~ Theravada other	1679
Ross Ulibarri ~ el prado, United States ~ Zen Strange, that the teachings showing all of us to be connected, don't seem to apply to women. It is disappointing that Buddhist practioners could possibly have such views. It literally weakens my faith in the value of practice.	1680
Marjolein Mabelis ~ Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ undeclared	1681
Kathleen Cunningham ~ United States ~ Tibetan	1682
Barrie Warren ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1683
Max Tromayer ~ Austria ~ Theravada Forest tradition I' would also like to add that I don't feel very good about what I've heard about the way Ven. Ajahn Sujato from Santi Forest Monastery was and is treated by WPP and senior members of the western forest sangha, mainly because of his activities surrounding Bhikkhuni ordination. ASFAIK he and Santi Forest Monastery were expelled in a way similar to what happened to Ajahn Brahm and Bodhinyana.	1684
Dagmar Alexyova ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Tibetan	1685

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Chandrani Piyasena ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Buddhist	1686
Sara Sacksteder ~ Fairfax, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1687
Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	1688
Moh Lai Jing ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1689
Joan Annsfire ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada other	1690
Bojan Pirih ~ Ljubljana, Slovenia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1691
Rebecca Thielen ~ Minneapolis, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1692
Lee Li Ming ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition I fully support the Bhikkhuni ordination. I do not understand the reasons of the Wat Nong Pah Pong Sangha for expelling Ajahn Brahm and his monastery. Where is the Compassion that Buddhism is supposed to preach. Are the nuns not capable of doing the same work as the monks.	1693
Bouttavong Daly ~ Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic ~ Theravada Forest tradition GO!	1694
Nola Frost ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1695
Patricia Lim ~ Australia ~ Theravada other	1696
Jackie Reiter ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1697
Mark Minford ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition As a former lay meditator at Amaravati, i am saddened to hear about the discrimination and sanctions taken against bhiikkunis in Australia. I am hopeful that a more compassionate approach will prevail. If not, I will consider practising Buddhism in another (more sympathetic) tradition.	1698
Enrick Hoh ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist Buddhism is like a glass of crystal clear water..buddhism never discriminate and only benefit all beings who realize the need to be enlightened.. Ajahn Bramh shows us whats more important in true practice.."opening the door of his heart for all" and most importantly helping us to realize, to unlock our own little heart to embrace great and unconditional Love. Lets us open the door of our heart..to accept ourself and others..and giving and receiving boundless Love ...Triple Gem be with all:O)	1699
Cathryn Khoo ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada other All humans are equal regardless of gender	1700
Anonymous ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1701

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Rattanawan Rattakul ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1702
I've opened the door of my heart to embrace Bhikkuni ordination. Personally, I am a devoted Buddhist but only started to practice Vipassana for less than a year. Although I do not see myself to be ordained as Bhikkuni, I, however, feel that those who could practise the Vinaya and the austere precepts of Bhikkuni should be allowed and supported to do so. I wish for all to focus on the outcome, not the process, and may Metta be rekindled in all hearts.	
Aruna Jayasekera ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1703
I ' am very sad and dissapointed about the expulsion of Ven Ajahn Braham from the forest sanga community. Hope there will be an opportunity to discuss this issue again and settled this amicably. We all must act with a lot of restrain as I believe that dividing Sanga is one of the 5 GREATEST BAD KARMA. Lets not get into this BAD KARMA even unintentionally.	
Georgia Carr ~ Richmond, United States ~ Tibetan	1704
Stephen Harrington ~ Cambridge, United States ~ undeclared	1705
David Asselstine ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1706
Siriporn Soongpankhao ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1707
I support the revival of Bhikkuni.	
Tran Nham ~ Long Beach, United States ~ Buddhist	1708
There must ne equality, for spirits can not be regulated by such a temporal and physical thing as gender. This inequality does not speak of spiritual growth.	
Phil Buckley ~ Perth, Austria ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1709
Crystal ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ non-Buddhist	1710
Jeff ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared	1711
Kaye Gartner ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1712
I am disheartened when I realise that our senior teachers and role models inhibit the spiritual progress of women.	
Dana Busch ~ Cambridge, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1713
Very disturbing news. I hope to hear soon that female monastics are treated with equality and respect in the Theravada tradition.	
Fred Herman ~ Albuquerque, NM, United States ~ Theravada other	1714
disgraceful, it's time for these constricting views and opinions to be set free!	
Matthew Holding ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1715
Lois C. Fairchild ~ Rancho de Taos, NM 87557, United States ~ Buddhist	1716
Anonymous ~ singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1717

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Tan Jin Lee ~ Petaling Jaya, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1718

The Theravada Sanggha at WPP and the Ajahn Chah lineage worldwide that are against the ordination of bhikkunis need to think outside the box and act accordingly by accepting the LAW OF LIFE that whilst males can never bear children and only females can, in a like phenomenon, only males can become Buddhas but not females. That special dichotomy should not bar women from being ordained as bhikkunis and spread the Dhamma for the good of mankind.

How come there are bhikkunis in the Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions? Are they heathen deviationist groups to be ostracised and despised as has happened to Ajahn Brahm?

D'ont we always say " May all beings be well and happy" after a Dhamma lesson? What then are Theravada bhikkunis if they are also not beings? Even devils and ghosts are beings!

Tan Ching Wah ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist

1719

Buddhism does not discriminate against anyone just because of his or her difference in the anatomy or physiology. The important thing is the mental attitude.

Kathy Schwerin ~ Carson City, United States ~ Theravada other

1720

Patricia Wong ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ non-Buddhist

1721

Alison ~ Wellington, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1722

Hwayoung Kim ~ Tucson, AZ, United States ~ Theravada other

1723

Joie Warnock ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Tibetan

1724

Abhaya Kopka ~ Dixon, New Mexico, United States ~ Buddhist

1725

Mary Ann Whitehurst ~ Largo, Florida 33771, United States ~ Zen

1726

I fully support Bhikkhuni ordination and gender equality in the Forest Sangha.

Cassie Cammann ~ Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

1727

I am a senior teacher in Deep Spring Center, AA.

and the "Clerk of the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Also a Mother, Wife, Grandmother, and WOMAN.

As a religious leader and teacher of the Dharma, I am very saddened by the attitude of discrimination against women which seems simply archaic to me.

May you search your hearts and find there the wisdom to move beyond this self serving and limiting point of view.

Remember the second round of the noble eight fold path is in ULTIMATE not relative reality.

Ultimately we ALL may live and teach the Dharma.

Our Lives teach what we are.

"By their fruit ye shall know them".

In Love ever expanding,

Cassie Cammann

Jessica Goodkind ~ United States ~ Buddhist

1728

Guna Walter ~ Mississauga, Canada ~ Theravada other

1729

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Tomasz Ogledzki ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition Its the 21st century. Adjust to the times. :)	1730
Robert Brand ~ Chaam, Thailand ~ undeclared I think it's a shame that there's no ordination for Bhikkunis and that there's such inequality between the sexes. I believe that the Lord Buddha would have totally disapproved of this situation.	1731
Lim Tian Chye ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist Men & Women should be equal - they are free to choose what they can do to help fellow beings	1732
Tan SawTeen ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist I support Bikkhuni ordination. Thank you Ajahn Brahm for taking this stand. I have never understood why the discrimination between Bikkhuns and Bikkhunis.	1733
Elvina Melissa ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1734
Jason Merritt ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1735
Emma Corcoran ~ Navigators, Australia ~ Buddhist	1736
Chan Hong Guan ~ Singapore ~ Tibetan The bhikkhunis are part of the 4 fold sangha. They should be excluded from ordination. Please resolve this asap. We should have more trained sangha members touching more lives in this degenerate times.	1737
Wong Sheau Chi ~ Petaling Jaya, Malaysia ~ undeclared	1738
Samita Seneviratne ~ Placentia, United States ~ Theravada other	1739
Adeline Tan ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	1740
Anonymous ~ Mussoorie, India ~ Tibetan	1741
Jared Kennedy ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Tibetan	1742
E Lindstrom ~ Sidney, Canada ~ Tibetan	1743
Barry Kindersley ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Tibetan	1744
Ellen B. Parkinson ~ Dublin, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1745
The Howie Family ~ Seattle, United States ~ non-Buddhist	1746
A Horth ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ non-Buddhist	1747

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

C Schulz ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ non-Buddhist	1748
V Smith ~ Victoria, Canada ~ Buddhist	1749
Lasitha Wickramasinghe ~ Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	1750
Mukta Barua ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	1751
Julie Mador ~ New Zealand ~ undeclared	1752
Amita Schmidt ~ United States ~ Theravada other This is an unfortunate example of religion gone wrong, and forgetting about the essence of spirituality and lovingkindness.	1753
I. Janowski ~ sydney, Australia ~ undeclared	1754
Francisco Castro del Río ~ Palma de Mallorca, Spain ~ Theravada other	1755
Hlaing Myint ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1756
Ang Li Fern ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1757
Anonymous ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1758
Henry Baey ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition I fully support this petition and it is time that the Forest Sangha listen to its lay supporters and appreciate that time and social conditions, especially the role of women in our communities, has changed. If there can be women Presidents and Prime Ministers, why can't there be Bhikkhunis? We have listened and observe Ajahn Brahm for many years and he is without a doubt a Excellent Teacher and he has brought many many people I know into Buddhism, including myself. The expulsion of his monastery and him from the community of Thai Forest Monastery / Sangha is indeed a setback for the Thai Forest Tradition. It is shocking and unbelievable. He has brought many to appreciate this tradition of Ajahn Chah and be steadfast and practicing Buddhists. It seems that the Forest Sangha prefers to keep their heads in the clouds and not bothering with all the HARD and GOOD work Ajahn Brahm is doing for Buddhism in general and for the Forest Tradition of Ajahn Chah in particular. Shame on the monks who are filled with anger and illwill for such a noble, hardworking and well practised monk like Ajahn Brahm who actually walk the talk!	1759
Björn Natthiko Lindeblad ~ Falsterbo, Sweden ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1760
Wai Yin Chow ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Buddhist When I found out about the Bikkhuni Ordination in Australia, Mudita arose in me, a mere lay person. Surely something that arouses Mudita is something good?	1761
Lydia Pauls ~ Porta Westfalica, Germany ~ Tibetan	1762
Annabelle Zinser ~ 13467 Berlin, Germany ~ Zen	1763

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Patrick Munzer ~ Chicago, IL, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1764
Duminda Sumanasinghe ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada other	1765
Pauline Masila ~ nairobi, Kenya ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1766
Erik Knud-Hansen ~ Honaunau, HI, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1767
Lindy Booth ~ Bridgwater, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition Please stop this unholy discrimination!	1768
Malini Goonetilleke ~ Kandy, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	1769
Dr. Kai Romhardt ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Zen	1770
Piya Tan ~ Jurong, Singapore ~ Buddhist This is a time when I wish the Buddha were still living, as I am confident he would listen to us in his great compassion and wisdom.	1771
Trisha Nowland ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Tibetan	1772
Yuki Mori ~ Saitama, Japan ~ Buddhist I sing this petition on the hope that there will be a gender equality in the spirit of the Dhamma that the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha may find a healthy ground to grow and flourish in the world for the benefit of all beings.	1773
Janina Egert ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other the full ordination of women is necessary! Women should have the same possibilities and support in their spiritual development as men. Thank you Janina	1774
Joachim Hensel ~ Wiesbaden, Germany ~ Zen	1775
Heinrich, Gerhard ~ Goettingen, Germany ~ Mahayana other	1776
Dr. Bernhard Schiekel ~ Ulm, Germany ~ Mahayana other	1777
Mitchell Dalton ~ Morristown TN, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I fully support Ajahn Brahm and his decision.	1778
Anonymous ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1779
Nadine Plachta ~ Berne, Switzerland ~ Tibetan	1780

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Dr. Sylvia Kolk ~ 22765 Hamburg, Germany ~ Theravada other Dhammateacher, autorisiert durch Ayya Khema	1781
Bui Huu Tuong ~ Mönchengladbach, Germany ~ Mahayana other	1782
Bruno Lamberti ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition Equality Should be Sacrosanct in Religion! I can only applaud Ajahn Brahm for his courage in participating to the fully Bhikkhuni ordination in Western Australia.	1783
Sylvia Werner ~ 21709 Himmelpforten, Germany ~ Tibetan	1784
Jean Johnson ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1785
YEONG WEE CHAW ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition As Buddhists, we should always be Mindful and Observant of INNER SUBSTANCE NOT EXTERNAL FORM. We shouldn't be prejudiced against any being / soul in any form but rather, we SHOULD GIVE OUR FULLEST SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO HELP ANY BEING TO ATTAIN LIBERATION IF ONE IS FULLY COMMITTED AND FOLLOWS THE TEACHING OF THE LORD BUDDHA. Afterall, Every Being / Soul NEEDS and HAS THE RIGHT TO ATTAIN NIBBhana / LIBERATION. May the Triple Gems of the Lord Buddha, Dharma and Sangha be with EVERY being until they attain Nibbhana. Saaaaadhu, Saaaaaadhu, Saaaaaadhuuuuuuuuu.	1786
Rachel Arnold ~ Boston, United States ~ Theravada other	1787
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	1788
Anonymous ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1789
Kirsten Pietzsch ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1790
Monika Coenen ~ 53572 Unkel, Germany ~ Mahayana other	1791
Luong Quoc Huynh ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1792
Wolfgang I Waas ~ Innsbruck, Austria ~ Zen	1793
Franciska von Koch ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Theravada Forest tradition In this entire world we are moving to the ending of patriarchy which has been outdated and a misfortune for all of us humans. As long as it continues the inequality will bring an unbalanced world. It is high time all religious institutions take responsibility in this matter. And remember the Buddha Himself had fully ordained nuns in his Sangha! Wake up call here....	1794
Ron Mutton ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition Heartfelt thanks to Ajahn Brahm and Sujato for their wisdom in recognising the equality of ordination of monks and nuns. Congratulations to our newly ordained bhikkhunis. Your complementary wisdom can only enrich our practice	1795
Dharmajivana ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	1796

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Tim Smith ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ undeclared	1797
Fiona Maguire ~ Dunstable, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1798
Dr.Anusha Guruge ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Buddhist	1799
Samantha Ross ~ United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	1800
Simon McQueen-Mason ~ York, United Kingdom ~ Zen	1801
Daniela Mieritz ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1802
Ouyporn Khuankaew ~ Chiang Mai, Thailand ~ Buddhist Thank you for working on the most important effort to reform (Thai) Theravadha Buddhism.	1803
[My practice: Engaged Buddhist activism]	
Ann Daniel ~ Lancaster, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	1804
Gabriele Fleckenstein ~ Krombach, Germany ~ Zen	1805
Marco Hinze ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	1806
Ingrid Rothkrug (Sr Bi Nghiem) ~ 51545 Waldbröl, Germany ~ Mahayana other Buddhist practice and discrimination do not go together. The full ordination of women has been carried out by the Buddha himself. Please, follow the inner Buddha and give full ordination to women. You can help or be in its way, but full ordination for women will come, there is no doubt about this. Peace to all brothers and sisters in the Dharma, peace to all beings.	1807
Stuart McLeod ~ Gillingham, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	1808
Barbara McIlhargey ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1809
Xilona Blanco ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	1810
Doshin Houtman ~ Tilburg, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	1811
Christine Eigner ~ vienna, Austria ~ Tibetan	1812
Wee Zhen Yang ~ Singapore ~ Theravada other	1813

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Lily Neu ~ Munich, Germany ~ Zen	1814
Claudia Mauti ~ Basel, Switzerland ~ Tibetan	1815
Andrea Huber ~ vienna, Austria ~ Theravada other	1816
Christiane Hackethal ~ Asbach, Germany ~ Buddhist	1817
Anonymous ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ undeclared	1818
Claudia Wieland ~ Salem-Tüfingen, Germany ~ Zen	1819
Gesa Rudolph-Stiefel ~ Lueneburg, Germany ~ Buddhist	1820
Rood ~ Breda, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	1821
Bernice Stones ~ Glasgow, United Kingdom ~ undeclared It is disheartening and disappointing to see the Buddha's teachings debased and misused in this way.	1822
Vajramala ~ Ueberlingen, Germany ~ Tibetan Dear Dharma brothers, if you refuse to give access to full ordination to women worldwide the Buddhist tradition will be regarded to be as intolerant as Islam by the public. Do you really want to risk this? Yours in the Dharma Vajramala President of the German Buddhist Union Acarya of the Buddhist Mission Hungary	1823
Andreas Engelhardt ~ Berlin, Germany ~ undeclared	1824
Donn R. Myers ~ Bradenton, Fla, United States ~ Zen	1825
Angelika Dusie ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan	1826
Anonymous ~ Canada ~ Zen	1827
Gabriel Mizan ~ South Africa ~ undeclared	1828
Rizzi ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1829

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Dorin Genpo H. R. Döring ~ Augsburg, Germany ~ Zen	1830
<input type="checkbox"/> Stop discrimination now!!	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandy Lim ~ Singapore ~ undeclared	1831
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandra Bonin (Vihanasari) ~ United States ~ Buddhist	1832
<input type="checkbox"/> I agree wholeheartedly with the requests in this petition.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weidkuhn ~ Dinkelscherben, Germany ~ Zen	1833
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tenshin P. Buhlig ~ Welden, Germany ~ Zen	1834
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suvaco Bhikkhu ~ Hartridge Buddhist Monastery, Devon, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1835
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ven.Santitthito Mahathera ~ Wedderburn 2560, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1836
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Work Ajahn Brahm certainly good that you have made a start of full Ordination of Women in the Theravada Tradition showing by action your compassion. As you have made it happen it should be continued when faithful and committed Women seek Ordination in Theravada training and are sincerely practising Buddhas Way. It is long overdue and finally it has happen in such an proper Way my Congratulation you have my full support we need the participation of serious practising and spiritual Minded Women especially here in the western world . South Asian Countrys could learn something from your coragios action and in future and right now many faithful person will be encorage of the example and practice of truly spiritual persons in this world showing the Way and Light of Buddhas Wisdom. With Kindness and an open heart my sincerely congratulation and friendship in Buddhas Way may you all prosper along the Light of Wisdom. Ven.SANTITTHITO MAHATHERA!!!	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schnittke ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1837
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Konstantin ~ Düsseldorf, Germany ~ Zen	1838
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dieter.Kratzer ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1839
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anonymous ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1840
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anonymous ~ Duisburg, Germany ~ Zen	1841
<input type="checkbox"/> ...all people are equal, this includes the question of gender...	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ooi Seng Wooi ~ Singapore ~ Zen	1842
<input type="checkbox"/> I support Bhikkhuni ordination.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lydia Staniland ~ United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist	1843
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roland Peters ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	1844
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ven.Santitthito Mahathera ~ Wedderburn 2560, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1845
<p>Confratulation for this Compassionate action and the proper way in which you have conducted the Ordination of Women in Theravada Tradition. Certainly disagree with the extrem action which some South Asian members of the Sangha have taken the should look up to the western sangha which have taken what was long overdiue in theravada countrys and may in future look up to the courage and snicerity faithful and spiritual minded individuals have shown when practising the Buddhas Way inspired by it Wisdom and practical way of cherishing the light the have received by practising what Monks and Follower of Buddhas Way have shared and learned to bring joy and easyness to human life..</p> <p>With Kindness and an open heart sincerely wishing the Sangha and practioners followers of buddhas way to prosper in manyfold ways may we all share the light of Wisdom through actions with clear Mind and open Heart in an selflessway for the good of all Humaqn who cherish a good life.</p> <p>Ven. Santitthito Mahathera !!!</p>	
Rosie Hitchins ~ Newmarket, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1846
Hope changes in love and peace	
Wanda Sluyter ~ Eindhoven, Netherlands ~ Zen	1847
Anonymous ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1848
Simon Ruess ~ Ulm, Germany ~ Zen	1849
Libmartin ~ hove, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	1850
Sara Kocanowski ~ Boston, MA, United States ~ Zen	1851
Tan Geok Lay ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1852
Well done Ajahn Brahm!! You have all our support on this matter and much tks for yyour great kindness n compassion!! We are so blessed to have such a courages and wise teacher!! THANK YOU!!	
Wu Jinfa ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1853
Irene Lee ~ Singapore ~ Theravada other	1854
I support the Bikkhuni Ordination.	
Anonymous ~ München, Germany ~ Tibetan	1855
Angeline Low ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1856
Sabine Hueppelshaeuser ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan	1857
Eric Hewton ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	1858
Very much agree	
Simone Hafeneder ~ Munich, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1859
Bikkhunis are imported for woman to practice and are also part of the sangha!	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Louis Lai ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada other ■■■■■	1860 ■■■■■
Lim Deon ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist ■■■■■ Support Bhikkuni Ordination	1861 ■■■■■
Anonymous ~ Niederkrüchten, Germany ~ Theravada other ■■■■■	1862 ■■■■■
Diana ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist ■■■■■	1863 ■■■■■
Anonymous ~ Nedlands, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■■	1864 ■■■■■
Anonymous ~ Rhinebeck, United States ~ Buddhist ■■■■■	1865 ■■■■■
Anonymous ~ Pleasant Hill, United States ~ Mahayana other ■■■■■	1866 ■■■■■
Gabriela FREY ~ Strasbourg, France ~ Tibetan ■■■■■ We fully support the Bhikshuni ordination for women since long time in all Buddhist tradition. Sakyadhita France French branche of the International association for Buddhist women.	1867 ■■■■■
Barbara Stütcke ~ Uffing am Staffelsee, Germany ~ Tibetan ■■■■■	1868 ■■■■■
Elke Leonhard ~ Gailingen, Germany ~ Tibetan ■■■■■	1869 ■■■■■
Charles Hodgkin ~ Half Moon Bay, California, United States ~ undeclared ■■■■■ May the intent and practice of Siddhartha Gautama Buddha be a living element of all Sanghas. May the compassion, wisdom, and egoless state contained in the teachings Siddhartha Gautama Buddha be manifest in every practice of every Sangha. May all of those who abide in the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama Buddha recognize and acknowledge states of attachment to the past, the future, the present and further recognize the nature of the attachments to one's beliefs about abiding in the teachings of the Buddha.	1870 ■■■■■
Elvira Nickmann ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan ■■■■■	1871 ■■■■■
Klaus Wagner ~ Starnberg, Germany ~ Buddhist ■■■■■ All human beings have the same rights, the same belief in their individual religion, women and men practice identically the same way.	1872 ■■■■■
Ilona Evers ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Mahayana other ■■■■■	1873 ■■■■■
Josephine Lehnert ~ Germany ~ Tibetan ■■■■■	1874 ■■■■■
Claudia Baron ~ Schrobenußhausen, Germany ~ Tibetan ■■■■■	1875 ■■■■■
Anonymous ~ Bielefeld, Germany ~ Tibetan ■■■■■	1876 ■■■■■

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Sabine Stichler ~ Schramberg, Germany ~ Zen	1877
Anne Willmann ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	1878
Thomas Häfner ~ Karlsruhe, Germany ~ Tibetan	1879
Riglin ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Buddhist The Buddha's Charter of Free Inquiry is the key to solve this problem.	1880
Andreas Schönefeldt ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1881
Lisa Baumann ~ Freiburg, Germany ~ Buddhist	1882
Detlef Salzmann ~ D-30161 Hannover, Germany ~ Theravada other	1883
Carola Goering ~ Germany ~ undeclared	1884
Sabine Spardel ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1885
Unger, Michael ~ Beselich, Germany ~ undeclared	1886
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Zen	1887
Daniela Myozen Herzog ~ Germany ~ Zen I feel deeply thankful to Venerable Ajahn Brahmavamso for his courage!!! Thank you!!! In the Dharma, Myozen	1888
Kristen Lynn Jikai Bentz ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Zen	1889
Claudine Bautze-Picron ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Buddhist	1890
Axel Keller ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Zen	1891
B.Roemer ~ Wiesbaden, Germany ~ Tibetan Frau und Mann haben die selben Rechte!	1892
Eric Maes ~ Kreischa, Germany ~ Mahayana other	1893
Ulrich Bock ~ Soltau, Germany ~ Buddhist	1894

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Erfurt, Germany ~ Tibetan	1895
A. Albrecht ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other	1896
Ahrens, Martina ~ Germany ~ undeclared	1897
Gabriele Völkel ~ Obertshausen, Germany ~ Theravada other	1898
Meyer ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	1899
Prof. Dr. Eva Neumaier ~ Munich, Germany ~ Zen I urge those who created the split to reconsider their actions and restore harmony among the four-fold sangha and celebrate the possibility to have full ordination for women restored.	1900
Christian Bergmann ~ berlin, Germany ~ Zen i support the practice of our brave female teachers and practitioners!	1901
Sandra Morbe ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	1902
Johannes Billing ~ Babenhausen, Germany ~ Tibetan	1903
Bernutat ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1904
Helga Milde ~ Stelle, Germany ~ Tibetan	1905
Tom Einecke ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Buddhist	1906
Erwin ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist I fully support bhikkhuni ordination.	1907
Anonymous ~ Leverkusen, Germany ~ Zen	1908
Carina Gadebusch-Galauner ~ Remscheid, Germany ~ Tibetan	1909
Joachim Joas ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	1910
Claudia Troppa-Ley ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1911
Fritz Guo ~ D-51379 Leverkusen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition I do prefer the democratic and unisex way of honour and respect to all persons practicing buddhism!	1912

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Rasevic ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan	1913
Franz-Joseph Kuntz ~ Munich, Germany ~ Zen	1914
Volkmar Walczyk ~ 89331 Burgau, Germany ~ Buddhist	1915
Gabi Suchantke-Rackner ~ Munich, Germany ~ non-Buddhist	1916
Equal rights and acceptance for all human beings. Whether in Catholic Church or Buddhist monks / nuns. We are all equal and deserve the same treatment and acceptance throughout this world. Whether we are poor or rich, healthy or ill, happy or unhappy - we all want to be treated the same way and should also accept others even though they might act different from what we think is "right". May peace reach everybody on this planet. May we all learn there is only this one earth to share, may we all learn to treat this earth respectfully and with love.	
Herpers, Ulla ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1917
Wenny Halim ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	1918
I support Ajahn Brahm for his decision in continuing the Bikkhuni Ordination in Perth, Australia. From my perspective, we can't hold people's dream just because of gender discrimination. Hopefully, as a buddhist monk, they can open heart and think wiser with what have been taught in Buddhism. Thank you.	
Anonymous ~ Berlin, Germany ~ undeclared	1919
Gerd Beyer ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Zen	1920
Linda-Jasmin Motz ~ Hopsten-Schale, Germany ~ undeclared	1921
Barbara Marx ~ Tübingen, Germany ~ Tibetan	1922
Ilse Maria Bruckner ~ Nueстал, Germany ~ undeclared	1923
Women are different from men, but by no means inferior because they are women.	
Nina Reetzke ~ Lörrach, Germany ~ Tibetan	1924
Manfred Paillon ~ Raunheim, Germany ~ Theravada other	1925
Anonymous ~ Mannheim, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1926
Karin Witting ~ Landshut, Germany ~ Theravada other	1927
Monika Behling ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1928
Stuart Lachs ~ New York City, United States ~ Zen	1929

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anna Maria Schmid ~ Fürstenfeldbruck, Germany ~ Tibetan	1930
Claudia Webinger ~ Biel/Bienne, Switzerland ~ Tibetan	1931
May we all practice in harmony. May we practice according to the bodhisattva vow of Lady Yeshe Dawa, who later became the female Buddha Tara: "Here there is no man, there is no woman. No self, no person, and no consciousness. Labeling male or female has no essence, but deceives the evil-minded world. There are many who desire Enlightenment in a man's body, but none who work for the benefit of sentient beings in the body of a woman. Therefore until samsara is empty, I shall work for the benefit of sentient beings in a woman's body."	
Ngawang Chökyi Drolma ~ L'Engayresque, France ~ Tibetan	1932
Vogel, Heike ~ Crailsheim, Deutschland ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1933
Anonymous ~ cologne, Germany ~ undeclared	1934
Sabine Möller ~ Greben, Germany ~ Zen	1935
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	1936
Brad Stanersen ~ Lava Hot Springs, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1937
William Tuttle ~ bischberg, Germany ~ Buddhist	1938
Michael Abt ~ Rosenfeld, Germany ~ Buddhist	1939
Christian Bauer ~ Kempten, Germany ~ Theravada other	1940
There should be no discrimination of women in the buddhist world...	
Lucy Costa ~ Llanrwst, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	1941
Dorothe Wieskus ~ Osnabrück, Germany ~ Zen	1942
Stegmueller ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan	1943
Doris Doerrie ~ munich, Germany ~ Zen	1944
Franze ~ Germany ~ undeclared	1945
William Magee, Ph.D. ~ Charlottesville, United States ~ Tibetan	1946

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Achim Brezski ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1947
Janine Gebhardt ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Zen	1948
Weber Gerlinde ~ türkheim, Germany ~ Tibetan	1949
Anonymous ~ Dieren, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	1950
I support the petition and equal rights for bhikkhuni/women. I am sure the Boeddha did not mean to outcast or discriminate women in any way. May all beings be free and happy.	
Evija Apine ~ Riga, Latvia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1951
Peter Blasek ~ Germany ~ Zen	1952
Martha Aitchison ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1953
Klaus Schmitz-Syre ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Tibetan	1954
Marion Vallee ~ Roqueredonde, France ~ Tibetan	1955
Ruth Prosser ~ York, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	1956
Melanie Raupach ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1957
Reiner Wiehl ~ Deutschland ~ Tibetan	1958
Gleichberechtigung	
Jerena Smuk ~ 94424 Arnstorf, Germany ~ Tibetan	1959
I support wholeheartedly the full ordination for nuns.	
Angelika Damien-Prignitz ~ Bonn, Germany ~ Tibetan	1960
Ulf Faller ~ Rickenbach, Germany ~ Buddhist	1961
Michael Hellbach ~ sonsbeck, Germany ~ Buddhist	1962
it is so sad and hard to understand that such discussion has to take place at all. doesnt busshism teach respect and equal rights to all , men and women alike. if buddhism does not cope with this world and its human beings, what is it good for? michael, director of the pauenhof dharma centre germany	
Eva Johnson ~ Phillips, United States ~ undeclared	1963

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Danny Liehmann ~ wendlingen, Germany ~ Theravada other	1964
Isabell Haubner ~ Germany ~ undeclared	1965
Enyu ~ Cottbus, Germany ~ Zen	1966
M. van den Heuvel ~ Germany ~ undeclared	1967
Tobias Roeder ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Tibetan	1968
Anonymous ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	1969
Fran Cook ~ Taunton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1970
Eva Maria Rapp ~ Santanyi, Spain ~ Tibetan	1971
Sabine Müller ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Tibetan May all beeings be happy - all of them, male and female!	1972
Wetzky ~ berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	1973
Miriam Levering ~ Knoxville, TN, United States ~ Zen	1974
Weinisch, Werner Wilhelm ~ 83512 Wasserburg am Inn, Germany ~ Theravada other	1975
Peter Ruthardt ~ Germany ~ Zen	1976
Uwe Mueller ~ Germany ~ Mahayana other	1977
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ undeclared Men and women are not the same but are equal!	1978
Emanuel Cron ~ Gotha, Germany ~ Buddhist	1979
Anonymous ~ Frankfurt, Germany ~ Zen	1980
Sheila Groonell ~ exeter NH, United States ~ Buddhist I believe the refusal to ordain women is an historical artifact, refuted by true understanding of egolessness. In the dharma there is no male or female. Women, the buddha said, are equally capable of the highest spiritual development. I	1981

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Frankfurt, Germany ~ undeclared	1982
Wilkesmann Ludwig ~ Germany ~ Zen	1983
Brigitte Tenner ~ Munich, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	1984
Gerda Buchberger ~ Santanyi, Spain ~ Tibetan	1985
Frank-M.Dickhut ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	1986
Andreas Wahl ~ Deutschland ~ Theravada other Möge diese Aktion erfolgreich sein! Mit Metta, Andreas	1987
Siegfried Fay ~ Nuesttal, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition Let me point out one fact: The discussion about bhikkhuni ordination is based on considerations about Buddhist history according to the Pali canon. But what looks like history is in many cases nothing but legend. Just one example relating to the Vinaya: Not all rules can be attributed to the historical Buddha. But (Western) historical critical research is ignored by many (Asian) monks and lay followers. My conclusion: Instead of telling legends about Mahapajapati etc. one should consider rational argumentation - as the Buddha did.	1988
Swantje Uphoff ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Zen it is a "MUST"!	1989
Vijayatara ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist I very much look forward to the day when we can be united within the sangha without regard to questions of gender.	1990
Rowswitha Hechenberger ~ Austria ~ Tibetan	1991
Dausin ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Theravada other	1992
Adrianne Straub ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan Please let have every human beeing the same possibilities	1993
Huege, Ursula ~ tuebingen, Germany ~ Zen	1994
Lobsang Drime (Dr. Birgit Schweiberer) ~ München, Germany ~ Tibetan Since enlightenment does not depend on gender it is an act of wisdom and compassion to allow women and men equal chances to attain it. It would make major contributions to the quality of education and position for women in Buddhist societies all over the world. Men need not be afraid. The positive karma of giving appreciation will always fall back on them in the future.	1995
Barbara Rubinstein ~ New York, United States ~ Buddhist	1996
Imke Seidel ~ 26209 hatten, Germany ~ Tibetan	1997
Stefan Gabriel ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	1998

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Wiesbaden, Germany ~ Tibetan	1999
Shunso Sabine El Morr ~ München, Germany ~ Zen	2000
Renate Allcock ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2001
Ulrike Jeep ~ Berlin, Germany ~ undeclared	2002
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Zen	2003
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ undeclared	2004
Markus Mayer ~ Oberursel, Germany ~ Zen	2005
Irene Binz ~ München, Germany ~ Tibetan	2006
Anonymous ~ Buenos Aires, Argentina ~ Theravada other	2007
Ken Jones ~ Aberystwyth, Wales, United Kingdom ~ Zen	2008
Mix Petra ~ Meppen, Germany ~ Buddhist	2009
Pe Vogel ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	2010
Porath, Petra ~ Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany ~ Zen	2011
Ulrike Kienzler ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan	2012
Ilja Keil ~ Dreieich, Germany ~ Theravada other	2013
Michael Dash ~ Australia ~ Theravada other	2014
Kati Dittberner ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2015
Katharina Weber ~ Steyerberg, Germany ~ Zen	2016

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Wolf Gerlach ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Buddhist	2017
Thubten Chödar ~ Lodève, France ~ Tibetan	2018
Anonymous ~ Langen, Germany ~ Tibetan	2019
Isabel von Roon ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other may this project be successful	2020
Johannes Schefers ~ Paderborn, Germany ~ Zen	2021
Richard Hayes ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Buddhist	2022
Dr. Maren Franz ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan Buddha himself gave the Bhikkhuni ordination. Why should we do less today?	2023
Karl Kumrow ~ Michendorf, Germany ~ Tibetan	2024
Pat Horwath ~ Moraga, California, United States ~ Theravada other	2025
Danner Sigrid ~ Kaufering, Germany ~ Tibetan	2026
Nisch Kansei M. ~ Germany ~ Mahayana other	2027
Patricia Locacciato ~ Long Beach, United States ~ non-Buddhist I simply whole heartedly agree and would be surprised if it doesn't pass. Although not the most informed person about Buddhism, it seems the inequality would a natural disconnect with the practices of Buddha. thank you for your time.	2028
Thomas Lennartz ~ Bonn, Germany ~ Tibetan	2029
Dorothe Würich ~ Roqueredonde, France ~ Tibetan	2030
Sonya Pongsavas ~ United States ~ Theravada other	2031
Oshra Danker ~ hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2032
Susanne Nick ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2033
Gabriele Rick ~ Biblis, Germany ~ non-Buddhist	2034

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Pema Plagge ~ Aachen, Germany ~ Theravada other

2035

Dr. Med. Anke Persson ~ Reichelsheim Odenwald-forest, Germany ~ Theravada other

2036

I Hope sincerely that the petition will find open hearts ... may all beings - male and female - be free and happy ... Anke Persson

Konitzer, Friederike ~ Italia ~ Theravada other

2037

Judith Jenner ~ Germany ~ Theravada other

2038

U. Neumann ~ munich, Germany ~ Tibetan

2039

John Hoyland ~ London, United Kingdom ~ undeclared

2040

Angelika Sesuan ~ Freiburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

2041

Wiessmann ~ Germany ~ Tibetan

2042

Anonymous ~ Mettmann, Germany ~ Tibetan

2043

Anonymous ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Buddhist

2044

Jens Flucke ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan

2045

Rüdiger Kurz ~ Germany ~ Zen

2046

Elisabeth Oberwalder ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Theravada other

2047

Isla Macdonald ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other

2048

Hearing about what is going on has greatly saddened me. Working at living and practicing as a buddhist has great potential and teachings of not holding on, not adhering to rites and tradition, to liberation from fixed views and beliefs, and a movement towards freedom and happiness. What i feel sad about is that this situation seems to have very little to do with any of this and is led by people i thought wise and deeply affected by the teachings. I feel confused by this and that even those further along the path than i are so easily swayed by structures, views, tradition, and that the essence of buddhism does not seem to have prevailed.

Can this been seen and worked with, can freedom, and connection come out of this time of what looks to be lostness in the world?

Malwina Degorska ~ Szczecin, Poland ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2049

Anonymous ~ Munich, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2050

Mark Albers ~ Germany ~ Tibetan

2051

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Angela Szeto ~ Toronto, Canada ~ undeclared

2052

Kerstin Barthel ~ Obermoschel, Germany ~ Tibetan

2053

Nuns are so important for all our buddhist communities all over the world. They have so many qualities and so much courage in the practice as well as skills in the proces of making the Buddhas teaching available to people. It is more than time that their qualities are rcognized by the various traditions and they are given the same rights, status and possibilities in all schools.

Maria Gray ~ Australia ~ non-Buddhist

2054

Anonymous ~ Elp, Netherlands ~ Tibetan

2055

Agnes Forsthuber ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

2056

Gianna Wabner ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

2057

Stephan-Erik Wirth ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan

2058

Barbara Reichart ~ München, Germany ~ Zen

2059

Andrea Stockhausen ~ berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan

2060

Hildegard HANDING ~ Munick, Germany ~ Tibetan

2061

Paternoga ~ Freiburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

2062

Dierk Eberhardt ~ Luebeck, Germany ~ Tibetan

2063

Anonymous ~ Germany ~ undeclared

2064

Christian, Glossner ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

2065

Anonymous ~ newbury, United Kingdom ~ Zen

2066

Stefanie Hering ~ berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan

2067

Sudharmic ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan

2068

Baltzer Andrea ~ Graz, Austria ~ Tibetan

2069

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Tibetan	2070
Helmut Rasch ~ Munich, Germany ~ Buddhist	2071
Efrat Gal-Ed ~ cologne, Germany ~ undeclared	2072
Anne Döerte Schlüns-Bially ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Zen	2073
Jeff Trewern ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition It's time	2074
Ursula Haeckel ~ Liverpool, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition As a female lay follower of the Lord Buddha for the past 25 years I am deeply saddened by this dispute. It feels wrong in our time and society not to allow equality between men and women. This attitude - resulting in the rules set down for the siladharas, and the excommunication of Ajahn Brahm - may put many women practitioners off the Theravada teachings. What is it that the monks are afraid of? Is aversion to change not the prime cause of dukkha?	2075
Shira ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2076
Anonymous ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other	2077
Franz Aubrey Metcalf ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Zen It is time to renew the Buddha's vision of the sangha.	2078
Peter Mackie ~ Pymble, Australia ~ Buddhist Any act that imprisons others, imprisons ourselves. Who would want to be collude in that?	2079
Markus Schmitt ~ Krailling, Germany ~ Tibetan	2080
Micha Mars ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2081
Kalff, Sabine ~ 8702 Zollikon, Switzerland ~ Tibetan Yes we can! may it be succesful and may all beings be happy	2082
Joerg Brockmann ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2083
Hella Lohmann ~ Frankfurt, Germany ~ Tibetan I fully support the full ordination of nuns in all Buddhist traditions. No longer do I accept the differences made between bhikkhus and bhikkhunis. So please, introduce gender equality. There is no reason in the universe not to have equal rights for both.	2084
Karen C Lang ~ United States ~ Tibetan	2085
Kurt Schiemenz ~ Feldkirchen b.M., Germany ~ Theravada other	2086

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ frankfurt, Germany ~ Buddhist

2087

Jan Metcalf ~ Borxbourne, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2088

I have enormous respect for the wisdom, ability and compassion of the senior nuns practising in the Theravadan Forest Tradition in the UK who have lead retreats at Amaravati Monastery and respectfully request that they be accorded the due status that they richly deserve.

Sincerely,

Jan Metcalf

Irmgard Kopetzky ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Buddhist

2089

Sascha Stibe ~ Schongau, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2090

Ich bin für die Gleichbehandlung der Geschlechter bei der Voll-Ordination von buddhistischen Nonnen

Yansa Schlitzer ~ Olfen, Germany ~ Theravada other

2091

Andrea Bakos ~ Köln, Germany ~ Tibetan

2092

Ron Smith ~ Dunedin, United States ~ Zen

2093

Support Bikkhuni full ordination 100%. The Chinese Buddhist tradition has ordained Bikkhunis for over 1600 years.

The Theravadan tradition in Thailand has got to embrace this practice for ordaining female nuns.

No excuses whatsoever. I applaud whole heartedly to Ajahn Brahm's decision to ordain them. What a great monk you are!

Gesa Steinmann ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Buddhist

2094

Gaby Rossbach ~ Aachen, Germany ~ Tibetan

2095

The spiritual potential of women is equal to the spiritual potential of men.

Graeme Lyall AM ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist

2096

Robert Williams ~ Swansea, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan

2097

I fully support Ajahn Brahm. He is a great teacher and I believe he has acted with wisdom and compassion.

Joanna Herron ~ Bend, United States ~ undeclared

2098

Michael Sproul ~ Live Oak, United States ~ Theravada other

2099

Sandra Cressey ~ sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2100

Mary E. Donovan ~ Knoxville, United States ~ non-Buddhist

2101

Paddy Murray ~ Bundanoon, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2102

Love and kindness is good Dharma. Treating women and men monastics with full equality is good Dharma. This is the way forward. Paddy Murray Buddhist Prison Chaplain.

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

James STOVALL ~ oKLAHOMA City, OK, United States ~ Buddhist	2103
Chow Mei Pin ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	2104
Cheryl Ang ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	2105
Clara Mok ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	2106
Ian Percy ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2107
Dr Edward F. Crangle ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared Peace All Ways	2108
Sock Hoai ~ Singapore ~ undeclared	2109
Jo Bower ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2110
Sylvia Crangle ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared	2111
Diana Levy ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition There is no good earthly reason why women should not participate as fully as men in Buddhism, if that is what they feel called to do.	2112
Elisabeth Childs ~ Sydney, Australia ~ undeclared I believe that bhikkhuni ordination is an important milestone for women in Buddhism.	2113
Lynne Jackson ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2114
Jenni ~ jakarta, Indonesia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2115
Jenny Hsi ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Mahayana other	2116
Kristina Natalia - ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada other In the first place, Buddhism is a practice and teaching not a traditional norm. We are taught to think and not follow blindly to anything. Thus, I fully support the ordination of Bhikkhunis. There is a saying: "the only constant thing in life is change." If the change is for better, why do we want to resist. Besides, If a person has a pure heart to practice Buddhism, why do we need a restriction of gender to that! Lastly, may all the Bhikkhunis always be happy and well. Be a candle to this world and light up to show the right path to the right practice. Shadu shadu shadu	2117
Christina Hutcheson ~ Las Vegas, NV., United States ~ Buddhist Mahapajapati Gotami	2118
Thomas Tacke ~ Dusseldorf, Germany ~ Buddhist	2119

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Liew Weiping ~ Singapore ~ non-Buddhist	2120
Stephen Rose (Chan Linh Phap) ~ Taos, United States ~ Zen	2121
Nancy Maddams ~ Canada ~ Buddhist	2122
Michael Essex ~ Vista, United States ~ Tibetan	2123
Anonymous ~ saltspring island bc, Canada ~ Theravada other	2124
In light of the Buddha's own teaching the news about opposition to the ordination of women is particularly sad. It speaks of human frailty and of desperate clinging to ideas and to some notion of self. We need to handle even this with compassion and loving kindness. Our small sangha (Saltspring Vipassana Community) is led by a lay women teacher. It would be very peculiar if some one advised that she could no longer lead or teach! Some times it is apparent that we live with amazing freedoms - in a god realm.	
Alex Tan ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared	2125
Barbara Wiemer ~ bad honnef, Germany ~ Zen	2126
Thi Phuong Dung Cao ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	2127
I support the Bhikkhuni ordination and gender equality in the Forest Sangha	
Kim Hollow ~ Gold Coast, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2128
Petra Kuehl ~ Yangon, Myanmar ~ Theravada other	2129
May this discussion be done in the spirit of the Buddha with the light of wisdom and Metta and compassion!	
Anonymous ~ Athens, United States ~ undeclared	2130
Doris Paik Chin Teo ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other	2131
I fully support the recent Bhikkuni Ordination in Perth.	
Josh Trevarthen ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	2132
Kevin Dickson ~ Perth, Australia ~ Tibetan	2133
I concur fully with the views expressed in this petition. May the practice of viewing women as inferior to men which is at the heart of this matter, cease forever.	
Christine Richter ~ München, Germany ~ Mahayana other	2134
Martin Perenchio ~ bANGKOK, Thailand ~ Tibetan	2135
Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	2136

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Susie Harrington ~ Moab, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2137
Oren Blass ~ IJerusalem, Israel ~ Theravada other	2138
Anonymous ~ Auckland, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2139
Cornelia Hammer ~ Kassel, Germany ~ Tibetan	2140
Köse, Sabine ~ Schwerte, Germany ~ Tibetan	2141
Prem R Gedera ~ Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2142
I can't believe those ignorant male monks in Thailand who still think in discriminatory/male dominatory mind. Oh... when will they see the light of wisdom shown by the Buddha. Are they really buddhists? let monkhood leave alone. They have to be taught not to be VASALAS. They are the ones who think material form is self and is more important like those in the Buddha's contemporary recluses. Weren't those stubborn Thai guys (pretend to be monks) born from women? They are like kids not knowing that the Buddha's path is not about the gender, but all about the path, patipada/practice. I feel sorry for those ignorant non buddhists in the Buddha's robe. We should promote more and more bhikkhuni ordination even in Thailand. This second half's beginning of the Buddhist dispensation (2500+ years of 5000), fourfold sangha will spread all corners of world and no one can stop it.	
Lim Ong Hong ~ singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	2143
Anonymous ~ Honolulu, United States ~ Theravada other	2144
Sonia Kishinami ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Theravada other	2145
Anonymous ~ Bad König, Germany ~ Zen	2146
Hubertus Becker ~ Sundern, Germany ~ Buddhist	2147
Ingrid Montay ~ 64380 Rossdorf, Germany ~ non-Buddhist	2148
Lauren ~ Perth, Australia ~ non-Buddhist	2149
Sonia Marti ~ Zurich, Switzerland ~ Tibetan	2150
Jürgen Roß ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Mahayana other	2151
Yes, it is the right time now!!!	
Steven Stueart ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	2152
Treat men and women as Buddha treated them.	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Sabine Shorunkeh-Sawyerr ~ Frankfurt, Germany ~ Tibetan gender inequity must end	2153
Döllnerl Johanna ~ Vienna, Austria ~ Tibetan	2154
Jörg Schütze ~ Kerken, Germany ~ Zen	2155
R-M Fritsch ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other	2156
Dunja Luptowitsch ~ Schwäbisch Hall, Germany ~ Theravada other It is high time to admit women for full ordination!	2157
Hartmut Kissel ~ Frankfurt, Germany ~ Theravada other	2158
Margaret Robbins ~ midhurst, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2159
Robert B Wallace ~ Victoria BC, Canada ~ Buddhist	2160
Cornelia van den Hout ~ Worms, Germany ~ Tibetan	2161
Daphne Small ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2162
Claire Cadieux ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2163
Samuel Hue ~ Tampines, Singapore ~ Buddhist Praise the Lord! The Gospels of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha is the ONLY Way to Salvation!	2164
Anonymous ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2165
Peter Dean ~ Brussels, Belgium ~ non-Buddhist The first of the 5 Points is completely unacceptable to me. It seems to say that a nun will always be inferior to a monk, no matter what her experience, contribution or dedication is in comparison to him. I also object to the imposition of the 5 Points without any external discussion or input.	2166
Joan Goldsmith ~ santa rosa, ca., United States ~ Zen shame on the men	2167
Silke Ruff ~ Karlsruhe, Germany ~ Tibetan	2168
Chan Weng Sun ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared Religion and Spirituality should move with the times. The days of the superiority of the male gender are over. Chan Male	2169

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Angela Steinmeier ~ Minden, Germany ~ non-Buddhist

2170

Hanna Severin ~ Germany ~ Tibetan

2171

Philippe Dätwyler ~ Zürich, Switzerland ~ Zen

2172

Cate Walker ~ Perth, Australia ~ Tibetan

2173

I feel this is a very important issue.

The Buddha's example showed us that all who have the inspiration should be allowed to practice the Buddhadharma in whatever capacity they choose.

Thank you.

Anonymous ~ Magdeburg, Germany ~ undeclared

2174

Anonymous ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Buddhist

2175

Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Buddhist

2176

Manfred Forster ~ Munich, Germany ~ Buddhist

2177

Schafft Ludwig ~ Pfaffenhofen/Ilm, Deutschland ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2178

Gavin Evans ~ Malaga, Spain ~ Tibetan

2179

Petra Haubold ~ Berlin, Germany ~ non-Buddhist

2180

Birgit Kadatz ~ Möhra, Germany ~ Tibetan

2181

Soon after becoming a buddhist, I had the wish to become a nun - and then I learned, that one cannot receive a full ordination in the tibetan tradition. It is my deepest wish that this circumstance might change.

Günter Zagel ~ Theilenhofen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2182

That goes without saying !!!

Linz ~ Traunwalchen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2183

Anja Lorenz ~ murnau, Germany ~ undeclared

2184

Elsy Ambrose ~ Berkhamsted, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2185

Letter of support has been sent.

Anonymous ~ Köln, Germany ~ Tibetan

2186

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ aachen, Germany ~ Mahayana other	2187
Shine Palmo ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2188
It's right in time! women into "Lamas" position !!!	
Dagmar Bernhard ~ Rosenheim, Germany ~ Tibetan	2189
Christina Kuhn ~ igersheim, Germany ~ Tibetan	2190
Mario Proscia ~ Rome, Italy ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2191
May the Sangha of the four directions, both those who have come & those who have yet to come, live in harmony. In the Dhamma. Mario Thanavaro	
Gabriele Meyer ~ igersheim, Germany ~ Tibetan	2192
Caroline Michael ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2193
Schneitl Barbara ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan	2194
Mohini Gunasekera ~ Oatlands, Australia ~ Theravada other	2195
It is with deep concern that I have viewed the occurrences in Thailand. I will watch the events carefully and will in the future only support those who have an open view towards women's participation as Sangha members. At a time when religions that did not have an open attitude to women are changing a narrow Buddhist leadership is trying to wind back the clock. please rethink for the sake of the continuation of the Buddha sasana.	
Ingo Weiser ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2196
Etta Stevens ~ Duesseldorf, Germany ~ undeclared	2197
Ich unterstütze diese Pediton, zur Gleichbehandlung der Geschlechter bei der Voll - Ordination von budddistischen Nonnen.	
Kelsang Tsultrim Alvermann ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Tibetan	2198
Steinbeis ~ Wiesenfelden, Germany ~ Theravada other	2199
Dichtl Judith Anny ~ Wesel, Germany ~ Tibetan	2200
Angela Pieler ~ Kirchhain, Germany ~ Tibetan	2201
I wholeheartedly support this petition.	
Prof.Tomasz Sluszkiewicz ~ Munich, Germany ~ undeclared	2202
The petition is very important and urgent. As pattern for all other religions, espetially ISLAM	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Angelika Stuebner ~ Oberursel, Germany ~ Tibetan

2203

Bronny Alega ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan

2204

Daniel Dudzik ~ Germany ~ Buddhist

2205

True wisdom and true compassion entails equality. How could it be otherwise?

How can tradition be valued higher than the living spirit of what buddhism truly is?

I strongly urge the elders of the sangha to remove their blindfolds and to start and take their responsibility. Do they not know that there has been just too much of this sickening business, in Buddhism and otherwise? Do you not see how much suffering this is causing?

Wake up.

Iris Stepan ~ bremen, Germany ~ Tibetan

2206

Hella Budelmann ~ Bonn, Germany ~ Zen

2207

Silvia Hillemeier ~ Delbrueck, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2208

Christine Schnitzer ~ Austria ~ Tibetan

2209

Anonymous ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan

2210

Anonymous ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Theravada other

2211

Carla Winkler ~ Wiesbaden, Germany ~ Tibetan

2212

Sabine Wiest ~ Allersberg, Germany ~ Tibetan

2213

Markus Fuchs ~ Neunkirchen, Germany ~ Tibetan

2214

Manuela Schubert ~ Kiel, Germany ~ Tibetan

2215

for bhikkhuni ordination and gender equality.

Anonymous ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2216

Tina Krause ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Buddhist

2217

Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Buddhist

2218

Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Buddhist

2219

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA



































Anonymous ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	2220
Iris Sommer ~ darmstadt, Germany ~ Tibetan	2221
Anonymous ~ Marburg, Germany ~ non-Buddhist	2222
Barbara Leenders ~ Xanten, Germany ~ undeclared	2223
Imma Lamberti ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2224
I fully support the reintroduction of the bhikkhuni ordination in Perth, Western Australia as I cannot see on which ground women should be denied the opportunity to receive equal ordination as their male counterparts. I truly hope that this initiative brings more understanding and cooperation within the Buddhist Shanga. May all beings be happy and well and may all live in peace.	
Mark Goris ~ Hasselt, Belgium ~ Zen	2225
Conny ~ Germany ~ Zen	2226
It doesn't matter if we are male or female - that is not the point. For the sake of all it is usefull to develop oneself - one great way is practising the Dharma of Buddha. So it is nonsense to exclude any group of human beings. Good luck for your petition!!!	
Herbert Rudzinski ~ 18055 Rostock, Germany ~ Buddhist	2227
Eric G. Williams ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	2228
Waltraud Kaiser ~ 34626 neukirchen, Germany ~ non-Buddhist	2229
Petra Grössges ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2230
Dr. Sabine Stoevesand ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2231
Andrea Dill ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2232
The equality of women in the forest tradition is an very important aspect of this time. The forest sangha can show their understanding and wisdom in giving the women equality!!	
Kurt Jungbehrens ~ Munich, Germany ~ Theravada other	2233
Jan Paul ~ Cologne, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2234
give women the equal rights! please!	
Anonymous ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2235

Lötscher Jöhnk, Francesca ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Zen	2236
May all creatures be treated equally	
Oliver Ohanecian ~ Göttingen, Germany ~ Tibetan	2237
Wolfgang Brandes ~ Köln, Germany ~ Zen	2238
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2239
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2240
Gudrun Huber ~ Inning, Germany ~ Tibetan	2241
Reichle Marlies ~ 42697 Solingen, Germany ~ Tibetan	2242
Alfred Weil ~ Erzhausen, Germany ~ Theravada other	2243
Jan Dietrich ~ berlin, Germany ~ Buddhist	2244
i am really sorry, that we have to sign a petition nowadays about a fact against pure chauvinism that should not exist in the real buddhist minds... thanx for organizing action!!! with a lot of warm sun from berlin jan	
Daniela Heine ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2245
Anja Matschuck ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2246
New times need new regulations! I wish with all my heart equality for men and wimen!!1	
Iris Zobel ~ Munic, Germany ~ Theravada other	2247
Renate Niemann ~ Grenada ~ Theravada other	2248
Anonymous ~ France ~ Tibetan	2249
Hannah Bruisen ~ Netherlands ~ Theravada other	2250
Jo Guntermann ~ MOERS, Germany ~ Tibetan	2251
Julienne van Loon ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2252

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Janine Moonen ~ Wesseling, Germany ~ non-Buddhist	2253
Friederike Overweg ~ Nickenich, Germany ~ Theravada other	2254
Renate Piper ~ Hannover, Germany ~ Theravada other	2255
Bettina Wiegand ~ Baden-Baden, Germany ~ Tibetan	2256
Justin Kelley ~ Northfield, United States ~ Tibetan May all members of the Sangha feel supported in practice and life. May all members of the Sangha remain open to challenges faced in this modern age. May all members of the Sangha be free.	2257
Katrin Kahler ~ Perth, Australia ~ Tibetan	2258
Nili ~ berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2259
Ruwan Weerasinghe ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada other I wholeheartedly support Bhikkuni ordination. Best wishes!	2260
Michaela Lucas ~ France ~ Tibetan	2261
Tanja Schauenburg ~ Duisburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2262
Anonymous ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Buddhist	2263
Anuka Eichbaum ~ Duesseldorf, Germany ~ Mahayana other	2264
Foo Hoe Kiat ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist My petition is NOT BASED on selfish, ill-will, stupidity and fear, its out of fairness, kind and compassion with wisdom... :)	2265
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2266
Weifoon ~ Kuala lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	2267
Hilf Christine ~ München, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2268
Andrea Kupp ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Theravada other	2269
Ulrike Daum ~ Germany ~ non-Buddhist	2270

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ronald Crouch ~ Oak Park, United States ~ Theravada other	2271
 It is time for the Sangha to treat women as equals. Everyone has waited far to long.	
Sabine Scheerer ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	2272
	
Anonymous ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2273
	
Lecoutre ~ molzhain, Germany ~ Buddhist	2274
 Frauen sollten genau die gleiche Möglichkeit haben, ihre Religion auszuüben wie Männer. Bitte ermöglicht es allen Lebewesen gleichermassen, unabhängig von Rasse, Geschlecht, sozialem Status, Herkunft und Alter, die Religion auszuüben und das Leben zu führen, das für richtig empfunden wird. Die spirituelle Entwicklung ist so wichtig, wie Wasser, Brot und Medikamente bei Krankheit, ein Dach über dem Kopf und Kleidung.	
Margret De Backere ~ Überlingen, Germany ~ Buddhist	2275
	
Ellen Butler ~ Germany ~ undeclared	2276
	
Peter Schenke ~ München, Germany ~ Theravada other	2277
	
Madeleine Herzig ~ Germany ~ undeclared	2278
	
Viola Götz ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2279
	
Nona Osterfeld ~ Austria ~ Tibetan	2280
	
Oli Simon ~ Hamburg, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2281
	
Helga Burger ~ griesheim, Germany ~ undeclared	2282
	
Andreas Bachmann ~ Magglingen, Switzerland ~ Theravada other	2283
 As women can reach enlightenment, I see no reason, why they should not be supported in their striving towards this spiritual goal. This world is in urgent need of more enlightened beings, therefore I support this petition. May the future bhikkunis also inspire the male sangha to strive earnestly for enlightenment, wisdom and compassion in this world.	
Lay Peng ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	2284
	
Sarah Moor ~ Evansville, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2285
	
Ricard Moor ~ Evansville, United States ~ undeclared	2286
	
Tan Bee Lay ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	2287
	
























BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Lydia Stryk ~ New York, United States ~ Zen	2288
Nicole Bueser ~ Freiburg, Afghanistan ~ Theravada other	2289
Monika Dern ~ 35305 Gruenberg, Germany ~ Theravada other	2290
Otto ~ Langenfeld, Germany ~ Tibetan	2291
Anonymous ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2292
Rolf Gajewski ~ Bad Tölz, Germany ~ Theravada other	2293
Michael Moehle ~ Karlsruhe, Germany ~ Tibetan	2294
Dh. Bodhana ~ United States ~ Buddhist	2295
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2296
Anthea ~ Germany ~ undeclared	2297
WAGNER-POYIATZIS CHRISTINE ~ MUENCHEN, Germany ~ Theravada other	2298
Wolfgang Quambusch ~ Köln, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2299
He YanHui ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist I believe what Ajahn Brahmavamso and his monastery did was right. Thank you Ajahn Brah for your wonderful talk on 25th Nov 09.	2300
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	2301
Rolf Eickhoff ~ Arnsberg, Germany ~ Tibetan 4 one world, and because we are all the same!	2302
Ms Vijaya Bhaskaram ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2303
Giedra Gershman ~ El Cerrito, United States ~ Theravada other	2304
Barbara Falkner ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2305

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Nadamo Münter ~ Solingen, Germany ~ Theravada other monks and nuns should have equal rights and duties!	2306
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Theravada other	2307
Janet Keyes ~ Berkeley, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition Women have the same spiritual aspirations and the same dedication to practice that men have. We must be included in all aspects of the Dharma.	2308
Conny Fingerloos ~ 64401 groß-bieberau, Germany ~ Tibetan	2309
Alan Grieve ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ undeclared	2310
Nienke Witteveen ~ Bilthoven, Netherlands ~ Tibetan Please know that women and men should always have equal rights. This is the basis were we should live by. One cannot operate without the other.	2311
Baer ~ Hamm, Germany ~ undeclared	2312
Sylvia Wetzel ~ 14974 Ludwigsfelde, Germany ~ Tibetan I would like to ask all buddhist monks to support full ordination for women. I am very sure, the Buddha would be very happy about monks who accept their women sisters as equals in the sangha.	2313
Astrid Anderssen ~ Esslingen, Germany ~ Buddhist	2314
Ulrike Kullas ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	2315
Sonia Sokki ~ Grenchen, Switzerland ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2316
H. Manuel Weihrauch ~ Frankfurt, Germany ~ Tibetan It is time to wake up to the 21. Century. We don't need the dust of ancient times. Awakening is a perpetual process of spiritual growth and evolution. And therefore Buddhism, as THE religion of Awakening, must be ever changing and growing. Women have the same rights as man! Nons have the same rights as monks! Buddhism is and must stay alive. Tashi deley	2317
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ undeclared	2318
Heike Eismann ~ Erfurt, Deutschland ~ Tibetan	2319
Natalie Siehr ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2320
Clark Robertson ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist I believe as long as the words of the Buddha are being spread, and people have good intention then its al good. If it was good enough for Buddha, should it not be good enough for us?	2321
Thich Chan Phap Lai ~ France ~ Mahayana other	2322

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Daniela Poeder ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Buddhist	2323
	
Mary Wagstaff ~ Larkspur, California, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2324
	
Anonymous ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2325
	
Peter Bielig ~ München, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2326
	
Ulrike Heidorn ~ 76131 Karlsruhe, Germany ~ Tibetan	2327
	
Mallika Martina Frey ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2328
	
Anonymous ~ roqueredonde, France ~ Tibetan	2329
	
Andreas Lenz ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Buddhist	2330
	
Theresa Kaiser ~ Stuttgart, Germany ~ Tibetan	2331
	
Michael Tacke ~ Aschau i. Ch., Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2332
	
Solveig Bornschein ~ Potsdam, Germany ~ Tibetan	2333
	
Lindner ~ Solingen, Germany ~ Zen	2334
	
Gesine Krause ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2335
	
Claudia Wack ~ berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2336
	
Anonymous ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2337
	
Jennifer Kakanowski ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	2338
	
Karin Klinger ~ Aachen, Germany ~ Tibetan	2339
	
Christiane Erlemann ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2340
	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Kerstin Kittler ~ Berlin, Germany ~ undeclared	2341
Ulla ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2342
Anonymous ~ hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2343
Andrew B. Jones ~ Hertford, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2344
Anonymous ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2345
Anke Glossner ~ hamburg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2346
Uschi Stehmann ~ Paderborn, Germany ~ Theravada other	2347
Egg Plant ~ Afghanistan ~ undeclared	2348
Titia Vellinga- Wiegand ~ Heidelberg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2349
Irene Michel ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Tibetan	2350
Färber Adelheid ~ Dortmund, Germany ~ undeclared	2351
Rita Roeckelein ~ Heidelberg, Germany ~ Tibetan	2352
Gillian Exton ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2353
Marie-Luise Bergmann ~ Germany ~ Tibetan	2354
Gisela Krey ~ Bochum, Germany ~ Zen	2355
Yesche Udo Regel ~ Langenfeld / Bonn, Germany ~ Tibetan	2356
<p>There is no reason why women should not have the same level of ordination than men. In our time women often have even more motivation to study and practice the Buddhadharma in a deep way.</p>	
Rattanaali Bhikkhuni ~ Nakornsi Tammarat, Thailand ~ Theravada other	2357
<p>I follow the role and status of Bhuddhism.</p> <p>The Bhikkuni is one of the status and role of the Bhuddha. I am certain.</p>	
Nathan Tift ~ Minnetonka, United States ~ undeclared	2358

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ryan Baker ~ Lafayette, United States ~ Theravada other ■■■■	2359
Geraldine Baumann ~ Perth, Australia ~ undeclared ■■■■	2360
Sylvia Caras ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist ■■■■	2361
Sherry Anderson ~ NOVATO, United States ~ Mahayana other ■■■■ AS A FORMER HEAD DHARMA TEACHER OF A ZEN SANGHA, I AM DEEPLY MOVED BY THE COURAGE AND SINCERITY OF THOSE SUPPORTING THE FULL ORDINATION OF WOMEN IN ALL BUDDHIST TRADITIONS.	2362
Eido McIntyre ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Zen ■■■■ I disagree with gender discrimination	2363
Stephen Hopkins ~ United Kingdom ~ Zen ■■■■	2364
Sabine Bodemann ~ Delhi, NY, United States ~ Zen ■■■■	2365
Peter Chow ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist ■■■■ Compassion, forgiveness and loving kindness	2366
Dung Van Le ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other ■■■■	2367
Elly McCormack ~ London, United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist ■■■■ Showing little respect for female nuns has nothing to do with Buddhism or Religious Law. Just an excuse at a Misogynistic urge found in the archaic beliefs of those far too immature for these Modern times.	2368
Panee Noipochana ~ Latham, United States ~ Tibetan ■■■■	2369
Adam McGovern ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■ In my opinion, what sets Buddhism apart from religious philosophies, apart from it's deep wisdom and compassion is it's rationality. We are about to roll in to 2010 and it is time for us to welcome women in to the Sangha so that we all might benefit from the wisdom, compassion and rationality that they will bring. Let's not allow out-of-touch old men to hamper the Dhamma in the way they have been allowed to hamper progress elsewhere.	2370
Ruchini ~ kandy, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■	2371
Dineli ~ kandy, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■	2372
Margo Ogledzka ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition ■■■■ Make nuns happy, they deserve it.	2373
Sarah Buchler (Ngawang Gema) ~ Neillsville, United States ~ Tibetan ■■■■	2374
Ven U Bodhinyana ~ Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh ~ undeclared ■■■■ I deeply regret for the expulsion of Ven. Ajahn Brahavamso. I wish a window of dialogue may help resolve the conflict and help restore the basic right of womanhood into the four-fold sangha that Buddha himself had approved during his lifetime.	2375

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Oliver Schönen ~ Langerwehe, Germany ~ Zen

2376

Jennifer van Loon ~ adelaide, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2377

I would like to support the nuns at Giddeganup Perth W.A. for whom I have a great respect and love.

Ven.Holland Sri Devamitta Maha Thera ~ Telwatta, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other

2378

Though a Dutch monk and not of the Thai ordination I fully support this petition

Kishani ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other

2379

It's about time people respected women as equals

Dana Iwachow ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

2380

It is sad to see Buddhism repeat the same follies as major religions (islam, christianity, judaism) have perpetrated for centuries - namely implying that women are something lesser than men and deserving of being treated as inferiors.

Kath Muntz ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2381

I believe that the ordination of nuns in the Buddhist sangha is necessary for buddhism to move forward and expand in the world. There have been many women in the world who have set a wonderful example and whose books I have read. The buddha was happy for women to be ordained. The nuns in our community in Western Australia set a wonderful example in holding to many more precepts than they are given credit for.

Angelika Vater ~ Hachenburg, Germany ~ Buddhist

2382

Middle age or Women's liberation?

Heinrichs, Dörthe ~ Stuttgart, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2383

Danuse Murty ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

2384

Buddha's Path of Wisdom - Dhammapada 368 - "The monk who abides in the universal love and is deeply devoted to the teaching of the Buddha attains the peace of Nibbana..."

Dorothy Brito ~ Albany, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2385

Uta Behnke ~ Bielefeld, Germany ~ Tibetan

2386

Sabrina Tan ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2387

Eman Rohe ~ Singaore, Singapore ~ Zen

2388

Sadhu sadhu sadhu

Elizabeth Daniels ~ maidstone, United Kingdom ~ undeclared

2389

it is time to give up the restrictions placed on women. We are in a flux of change and whereas this attitude might well have been acceptable 2000 years ago it is no longer applicable.

Claudia Stuble ~ Munich, Germany ~ Theravada other

2390

Anonymous ~ South Africa ~ non-Buddhist

2391

My Tan ~ Subang Jaya, Malaysia ~ Buddhist

2392

Our Lord Buddha has recognized rights of women even during his time

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Urszula Jurek-Bies ~ Hamersley, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2393
Henry Phua ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	2394
Anita Vallee ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2395
Angelica Franz ~ perth, Australia ~ non-Buddhist Ajahn Brahmavamso is an insightful man who did what was right in our community. He has my full support.	2396
Tor Guptabha ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2397
Weber Renate ~ graz, Austria ~ Tibetan Great Idea! It kept me long time off to become a buddhist, because women are not equal like in my catholic tradition.	2398
Anonymous ~ Manila, Philippines ~ Buddhist	2399
Vickie Lim ~ singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition i think its time to move forward by not clinging to the past. Buddhism has come a long way and so does social progress. Dhamma though us the middle path, guiding us in our daily life. So is't fair to denial the right for bhikkhuni ordination? Well done Ahjan Bhram,	2400
Lim Siew Lean ~ Shah Alam, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2401
Anonymous ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	2402
Charles Fein ~ Colorado Springs, United States ~ non-Buddhist	2403
Kurt Krammer ~ Salzburg, Austria ~ Zen	2404
Tan Chek Wee ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	2405
Sue ~ KL, Malaysia ~ Theravada other It is saddening that this topic is even brought up as an issue in a beautiful religion as Buddhism. In these day and age, equality of gender should be viewed differently.	2406
Jill Osler ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2407
Bill Saint-Onge ~ Ann Arbor, MI, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2408
Su Chzeng ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	2409
Anonymous ~ Mainz, Germany ~ undeclared	2410

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Wang Pei Chong ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2411
Laura Donington ~ United Kingdom ~ undeclared	2412
Michael Bermudez ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2413
Shannen Franz ~ Steinhorst, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2414
Mikael Skifte ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist I support the petition fully. With metta Mikael	2415
Fredrik Broman ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist Dharma sees no gender	2416
Robert Johnson ~ Chicago, United States ~ Buddhist	2417
Melissa Chan ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2418
Kristin Vedder-Clark ~ Stockbridge, United States ~ non-Buddhist	2419
Anonymous ~ Toronto, Canada ~ Theravada other	2420
Annika Román Lundskog ~ Helsingborg, Sweden ~ Buddhist	2421
Lynne Thomas ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ undeclared	2422
Johann Franz ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	2423
Hilary Anne Katzenell ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist venerable elders, it is a shame to loose such a precious jewel as the sanga for want of 'rules' may the buddha be with you and guide you to a happy outcome for all.	2424
Ida Bay-Schmith ~ Copenhagen, Denmark ~ Tibetan	2425
Lee Hui Gek ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist	2426
Sriyani Peiris ~ Kandy, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	2427

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Sandra Blackham ~ perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2428

Congratulations Ajahn!

You have done what has to be done which was well overdue.

Teresa Cunningham ~ Belfast, Ireland ~ Tibetan

2429

Anonymous ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist

2430

GRAHAM TOOTH ~ LITTLEHAMPTON, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2431

Invoking the spirit and being of Ratnasambhava the Buddha of equality who expresses our common longings for unfettered creativity, of great riches for all in a world liberated from the bonds of samsara. Invoking the Buddhist belief in the unlimited transcendental capacity of all who choose to follow the path regardless of gender if necessary across aeons. Invoking the importance of recognising those with such commitment and encouraging them to take their most effective place in any Sangha that they may work for the benefit of all beings. Invoking Shantideva's attempts to describe his own path that others may draw inspiration and never see themselves, in whatever guise, as superior to others in the immense task and training towards liberation and ultimately freedom from the great passions of the human condition. Invoking the spirit of all enlightened women of the past and future who worked and will work for the benefit of humankind regardless of attitude, rank, nature or tendency. Invoking the essence of Buddhism as going forth in commitment and practice to the three jewels, to liberation from the shackles of conventional knowledge, social groupings or hierarchies and the samsaric boundaries of gender. Invoking the need for all Buddhist communities to transcend ideas of group and group conformity that stifles the true individuality arising out of liberation from the rounds of existence and belonging to the community of all seeking liberation. Challenging always in oneself the mind that is clinging, is aversive, seeks to separate and distinguish, to affirm self, to seek certainty in formalism of any kind.

On another note I have witnessed across many years in social care the negative and divisive effects of exclusion and the hidden passions and negative forces and fears that are awakened when they are challenged. I do not know in your tradition what the spiritual reasoning is for excluding women from ordination but merely request that this issue is explicitly and honestly examined to establish if there is the slightest germ of klesas under the surface. I have witnessed the exclusion that has blighted people's psychological and spiritual vibrancy. Though I could, I am not appealing to the mores of current society but to what seems to me to be the inexorable spiritual and experiential and faith driven logic of a fully formed Buddhist practice.

with much Metta

Graham

Kristina Räsänen ~ Örebro, Sweden ~ Theravada other

2432

Maya Simson ~ Hedemora, Sweden ~ Mahayana other

2433

Linda Walley ~ United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other

2434

Lucyna Sobiecka ~ Sopot, Poland ~ Zen

2435

Michele Helene Schönen ~ Germany ~ non-Buddhist

2436

Tobias Heed ~ Malmö, Sweden ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2437

Charlotte Karlsdotter ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ undeclared

2438

GARY TEE ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2439

Bumbacher Irene ~ Bern, Switzerland ~ Theravada other

2440

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Kia Almegard ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Mahayana other

2441

Ron Pelletier ~ Kensington, CA, United States ~ Buddhist

2442

Santina Aruta ~ Prospect Park, New Jersey, United States ~ Theravada other

2443

The Buddha said: Do not take my word as truth. Test it for yourselves, and if it is correct then use it, if not discard it. By using the scriptures as hard and fast rules, then the Buddha's advice is ignored. In this modern time, change is required if it is for the good of the Sangha.

Buddha himself taught us that ALL things CHANGE. Ignoring the requirements of our changing society will mean the DEATH of Theravada Buddhism in the West.

TEO CHUEN TICK ~ Bayan Lepas, Malaysia ~ Theravada other

2444

It is time the theravadian bhikkhuni's in Thailand are accorded due respect and status .

Why use an unjust and archaic law to negate what is actually an act worthy of praise by the holy and wise??

King Shing Lim ~ Aberdeen, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other

2445

David Briggs ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2446

Discrimination is something i have fought against all my life as i have faced discrimination throughout my life. I became interested in the Buddha's teachings due to the fact that it didn't discriminate against people just because of their sex, sexual orientation or class. However, having been a Buddhist for 6 years i have come to see that it is not the case. Not that the Buddha himself was but the people who claim to follow his teachings don't see to follow the spirit of Buddhism. For me, Buddhism is becoming another form of the Catholic church, men in total control and power and women under their control and servitude.

There is no hope for Buddhism in the future should this continue. I only hope that one day the shining star of the Buddha's wisdom with become visible again once the clouds of misogyny, discrimination and sexism dissipate and that that star can shine forth for the new generation which hold equality so dear to their hearts

Hiranthi Gunatunga ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2447

Sarah Reddie ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

2448

Charlotte Stanersen ~ lava hot springs, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2449

Amy J Gallant ~ Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada ~ Buddhist

2450

I fully and wholeheartedly disagree with the expulsion of Ajahn Brahm regarding his standpoint on the gender inequality in the monastic order and community. I fully support Ajahn Brahm's actions and viewpoints regarding his participation in the ordinance of females as Buddhist Nuns. He is altruistic and stands for the true essence of the singularity of thought, mind and action uniting all humans on the same level of equality of which all religions should be cognisant.

Saumya Gunasekara ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

2451

Was not Visaka and the Buddha's Step-mother Aunt Bhikunies. Very disappointed in this act. Ajhan Brahm was a lay person who became a monk;so he explains well. I have found that our poor /L monks who are 'given' to the temple as children, do not have experience in life, to explain to us in lay -terms, how to over come our issues. They tell us what to do, but not how to do. I have found a Sai Baba devotee who can teach me "How to remove the pain". I still remain a Buddhist. Saumya

Franz Etter ~ perth, Australia ~ Tibetan

2452

Mary Ng ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist

2453

The Buddha himself ordained nuns, so ordaining Bikkhunis today cannot be against the Vinaya. How do we practise the Buddha's path when we are so attached to form?

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Van Nguyen ~ montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other	2454
Dana DePalma ~ San Anselmo, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2455
Ivan Peh ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared	2456
David Christie ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2457
Anonymous ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada other	2458
Jeff Miller ~ United States ~ Theravada other	2459
Anonymous ~ Toronto, Canada ~ Theravada other	2460
Sarah Harding ~ Boulder, United States ~ Tibetan	2461
Cabby Phoumichith ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2462
BENU GHOSH ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2463
Richie Whitehead ~ Knoxville, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2464
<p>Regardless of whether it is felt that the ordination ceremony took place too hastily, most are in agreement that it should have taken place, even if in the not-too-distant future.</p> <p>In that light, I believe it should be accepted that what has been done is done; and the basic fact of what was done, if hasty, was basically good.</p> <p>On the basis of this understanding, I think it can be concluded that reconciliation is in everyone's best interest, and we should all merely be happy that there is such interest for Dhamma in the West.</p>	
Soo Cheng ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2465
M L Ong ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Tibetan	2466
Gwen McAuley ~ Lewes, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	2467
Marietta Mautner ~ Vienna, Solomon Islands ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2468
Anonymous ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	2469
Laurence Mather ~ perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2470
I cannot see any justifiable reason why women should not be allowed to fully ordain as buddhist nuns in the theravada tradition.	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anna Marie Markey ~ Adelaide, Australia ~ Theravada other

2471

From my sense of the intelligence, compassion and clarity of mind of Gautama Buddha, from reading the Pali suttas I cannot fathom how any elders of any tradition could misrepresent the taste of his teachings. He taught liberation for all. Any attempt to prevent women from advancing how they wish within the dharma is a travesty of the Buddhas teachings

Upul Gunatunga ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other

2472

Karla Crescenta ~ United States ~ undeclared

2473

E. Buitenman ~ Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ Theravada other

2474

Helga Gamp ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist

2475

Johanna Finnholm ~ Gothenburg, Sweden ~ Mahayana other

2476

Kirsty ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2477

Devi Kurnia Suhardi ~ Palembang, Indonesia ~ Buddhist

2478

May all beings be able learn the truth well..

May all beings be happy and well! =)

Bryan Reigle ~ Columbus, United States ~ Buddhist

2479

Marianne Loid ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist

2480

Monica Ghosh ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ non-Buddhist

2481

As a total outsider I find this goes against the very spirit & essence of Buddhism & am most disappointment & discouraged.

Anonymous ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2482

Gabriele Kuestermann ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan

2483

I am supporting that each adult human being should have the freedom of decision to become a fully ordained monk or nun all over the world.

With best wishes

Gabriele

Dlana Lightmoon ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Theravada other

2484

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jem Mara ~ Ashland, Oregon, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2485

I would suggest to anyone not supporting this timely change to a return to the fourfold sangha such as the Buddha had, to:

Deeply examine your intentions and motivations for clinging to an outdated, temporary form used until the fourfold shanga could come to be again. As causes and conditions have clearly come together for this to happen, to accept this change gracefully and wholeheartedly would seem the selfless and compassionate act called for. To act out of personal or institutional aversion to this change because of personal (selfish) reasons or the desire to maintain power, seems entirely opposite to the Buddha's teachings. If you investigate your heart/mind deeply and truthfully, how could you not support this return to a fourfold sangha?

May all beings be happy and peaceful.

May all beings live with ease and a sense of well-being.

Linda Seese ~ el rito, nm, United States ~ Tibetan

2486

Gabor Barat ~ Hungary ~ Buddhist

2487

Richard Gossett ~ St. Clairsville, Ohio, United States ~ Zen

2488

Richard Dillon ~ Bradford, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2489

C. Buschmann ~ Düsseldorf, Germany ~ Tibetan

2490

Kristin Ulibarri ~ el prado, United States ~ Theravada other

2491

Anne-Rose Quade ~ Iserlohn, Germany ~ undeclared

2492

Bianca Petkova ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2493

I fully support you in your efforts.

Henri Breitenkam ~ Margate, Florida, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2494

The dhamma is changeless, but times and cultural mores change.

James Graves ~ Toronto, Canada ~ Theravada other

2495

Anne Raeburn ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2496

My apologies for being too late to include my signature in the presentation of this petition, as I have been away. I still wish to show my full support.

Leelangi Wanasundera ~ Battaramulla, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other

2497

Sarnit ~ bangkok, Thailand ~ Theravada other

2498

TOTALLY SUPPORT AJAHN BRAHM FOR HIS ACTION . BUDDHA SAID THINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NOTHING IS PERMANENT.

THANKS FOR THE COURAGE.

Karen Rudgard ~ Teddington, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2499

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Theresa Pritchard ~ Wiltshire, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	2500
Jenny Le Neveu ~ Gold coast, Australia ~ Buddhist	2501
Respect & compassion are core values in Buddhism, so how is it, we don't show respect to female sangha?	
Svetlana Filonenko ~ Moscow, Russian Federation ~ Zen	2502
Sarmite Voitkane ~ Riga, Latvia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2503
I support this petition for well being of humanity.	
Paula Ruddick ~ Hereford, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	2504
Robin Westenra ~ Wellington, New Zealand ~ Buddhist	2505
Pam Crisp ~ Wellington, New Zealand ~ Buddhist	2506
Lori Wong ~ Riverbank, United States ~ undeclared	2507
Womberto ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	2508
Virginia ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2509
To the monks who may have apposed or been too frightened to stand up to this overdue progression in the Buddhist faith, I hope that you will soon face your fears and overcome your egotistical issues. Let us go forth with what the Buddha said and allow the Bhikkhunis to shine as they always should have done, with that which is their equal birthright. Stop hiding behind your feeble interpretations and your fears of inadequacy. It is time to grow up. We can all work together to benefit the world that is currently so desperate for the teachings of the Dhamma.	
Jan-Michael Ehrhardt ~ Neustadt am Rübenberge, Germany ~ Zen	2510
Richard Corby ~ Canberra, Australia ~ Tibetan	2511
Shamalee Thilakasiri ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	2512
Mike Saltz ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ Buddhist	2513
Angie Monksfield ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2514
Gender is superficial when it comes to spirituality.	
It is time to support bhikkhuni ordination as there is no justification for discrimination, especially in this day and age.	
There is no guarantee that just because one is a man or monk in this life, you will not be reborn as a female in the next life. We need to be careful when we discriminate . . . for the law of kamma counter-acts.	
Where is compassion in the practise of Buddhism when you don't wish to create opportunities for women who could be your sister, mother and many of your disciples and supporters, to ordain as bhikkhuni to realise her full potential in the pursuit of enlightenment?	
Next time before we throw our support behind a monk or become his disciple, check his worthiness by clarifying if he discriminates against bhikkhunis and keeps his vows of poverty, chastity and compassion. Lets follow only those who are exemplary!	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ananda Thilakasiri ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

2515

Lord Buddha established the Bhikkhuni Sasana. Without bhikkhunis how can there be a four-fold group of disciples, traditionally known as four assemblies, that Buddha has referred to in his discourses? Arahant Sangamitta established the Bhikkhuni order in Sri Lanka. If the Buddha and his noble disciples fully supported the Bhikkhuni order, how can there be a problem with any other person.

Mano De Silva ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Buddhist

2516

Alan Clarke ~ Parkerville, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2517

James Le The ~ sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist

2518

I support the Bikkhuni ordination wholeheartedly. I have been an active member for the last five years.
james

Geri Trombley ~ United States ~ Zen

2519

David Gorman ~ Perth, Australia ~ non-Buddhist

2520

letting cultural tradition get in the way of common sense.

Katy Wiss ~ Danbury, United States ~ Theravada other

2521

Liam ~ Edenderry, Ireland ~ undeclared

2522

all are equal

BUDDHA DHARMA-OBF INTERNATIONAL ~ Poetovio, Slovenia ~ Buddhist

2523

OM MANI PADME HUM

We fully support and promote GENDER EQUALITY * EMPOWERING OF WOMEN IN BUDDHISM, in relation to MILLENNIUM GOALS OF UNITED NATIONS.

Related Visual Dharma: Women in Buddhism*****

www.youtube.com/OpenBuddhistForum

Related research and Buddhist studies :

www.buddhadharmaobfinternational.wordpress.com HERITAGE OF MANKIND

BUDDHA DHARMA is generally beneficial religious organisation, since 1995 registered with the Government of Slovenia, EUROPEAN UNION

Malsiri Boange ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

2524

Anne Hensgen ~ Aachen, Germany ~ Tibetan

2525

Anonymous ~ Toronto, Canada ~ non-Buddhist

2526

I am shocked at the new wave of gender discrimination surfacing in once egalitarian religious denominations. I am a lutheran and the lutheran church leadership in Latvia is proposing to enact a law that will prohibit the ordination of women. So far they simply were not given congregations to preside in as ministers, but now it has come to this. I am in sympathy with your situation and support your cause.

E. Sarot ~ United States ~ undeclared

2527

Joanne ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist

2528

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Steve Thio ~ singapore, Singapore ~ undeclared	2529
Andreja Grablovic ~ Grosuplje, Slovenia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2530
Pushpa Sooriyabandara ~ Cambridge, Canada ~ Theravada other	2531
Lynne Crossley ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2532
Shila Coombes ~ Devon, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	2533
Lyn Turner ~ Waterloo, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2534
Anonymous ~ Iodeve, France ~ Tibetan	2535
Vacher JeanLouis ~ Saint saturnin, France ~ Tibetan Men and woman have both buddha nature, no difference.....	2536
Susan Stone ~ Charlottesville VA, United States Minor Outlying Islands ~ Theravada other	2537
Conny Berg ~ Sweden ~ Buddhist	2538
Anonymous ~ Switzerland ~ Theravada other	2539
Andrea Klanten ~ Neuenstein, Germany ~ undeclared	2540
Christoph Schmidt ~ Aachen, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2541
Eric Nyberg ~ United States ~ Zen	2542
Jöran Briding ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist	2543
Barbara ~ West Shokan, United States ~ non-Buddhist	2544
Diane Woodman ~ Perth, ON, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition I cannot believe that in the year 2009 such prejudice against women still exists in the world, let alone amongst people who call themselves spiritual leaders. Shame on those who disallow, even condemn bikkhuni ordinations. Buddhists should know better than to be so shallow.	2545
Susan Singh ~ United States ~ Zen	2546

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Megan Cowan ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada other	2547
E. Donkers ~ Tilburg, Netherlands ~ Theravada other	2548
Steven Spiro ~ Hillpoint WI, United States ~ Zen	2549
Debra Bailey ~ United States ~ undeclared	2550
Olive Cauchi ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Buddhist	2551
Ruth Devitt ~ La Crosse, Wisconsin, United States ~ Tibetan	2552
Catherine Nagel ~ Florence, MA, United States ~ Theravada other	2553
Dianne Carrell ~ Santa Fe, United States ~ Tibetan	2554
Lisa Maria ~ San Rafael, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2555
Anonymous ~ sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other	2556
Virginia Seiser ~ Albuquerque, United States ~ Zen The Buddha Nature is without gender	2557
Tissa Jayasuriya ~ Canberra, Australia ~ Theravada other	2558
Rupa Seneviratne-Banda ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist There is no reason why the women should not have the same chance as men to attain Nirvana. It is a pity that we cannot ask Buddha this question but when asked from the Dhamma the answer I get is both genders should be allowed to have an equal chance to attain Nirvana.	2559
Rev.Yao Feng Shakya ~ Eugene, United States ~ Zen The Buddha did not see beings according to sex, race or social caste. According to the Buddhadharma we are all equal and the same. Who is not Buddha? bows to all beings. ~metta -sadmonk	2560
Elaine Tay ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2561
Debby ~ United States ~ Buddhist	2562

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Michele Chubirka ~ Washington DC, United States ~ Theravada other 2563

Suzanne Kryder ~ Washington, DC, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition 2564

Chandra ~ COLOMBO, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other 2565

Elizabeth Gibbons ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other 2566

David Paul ~ Tingira Heights, Australia ~ Buddhist 2567
no woman no cry

Annie Farrell ~ Australia ~ undeclared 2568

Halcyone Bennett ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition 2569

Upali Abeyesinghe ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition 2570

Anonymous ~ Spain ~ Theravada Forest tradition 2571

TS (Teck Suan) Low ~ Oak Flats, NSW 2529, Australia ~ Buddhist 2572

I appeal to the Forest Sangha of the WPP lineage to be reminiscent of the rooted motivation of the Buddha, that of His great compassion in granting equal opportunity to all sentient beings the path of purification that lead to Nibbana. This is also the essence of the teaching of your great teacher in your lineage - Ajahn Chah - (or "No Ajahn Chah"). Let not this essence be camouflaged and clouded by claims of adherence to traditions, lineage and man-made monastic protocols.

Claire Dunn ~ Australia ~ Theravada other 2573

Helena Gaije ~ stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist 2574

Anonymous ~ China ~ non-Buddhist 2575

Donna Whitton ~ Wardija, Malta ~ Theravada Forest tradition 2576

Please allow women the chance to practise the holy life in the forest tradition in the same way that the lord Buddha did; with equal opportunities.

Anika Nigsch ~ Vandans, Austria ~ Zen 2577

Thank you for telling me about the unfair case.

Upali Jayakody ~ Nugegoda, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other 2578

NANCY PHUA ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist 2579

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Gabrielle Dyce ~ Loubes-Bernac, France ~ Buddhist

2580

I wholly support Bikkhuni ordination in all schools of Buddhism. I consider Bikkhuni ordination an essential prerequisite in order to be able to take full and complete refuge in the 3 Jewels of Buddha, Dharma and Sangha and to benefit from the freedom, protection and liberation provided by the Bikkhuni precepts. I feel strongly that all women of all traditions aspiring to monastic life should be able to benefit from this wonderful gift.

H Thorning Lund ~ Bath, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2581

Sam Kim Sun Thean Jr ~ Ipoh, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2582

I fully support Bhikkhuni ordination and I think it is the proper way forward for Theravadan Buddhism and the world in general would be a much better place for it. May all sentient beings have the greater opportunity to understand and to practise the wonderful Buddha-Dhamma. I apologize for not signing this petition earlier as I was away attending a meditation retreat in Thailand.

Susan Fernandes ~ Dubai, United Arab Emirates ~ non-Buddhist

2583

I follow the Roman Catholic Religion. I love the teachings of THE BUDDHA. I believe all religions work towards the same goal. If anyone wants to progress on the spiritual path - which sex you belong to should not matter just as in religion we do not discriminate between the rich and the not so rich, the intellectual and the not so smart, the beautiful and the not so beautiful...similarly please do not discriminate between a male and a female. With my deepest respects to all you - you have progressed in your awakening - I a humble layperson request you all through this petition. Thank you.

Ian Harvey ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other

2584

We are all equal.

Show me a woman who has not made a contribution to expanding the teaching of the dharma.

Henning Osmers ~ Bremen, Germany ~ Theravada other

2585

Klaus Verstrepen ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other

2586

Anonymous ~ Miri, Malaysia ~ Theravada other

2587

Pamela Freeman ~ Philadelphia Pa, United States ~ Theravada other

2588

Christiena Bluett ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2589

Leposava Surla ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2590

David Whitehead ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2591

to me there is a gradual enlightenment of the whole human race in every tradition, and when they say there is none, there is enlightenment, it's a long path, and this is one more step, with metta to all David

Victor Figueroa ~ Detroit, United States ~ Buddhist

2592

Randall Gribbin ~ Canyon Lake, Texas, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2593

Marilyn Lemon ~ Vancouver, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2594

thank you for doing this, sorry I'm late.

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Robert Kolodny ~ New York, United States ~ Theravada other	2595
Tan HL ~ Kuching, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	2596
Bridget Rolens ~ St Louis, United States ~ Theravada other	2597
Carl Provder ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2598
Kindu Weerasinghe ~ auckland, New Zealand ~ Buddhist	2599
R. David Tucker ~ Greenville, SC, United States ~ Theravada other	2600
I fully support the ordination of Bhikkhuni's in all schools of Buddhism. I hope that the Venerable monks will see a way to allow all disciples to have access to the holy life through full ordination and full responsibility to the Dhamma Vinaya.	
Liz Farley-Hills ~ OXFORD, United Kingdom ~ non-Buddhist	2601
Robert Langford ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other	2602
Thaddey Monica ~ Lucerne, Switzerland ~ Theravada other	2603
Regine ~ Germany ~ undeclared	2604
Johannes Schaefer ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Theravada other	2605
Mandara Provder ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2606
Brady Rubin ~ United States ~ Theravada other	2607
John Fowle ~ bedford hills, nY., United States ~ Theravada other	2608
I find the matter totally outrageous. The western monks are living in a western culture but introduce an asian culture when it suits them. There may not be equality in parts of asia but that is not the case in UK and the USA where there are monasteries which are being supported by western lay people. That support will lessen if matters concerning the nuns are not addressed in a fair and 21st century manner.	
Patricia Genoud ~ Switzerland ~ Theravada other	2609
Max Airborne ~ Oakland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2610
Joachim Wilhelmi ~ Ritterhude, Germany ~ Theravada other	2611

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Conrad Smith ~ Pittsburgh, United States ~ Tibetan	2612
Kim Ong ~ Singapore ~ Zen	2613
Anonymous ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Buddhist	2614
<p>The Buddha did not discriminate between men and women. Both genders can achieve nibbana and both genders can lead others to nibbana.</p> <p>Those intent on denying women the ability to be fully ordained means those are not practicing the noble path. They are practicing a lesser and inferior path. Neither of these paths were practiced by the Buddha.</p>	
Yona Adams ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada other	2615
<p>Thank goodness this is being addressed in this way. Long overdue.</p>	
John Solt ~ West Hollywood, United States ~ undeclared	2616
<p>We need female ordination of bhikkhuni to help women, especially those in distress. In Thailand males can climb socially by becoming monks, getting an education, and then leaving the sangha to start their independent lives. Women have no such option, and this directly relates to the high number of prostitutes in Thailand. If women could have temples and administer to women in distress, the problem would be diminished, though not eliminated. Buddhist monks so far haven't been helpful in this regard. If Bhikkhuni can be ordained, we can expect society to be more equal and many problems will be resolved. After all, Buddha himself ordained Bhikkhuni, so why is it not good enough for modern monks to relent on this point? Aren't they following the politics over the religious aspects?</p> <p>Awaken monks and enlighten the people, don't shroud them in irrational darkness.</p>	
Maureen Shannon-Chapple ~ Los Angeles, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2617
Arthur Robinson ~ Oakland, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2618
Merra Young ~ Minneapolis, United States ~ Theravada other	2619
Teo Yew Thong ~ Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2620
Hermann ~ Germany ~ undeclared	2621
Darby Kremers ~ Boulder Creek, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2622
Tully McHenry ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2623
<p>I am truly opposed to sexism in religious institutions.</p>	
Hridayacandra ~ Stockholm, Sweden ~ Buddhist	2624
Susan Hartley ~ PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2625
<p>I am disgusted that this has now become a personal attack on Ajahn Brahm. Please go to www.bswa.org and read the letters Bhikkhunis have written. The ordination was the right thing to do, bringing Buddhism back into present day</p>	
Glenda Hodges-Cook ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2626
Sherill Lisse ~ Amsterdam, Netherlands ~ undeclared	2627
<p>Equality, especially in Buddhism is a MUST.</p>	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Janet Surrey ~ boston, United States ~ Theravada other	2628
Sam DeWitt ~ East Hampton, United States ~ Theravada other	2629
Barbara Maltba ~ Rochester NY, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I am in support of Bhikkhuni ordination and gender equality in the Forest Sangha	2630
Julia Pinsky ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2631
Anonymous ~ santa Cruz, United States ~ undeclared i am a woman who meditates, and i want Buddhist nuns, and women in general, to be regarded and treated as equals to men.	2632
Lela Carney L.Ac. ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ undeclared Let tradition serve what's most true about human beings on the path. Please be open to the possibility that there may be times when tradition may obscure the path. If there's a choice to be made when tradition may not express the truth or the full truth, there is a way to bow to the commitment to awaken that the tradition reflects - and choose the commitment to support awakening over the tradition. This can be done without disrespect to the lineage and the carriers of the lineage. Thank you for your consideration and your contemplation. May this 'controversy' serve to join us rather than divide us. May the full power of women's resolution to awaken strengthen the resolve of all on the path.	2633
Anonymous ~ Provincetown, United States ~ Buddhist	2634
Phyllis Heenan ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Zen	2635
Jane Sooby ~ United States ~ Theravada other equality for all, please.	2636
Joyce Nicholson ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2637
James R. Memmott ~ Ben Lomond, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2638
K.C. Covert ~ Nevada City, United States ~ Theravada other	2639
Jayla Klein ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2640
Allys Myers ~ Boston, United States ~ non-Buddhist	2641
Nicole CheroK ~ San Mateo, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2642
Anna Strong ~ san jose, United States ~ Theravada other	2643
Cathleen O'Connell ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2644

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Bonnie Coben ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ undeclared	2645
Suni Sharpe ~ Auckland, New Zealand ~ Theravada other	2646
Claire Potstada ~ oakland, United States ~ Mahayana other	2647
Cheryl Wilfong ~ E Dummerston VT, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2648
Bob Morrison ~ United States ~ Tibetan As a practicing Buddhist for many years, I feel it is important that my sisters in Sangha are treated with full equality and respect in keeping with the true spirit of the Dharma.	2649
Dan Landry ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2650
Pele Rouge Chadima ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist From my perspective, the cause of peace is greatly furthered by allowing women to take their rightful place in the world's spiritual traditions.	2651
Rebecca Reid ~ Amherst, United States ~ Theravada other	2652
Anne Briggs ~ Chestertown, Maryland, United States ~ Theravada other	2653
Pat Wells ~ United States ~ undeclared	2654
Tetty Gorfine ~ Montague, United States ~ undeclared	2655
Peter Nau ~ Belmont, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition I respectfully submit that sex discrimination has no place in a practice intended to lead to freedom and the end of suffering. While there are, at times, practical reasons to separate groups by sex, there can be no fair, just, and reasonable justification for holding one group or person superior over the other simply on the basis of sex.	2656
Laura Dolson ~ Ben Lomond, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2657
Margaret Seidler ~ Aptos, United States ~ Theravada other	2658
Tim Wickens ~ Santa Rosa, United States ~ Theravada other	2659
Joseph Vella ~ Aptos, United States ~ undeclared Gender has nothing to do with the nature of the self.	2660
Anonymous ~ Felton, CA, United States ~ Zen Equality for men and women is TRUTH. Tradition is often responsible for blindness to truth.	2661

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Daniel Bowling ~ Sausalito, California, United States ~ Theravada other	2662
Especially given the discriminatory practices of numerous other major religions, I am saddened to see my beloved tradition become lost in the evil of gender discrimination. As I look at the suffering around the world, it is clear that a fundamental cause is discrimination against women.	
Anonymous ~ Morgan Hill, United States ~ Theravada other	2663
balance needs to be restored between the masculine and the feminine in our world this is a step to restore the balance	
Jeanne van Gemert ~ Chapel Hill, NC, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2664
I support full ordination for women	
Nancy Bouvier ~ United States ~ Theravada other	2665
please support the dalai lama in extending full equality to women nuns. we must continue to change with times. we can be a part of history. thank you	
Lucy Hemmendinger ~ Montague, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2666
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2667
MELANIE OESTERHELD ~ SANTA CRUZ, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2668
Pauline McGrah ~ Auckland, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2669
Heidi Renteria ~ Santa Cruz, CA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2670
Anonymous ~ Shenyang, China ~ Buddhist	2671
Phyllis Levin ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2672
Jim Powell ~ Boulder Creek, United States ~ Theravada other	2673
I am submitting my name with deep respect for both the Theravadan traditions in Thailand and Buddhist traditions from all over the world.	
Nancy Gill ~ watsonville, california 95076, United States ~ Theravada other	2674
Steven Waldrip ~ carmel, United States ~ undeclared	2675
Debra Kerr ~ Oakland, California, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2676
Please act to end the suffering caused by gender inequality in the Forest Sangha.	
John Juster ~ carmel, United States ~ Theravada other	2677
Lim HH ~ Petaling Jaya, Malaysia ~ Buddhist	2678
Mary Reynolds ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Buddhist	2679

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Justin Jenkins ~ United States ~ Tibetan

2680

Rhiannon Skye Walker ~ Perth, WA, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2681

I agree with the decision of the BSWA to ordain bikkunis. This is the 21st Century and there should be equality for women. Also some ladies may find it easier to seek knowledge from a bikkuni than a bikku on certain delicate matters.

Daniel Davide ~ seaford, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2682

I have only now heard of these latest developments. I had thought that the actions of the Elders Council was to remind us that senior monks are also human and at the mercy of their temperament.

Thank you Ajahn Brahm.

Karin Cavanaugh ~ Boulder Creek, United States ~ Buddhist

2683

Hoang-Minh Dao ~ Berlin, Germany ~ Zen

2684

At Buddha's life time there were Bhikkunis (ordained by himself). Why shouldn't Bhikkunis ordained in our beeing time ?

Anonymous ~ Santa Cruz CA 95062, United States ~ Buddhist

2685

Anonymous ~ Ben Lomond, United States ~ Theravada other

2686

Janet Logothetti ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Tibetan

2687

Carolle Blackwell ~ Penzance, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2688

good luck

Anonymous ~ Brooklyn, United States ~ Theravada other

2689

Anonymous ~ Durban, South Africa ~ Tibetan

2690

I am disheartened to learn of the expulsion of Ven. Ajahn Brahavamso and Bodhinyana Monastery (AUS) from the Ajahn Chah community. In the spirit of Dharma I respectfully request that the new legislation imposed upon the nuns of Amaravati and Cittaviveka be revoked and a new dialogue be initiated to discuss what would mutually support the monks' and nuns' orders to thrive in their Western communities.

Abbess Myoan Grace Schireson ~ North Fork, United States ~ Zen

2691

I sign this petition to support the newly ordained nuns, and to support Buddhism. Buddhism itself must be liberated from the patriarchal strangle hold that has kept it from living up to its promise of freeing all beings from suffering

Theodore Grondahl ~ United States ~ non-Buddhist

2692

Gregory Tutko ~ Montreal, Canada ~ Theravada other

2693

































As a former Bhikkhu, Dassanayano Bhikkhu, at Wat Umong, Chiangmai, I join my voice with the many others of the larger Sangha to support the legitimate desire of women for higher ordination as Bhikkhunis. This was determined by the Buddha to be proper and worthy of respect. We should all say "anumodanna!" to all our companions on the Path, both women and men.

May all beings find Health, Happiness and Peace.

Bruce Abt ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2694

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Jennifer Weise ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ undeclared	2695
	
Carolyn Rudolph ~ United States ~ Theravada other	2696
 It is time to open a fair and just dialogue as to the equality of nuns.	
Ashley Menzies ~ Hove, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2697
 Woman should be able to take full ordination	
Jun Koay ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Buddhist	2698
 Gender equality is emphasised in Buddhism!!!	
Stephen Hendry ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	2699
 Gender equality for the nuns.	
Brina Eidelson ~ Cambridge, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2700
	
Megan Richey ~ North Platte, United States ~ undeclared	2701
	
H.E. Tara Tulku Drimed Drolkhar Rinpoche ~ EUROPEAN UNION, Austria ~ Buddhist	2702
 OM MANI PADME HUM I full ysupport full ordination of nuns in all Budhist traditions in relation with GENDER EQUALITY & Empowerment of women as one of Millenium goals of United nations. Related research : WOMEN IN BUDDHISM www.youtube.com/OpenBuddhistForum Buddha Dharma-OBf international	
Patrick Browne ~ Manchester, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	2703
 I am a Buddhist and I feel it is a disgrace to Buddhism if women do not have equality with men within a Buddhist sangha.	
Subhashini Abeysinghe ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	2704
 It is indeed a sad thing to deprive the ability to walk the path the freedom, based on gender	
Connie Woodberry ~ East Dummerston, Vermont, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2705
 I am deeply disappointed and ashamed of these Buddhist leaders who do not believe that women are capable or deserving of what men are in the leadership on Buddhism.	
Kieran Byrne ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2706
	
Barbara Culbert ~ Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States ~ Theravada other	2707
 Buddhism has not taught me that female bodies are less than, or unequal to, male bodies. What's going on here, that bhikkhuni are not worthy of that which is given to men? Did I understand the Buddha wrong?	
Gustavo Lima Do Rego Monteiro ~ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ~ Zen	2708
 I agree.	
Susan Jordan ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	2709
	
Ali Gulliver ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other	2710
	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Linda Patton ~ New York, United States ~ Zen	2711
<div></div> I urgently and wholeheartedly support this petition. As a Buddhist, how can there be any other choice?	<div></div>
Marilyn Metta ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2712
<div></div>	<div></div>
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Buddhist	2713
<div></div>	<div></div>
Navodani Abeysinghe ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2714
<div></div>	<div></div>
Sanuri Abeysinghe ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	2715
<div></div>	<div></div>
Rich Wadsworth ~ Watsonville, United States ~ Theravada other	2716
<div></div>	<div></div>
Rosa Bridges ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada other	2717
<div></div>	<div></div>
Robin Davidson ~ Honey Brook, United States ~ Tibetan	2718
<div></div> Are we to believe that a human person can not reach enlightenment due having one set of genitalia over another. Male and female genitals are a lock and key system to create life when in union, both are equally needed. Women traditionally are nurtures of life, males are traditionally providers and oftentimes violent and aggressive in natures. If males can become enlightened, surely women can, and have right to. All beings seek happiess and teh causes of happiness, all humans have a need for the full teachings whether male or female. Was not Arya Tara proof of female enlightenment? Do we not take Bodhisattva vows to assist all sentient beings in their path to attain enlightenment? Should we not speed up the process by allowing women to be fully ordained and practice? Why let body parts prevent that? Why should we practice cruelty as Buddhists and hinder women and thus the world?	<div></div>
Marti Anderson ~ Bangkok, Thailand ~ undeclared	2719
<div></div> There is no question in my mind about the importance of this.	<div></div>
Paola Mariotti ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2720
<div></div> if I were to select a teaching of the Buddha which has given me the greatest trust in the Teaching and in its strength, it would be his invitation to investigate. It is an invitation to be open, and to openly and compassionately reflect on our thoughts and actions. In this spirit I am signing this petition, whose aim is to open a mindful dialogue about the important issue of gender discrimination.	<div></div>
Yik Hun CHEONG ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2721
<div></div>	<div></div>
Anonymous ~ Middlesex, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2722
<div></div> The Buddha ordained woman and they can become enlightened, so I do not understand why there is discrimination if we are all equal.	<div></div>
Philip Henry ~ Nottingham, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	2723
<div></div> The time has come to move on. The efforts in Asia , largely supported by Buddhist groups across the continent have seen the development of Bhikkhuni sanghas from the tTawanese supporters, with others as the events of 1998 showed. Even the Sinhalese have come to see the necessity to reinstate the Bhikkhuni orders. The Buddha agreed too it and was hesitant for reasons that were very culturally specific. Almost 26 centuries later the dharma persists and the prediction that letting nuns ordain would curtail the life of his teaching by 500 years was never realised. In a world where patrirachy should lead with compassionate examples this is one area that should exemplify this.	<div></div>
Anton Wirth ~ Germany ~ Zen	2724
<div></div>	<div></div>

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Joyce Edmond-Smith ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Zen

2725

Compassion and wisdom are needed here . The Western world badly needs the wisdom of the Dharma, but if it comes with inequality that will be an insurmountable barrier in the way.

K Davis ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ undeclared

2726

NIKHIL ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ non-Buddhist

2727

Smita ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ non-Buddhist

2728

Deepti ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ non-Buddhist

2729

Jayant ~ singapore, Singapore ~ non-Buddhist

2730

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Tibetan

2731

Anonymous ~ Luzern, Switzerland ~ non-Buddhist

2732

Anonymous ~ The Hague, Netherlands ~ Theravada other

2733

Lauren Van Ham ~ United States ~ Theravada other

2734

Hans Isbrücker ~ Netherlands ~ Theravada other

2735

What a short-sighted decision. I can't call this ongoing discrimination a display of wisdom.

Rick Hanson ~ San Rafael, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2736

Hugh L'ange ~ london, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2737

Htin Aung Soe Moe ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Theravada other

2738

Kyree Klimist ~ Oakland, United States ~ undeclared

2739

Sharon Parker ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Zen

2740

Guy Malkerson ~ Ledbury, United Kingdom ~ Zen

2741

M.L. Norris ~ Auckland, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2742

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Moira Harris ~ Dumfries, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan	2743
Sr. Upekkha ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2744
I feel deeply saddened by what has happened. I strongly support the call for reflection and dialogue on this important issue of the four-fold Sangha to be done in the spirit of trust and love for the Dhamma. I have deep gratitude and respect for your courage, Aj. Brahm.	
Richard Littler ~ Germany ~ Buddhist	2745
Gender based hierarchies and discrimination belong to the past. And it never belonged in Buddhism.	
Chow Chiew Chin ~ KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	2746
Kenneth ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Buddhist	2747
The Buddhist Sangha must evaluate what is relevant to the present times and change accordingly so that the Buddha Dhamma is real and dynamic for all practising Buddhists.	
Palash Barua ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2748
Dilani Shamalee Meegahawela ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada other	2749
Lord Buddha gave equal rights to men and women	
Kim Allen ~ United States ~ Theravada other	2750
When I read all the lengthy diatribes and explanations, all that arises is: So many words, so little wisdom. Get up from your computer. Go to the forest, where the Dhamma shines more clearly. Sit under a tree and truly investigate the relationship between the wisdom and compassion of the Path, and the gender a person is currently manifesting. Sometimes we forget the simplicity of the task.	
Viktoria Ford ~ Champaign, IL, United States ~ Tibetan	2751
Equanimity is in accordance with Buddhist principles. Certainly it is not only an intellectual construct and should be practically applied to this issue.	
Myke Evans ~ wales, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2752
Hope this helps mend fences	
Maggie Greenwood ~ San Francisco, United States ~ Buddhist	2753
Marlea Taylor ~ Mill Valley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2754
John Holl ~ San Diego, United States ~ Theravada other	2755
Marissa Thompson ~ portland, OR, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2756
Please do not allow the force of tradition, political and modern conventions to get in the way of equal treatment for all people. That means no double standards. Please remember that enlightenment is the goal for ALL people. Thank you.	
Edward McFadd ~ Encinitas, United States ~ Zen	2757
Here in the U.S. the Episcopal Church is undergoing similar strains with expanded access to clerical positions, e.g., gays and women. These accommodations are not easy but as the Buddha noted, change is the constant. Change here should accommodate the progress of awareness and the openness to enlightenment on a basis of qualification rather than gender. Thank you.	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Joy Fox ~ Fayetteville, United States ~ Theravada other

2758

Many of our major western spiritual leaders, in the Buddhist world here, have stated that women are leading the way in the new order of spirituality. Isn't it time for the monks to allow this natural unfolding?

BARBARA COUTURE ~ WILLIAMSTOWN, United States ~ Tibetan

2759

Richard Stark Ferriss ~ Tampa, United States ~ Theravada other

2760

Manel Fernando ~ Pert, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2761

Ajahn Brahm has done a wonderful act for Buddhism and Women in the world. We beg the WPP to acknowlegde this achievement as he only acted for the good and benefit of the many. That is what the Buddha sent his disciples out to achieve. Bravo Ajahn Brahm.

Alan Lewis ~ Buckfastleigh, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2762

Sati ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2763

Mark Zappelli ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

2764

If the Buddha were alive in person today he would be pleased with the decision of Ajahn Brahmavamso

Scott C. Smith ~ Venice, United States ~ Zen

2765

It's quite embarrassing to think that Buddhists anywhere would not recognize the essential Buddhanature of all beings, male or female.

Denise O'Hern ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

2766

It is with great wisdom that this recent decision has been made. Buddhism is the way for the future. I commend the courage, compassion and wisdom of the decision of Ajahn Brahmavamso.

Andrea Hacker ~ Heidelberg, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2767

Anke Bahl ~ Bonn, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2768

Ariyasena Wickrama Ariyaratne ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other

2769

Sabine Weissmann ~ Germany ~ Theravada other

2770

Sarah Bird ~ Bristol, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other

2771

Nick Diggins ~ brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2772

I feel that this is an important step in preserving the integrity of the Buddha's egalitarian teachings. As people have pointed out, according to the strict rules required to validate Bikku ordinations, there's no guarantee that modern Bikkhu ordinations would be technically any more valid than Bikkhuni ordinations.

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Buddhist

2773

Culturally, men have been conditioned to see women as inferior. These are ancient beliefs based on ancient patriarchal societies which were geared toward keeping women subservient. This action is logically and morally wrong.

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Eddy Fernando ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other

2774

In todays day and age we have to be fair to all beings. We have to see that everyone get a fair go whether woman or man. Whether in religion or otherwise. Equal opportunity for all. Religions should be questioned if not supporting this cause. WHY? No hypocrisy or avoidance.

Jenny Wilks ~ Totnes, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist

2775

Elizabeth Fye ~ United States ~ Buddhist

2776

Evelyn Tan ~ Ottawa, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2777

Cassandra Babione ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2778

Viriya Karuna ~ Las Pedrosas, Spain ~ Theravada other

2779

There is no doubt that the real spirit of the Dhamma will be seen by any monk, nun, layman and laywoman.

Anonymous ~ United States ~ Tibetan

2780

Anonymous ~ Whangarei, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2781

Louise Linney ~ Canada ~ Theravada other

2782

Jody Telfair ~ Bristol, United States ~ Buddhist

2783

Gamini Perera ~ singapore, Singapore ~ Buddhist

2784

Ven. Ajahn Brahavamso and Bodhinyana Monastery is doing a great job promoting Buddhism,

Ajahn Brahm is a very honest and a dedicated monk unlike many others. I will support his work and the Elders of the Forest Sangha of the Ven. Ajahn Chah should support him. Buddhism is a very open "religion" that people can follow.

Hope more Buddhist supports Ven Aiahn Brahm

and his work

Blessing of the Triple Gem

Sriyani Rajapakse ~ Clemson, United States ~ Buddhist

2785

Barbara Wall ~ Berkeley, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2786

Amilly Archibald ~ burnaby, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2787

It is how we develop our minds that will help us to liberate ourselves from this cycle of birth and death. It does not have anything to do with gender or or who you are. What makes Buddhism so unique and beautiful is that it is non-discriminatory. I am sure if Buddha is alive today, he will say the same thing. Let us try not not bend the facts to fit our faith. I pray this misunderstanding be resolved amicably with wisdom, peace and compassion.

CHEW Ee Har ~ Perth, Australia ~ Tibetan

2788

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Dieu Hong Bui ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist

2789

I totally support the ordination to Bhiikhuni.

Mary Ann Clark ~ Woodacre CA94973, United States ~ Theravada other

2790

Jerold Ipsen ~ Burbank, United States ~ Theravada other

2791

Audrey ~ Singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2792

Carole Melkonian ~ Portland, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2793

I have deep gratitude and enormous respect for the efforts Luang Por Sumedho has made in the formation of the Siladara arm of the Thai Forest Tradition as a vehicle for women to practice the holy life. I feel like the 5 points can be abused by the unenlightened and can be (or is) the source of a lot of unnecessary suffering. I understand, to some degree, the difficulties of keeping the longest held religious tradition intact, while being urged to modify it to meet the needs of contemporary society. There must be a way, in this tradition of utmost liberation, to release monks, nuns, and lay practitioners from this gender disparity. Maybe it will take generations. I'm confident it will happen because it's true and right. Meanwhile, I am grateful that the Siladara's have arrived in the USA and have the space to emerge and evolve as women leading the holy life. May they thrive for the benefit of us all, including women in the future who see them and feel called to go forth!

Shirley Lim ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Buddhist

2794

there should no discrimination against women. During Buddha's time, He even allow WOMEN to practice and ordinate

Poh Choo Lai ~ Germany ~ Buddhist

2795

Gaik-Siew ~ Malaysia ~ Buddhist

2796

Lee Chew Yee ~ Malaysia ~ Zen

2797

Bernie Leong ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist

2798

I came to know of Ajahn Brahmavanso's expulsion through the Singapore Buddhist Fellowship and I'm deeply sorry that it happened. Why stop women from pursuing the spiritual tradition towards happiness on an equal footing with men? Let them be ordained as Bhikkhunis. I support that there should be nothing on the way to stop their spiritual journey.

Anonymous ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition

2799

Alan Lopez ~ Chiang mai, Thailand ~ Zen

2800

Inez Yeshe Patino ~ Edinburgh, United Kingdom ~ Tibetan

2801

I totally support the Bhikkuni ordinations that took place in Australia by Ajahn Brahm even though he has sadly been criticised and rejected by the elders of his tradition. There surely cannot be any place for the oppression and violation of women's human rights in the spiritual life. I read an comment recently by one of the western Ajahns describing the revival of Bhikkuni ordination as 'nonsense, and that we should all just get on and practice Dhamma' Is not the practice of Dhamma to respect the equality and uniqueness of all living beings? The Buddha didn't stick to rigid rules but responded with wisdom and compassion and this is what we need to do now. My deepest wish is that the elders of the Forest tradition will reflect more deeply on how Lord Buddha would respond to this situation and indeed how he did respond to women's requests to go forward into the homeless life. There were no Bhikkunis around to witness their first ordination but that didn't stop the Buddha's determination to fully ordain women into the sangha.

Anonymous ~ New York, United States ~ Theravada other

2802

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Anonymous ~ Florida, United States ~ Buddhist	2803
Billiet ~ lille, France ~ Zen	2804
Kenya Watkins ~ Columbus, OH, United States ~ Buddhist	2805
If anattā truly exists those fortunate to carry such wisdom, would not view this as a problem, but as an opportunity to implement such wisdom...	
Rod Herron ~ Middlesbrough, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2806
Jo Friedman ~ San Diego, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2807
Susan ~ Santa Rosa, Ca, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2808
Dr Chris Kang ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Tibetan	2809
I wish to express my heartfelt inspiration, respect, and support for the actions of Ajahn Brahm and fellow monastics, and especially the Venerable Bhikkhunis, who have taken this most important step towards full ordination. May the light of Dhamma shine brightly in your hearts and for all time to come.	
Paul McIvor ~ Toronto, Canada ~ Zen	2810
We must constantly strive to find the balance between tradition and modernity if our practice is to be relevant in the 21st century. Ajahn Brahm is a thoughtful guide along this narrow path.	
Dhammadarsa Bhikkhu ~ Tullera, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2811
Ng Han Ling ~ singapore, Singapore ~ Theravada other	2812
I support Ajahn Brahm's decision for the Bhikkhuni ordination.	
Susan L Bond ~ United States ~ Zen	2813
Linda Kunardi ~ Singapore ~ Buddhist	2814
Linda Bassingthwaighte ~ Vancouver, BC, Canada ~ Theravada other	2815
It is important for spiritual practises to evolve and not be impeded and weighed down with dogma that is not appropriate in modern times	
Mark Chappell ~ Nathan, Australia ~ Theravada other	2816
Shannon Harbinson ~ Palm Bay, United States ~ undeclared	2817
Johan Robert Stake ~ United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	2818
Anonymous ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2819





































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Timothy Nutter ~ Melbourne, FL, United States ~ Mahayana other	2820
<div></div> <div>Please allow the women of this world who wish to undertake the training of the Dhamma the same rights as those men who train now, who have trained in the past and those who will train in the future.</div> <div>With Metta,</div> <div>Timothy Nutter</div>	
Anonymous ~ United States ~ Buddhist	2821
<div></div>	
Jun Pan ~ Boston, United States ~ Buddhist	2822
<div></div>	
Barbara Sheridan ~ melbourne, United States ~ Buddhist	2823
<div></div>	
Owen Alexander Brown ~ Gold Coast, Australia ~ Tibetan	2824
<div></div> <div>Bhikkhunis of the world, UNITE!!!!</div>	
Shanti Johnson ~ United States ~ Mahayana other	2825
<div></div> <div>This is a very important step for "modern" Buddhism. After all WWBD? I think we know that answer if we search our hearts, not our heads.</div>	
Andrew Bennett ~ United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2826
<div></div>	
Robert Seemel ~ Potsdam, Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2827
<div></div> <div>I am in full Support of the Bhikkhuni-Ordination. Please rebuild the 4-fold Assembly!</div>	
Petra Skoien ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Tibetan	2828
<div></div> <div>May harmony and positive dialogue among all involved emerge as a result of this petition.</div>	
Lawrence Bell ~ Bolton, Canada ~ undeclared	2829
<div></div>	
Diane Besemer ~ San Diego, CA, United States ~ undeclared	2830
<div></div>	
Pushparani Weerasinghe ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Buddhist	2831
<div></div> <div>We have Bhikkuni's here and they are a great help to us. I do not see why they should not be there in Australia</div>	
Rupika Gunawardena ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2832
<div></div> <div>I support the Bhikkuni Ordination</div>	
Anonymous ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2833
<div></div>	
Fran Poulton ~ Australia ~ Theravada other	2834
<div></div> <div>I have just returned from pilgrimage to India, including the site where Lord Buddha ordained the first 500 women as bikkhnis. It is most disheartening that this attitude continues. It is contrary to what Lord Buddha practised and taught.</div>	
Manel Bandara ~ Colombo, Sri Lanka ~ Buddhist	2835
<div></div> <div>It is high time</div>	
Anonymous ~ Washington, United States ~ Theravada other	2836
<div></div>	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Sabine Konrad ~ Essen, Germany ~ Mahayana other [REDACTED]	2837
David Matson ~ Australia ~ Tibetan [REDACTED]	2838
Dharmabandhu ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Mahayana other [REDACTED]	2839
Anonymous ~ titusville, United States ~ Zen [REDACTED] ajahn brahm is my hero!	2840
Anonymous ~ London, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other [REDACTED]	2841
Diana Pinckney ~ Gold Coast, Australia ~ non-Buddhist [REDACTED] Very happy to sign this petition. Best of luck!	2842
Schulze ~ bochum, Germany ~ Buddhist [REDACTED]	2843
Craig Ehrlich ~ gaithersburg, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition [REDACTED]	2844
Jane E. Jackson ~ United States ~ Theravada other [REDACTED]	2845
Dharmacarini Amoghamati ~ Essen, Germany ~ Buddhist [REDACTED] In the Western Buddhist Order we have equal and independant Order structures for both men and women. This is appropriate to Western societies and works perfectly well. With metta Dharmacarini Amoghamati	2846
Barczyk Christina ~ Lalling, Germany ~ Mahayana other [REDACTED] please consider this petition. Thank you.	2847
Anonymous ~ Munich, Germany ~ Tibetan [REDACTED]	2848
Matthew Segatti ~ United States ~ undeclared [REDACTED]	2849
John Treasure ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist [REDACTED] I Support this petition	2850
Venerable Lozang Donden ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Tibetan [REDACTED]	2851
Gwendoline Fox ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition [REDACTED] I think women should be treated equally in that they are physical and spiritual human beings the same as men. Therefore could be able to be ordained.	2852
Maria Heiss ~ Bielefeld, Germany ~ Tibetan [REDACTED]	2853

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Canon Western ~ Santa Cruz, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2854
	
Ignacio Secco ~ Buenos Aires, Argentina ~ Theravada other	2855
 Let's all support the bhikkhunis ordination!! :) :)	
David Allen Harris ~ Washington, United States ~ Theravada other	2856
 something that is long over due. Even the Buddha would approve	
Kila Hribar ~ berlin, Germany ~ Tibetan	2857
 bhikkhunis go!!!	
Kathy Williams ~ Dunedin, United States ~ Theravada other	2858
	
Barbara Richie ~ stuttgart, Germany ~ Theravada other	2859
	
Purwani Sutrisno ~ Salatiga, Indonesia ~ Theravada other	2860
 I wish Ajahn Brahm will ordain more bhikkhunis in the years to come.	
Sergey ~ Cherkassy, Ukraine ~ Tibetan	2861
	
Mai.Thantrong ~ Sydney, Australia ~ Mahayana other	2862
	
Gary Wood ~ Perth, Australia ~ Buddhist	2863
	
Laura Jean Hageman ~ Santa Rosa, United States ~ undeclared	2864
	
William Sheppard ~ Orpington, United Kingdom ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2865
	
Anonymous ~ wells, United Kingdom ~ undeclared	2866
	
Sean Hoade ~ Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2867
 The Buddha preached equality (or something very close to it) in his FOURFOLD Sangha. Won't you please follow his instructions?	
Anonymous ~ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ~ Theravada other	2868
	
Anonymous ~ Washington, United States ~ Buddhist	2869
	
Anonymous ~ Cornwall, Canada ~ undeclared	2870
	
D. Crandall ~ Kitchener, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2871
	


















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Anonymous ~ padova, Italy ~ Theravada other	2872
Kevin Harrison ~ Colorado Springs, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2873
Maria Honeywell ~ Silver Spring, United States ~ Theravada other	2874
Terry Redmond ~ sydney, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2875
Rev.Meiko ~ Portland Oregon, United States ~ Zen	2876
Tan Chong Huat, Michael ~ Malaysia ~ undeclared	2877
<p>There seems to be a variety of Buddhist Sect stated below in the "Which tradition of Buddhism do you practice in?..Can't i simply be a Buddhist?</p> <p>As for the current hiatus of the Bhikkhuni Ordination, it somehow made realise how tough the Lord Buddha himself have to go through in his time to allow women to be ordained as Bhikkhuni, seeing that in our modern age of time where equality supposedly to be prevailing, our dear Ajahn Brahm himself have been hit hard by it. But, at least...now since the wheel have been turned & things already in motion once again, i hope this time round the Bhikkhuni Ordination will have enough momentum to see its fruition in the near future:) Sadhu! Sadhu! Sadhu!</p>	
Nanda Meemeduma ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada other	2878
John Ross ~ Busselton, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2879
<p>I feel that the rights of women need to be upheld as the Buddha stated.</p>	
Jean Esther ~ United States ~ Theravada other	2880
<p>It's time to have our understanding of liberation reflected in our institutional structures.. If not, then what are we but hypocrits...It weakens every fiber of the dharma and what we hold so dearly</p> <p>and what we wish to pass on to future generations.. Dear men, fear not.. There is nothing to lose but a contracted sense of self.</p>	
Sonam Lama ~ Boudha, Nepal ~ Tibetan	2881
<p>I very much appreciate Buddhist Nuns.</p>	
Kim Parfitt ~ Roskilde, Denmark ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2882
Charuwan Murphy, Dr ~ Melbourne, Australia ~ Buddhist	2883
<p>The world watches. Will the Sangha act as it preaches, with Metta to all, with wisdom, and following the Buddha's example; or will it display Atta, prejudice, clinging, and disregard of the Buddha's example? It may not matter as this may in fact be the time the collectives consider establishing an order that follows truly what the Buddha taught.</p>	
Sarah Blackman ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	2884
P C D Dharmarajan ~ Colombo, Swaziland ~ Theravada other	2885
Sue Lee ~ Perth, Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2886
<p>I feel gratitude and respect for the forest tradition of Theravada, and wish this schism to be healed as soon as possible so that we can return to our former cordial relationship.</p>	

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Ulrike Scharfschwerdt ~ Germany ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2887
Andrea Griffin ~ Perth, Australia ~ undeclared	2888
Demi Kehoe ~ Brisbane, Australia ~ Tibetan	2889
As a Buddhist practioner, I firmly believe that women should have the full benefits and rights as their male counterparts in the ordination program. If Lord Shakyamuni Buddha were here today, he would recognise that there is no longer a need for inequality to exist between males and females, that we all have Buddha nature and the capacity to become enlightened. Please reflect wisely and with great compassion, bring the Sangha forward with improved human rights.	
Nen Chomkasiti ~ Napier, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2890
May the right path be shared equally among all of us regardless of their gender, skin color and social status. with metta	
Wendy Janssen ~ Den Bosch, Netherlands ~ Tibetan	2891
Equality is only normal, I have never found a difference between men and women. Only by those who have been brought up to become different, (a typical male or typical woman) And that happens still (un)conciently very much. Everywhere!! We are equal, each with our own uniqueness! I hope you will succeed!! Lots of Love!! Wendy	
Martina Smit ~ Napier, New Zealand ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2892
Rules without compassion do not carry the spirit of the Buddha. Those who practice well see beyond Vinaya.	
[removed ~ spam]	2893
Chris Trewick ~ Brighton, United Kingdom ~ Buddhist	2894
My only concern here in signing this petition is that this particular Buddhist tradition has always had these differences even women were first ordained into this particular Sangha?	
Köppler ~ Bonn, Germany ~ Buddhist	2895
Rachel Davies ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	2896
Brennan Mang ~ Regina, Canada ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2897
With Metta for all involved.	
Elke Gierss ~ Stuttgart, Germany ~ Zen	2898
Amala Maeve Matthews ~ United States ~ Buddhist	2899
Mike Nowak ~ spokane, WA, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2900
I am sorry that this has happened the way it has. However, it appears that things cannot go back to the way they were. I am not picking sides but Buddhism will fail to progress in the west without serious effort to give women praticioners equal rights.	
Anonymous ~ Greenville, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2901

BUDDHISM AND WOMEN: PETITION CALLING FOR BHIKKHUNI ORDINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREST SANGHA

Adam Jenkins ~ Chicago, United States ~ Theravada other	2902
	
<hr/>	
THOMAS BECKER ~ Simi Valley, California, United States ~ Theravada other	2903
	
<hr/>	
Daria Bobbin ~ scotts valley, United States ~ Zen	2904
	
<hr/>	
Greg Pergament/ Shi Fa Xin ~ Las Vegas, United States ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2905
	
<hr/>	
Heather Thornton ~ Trophy Club, United States ~ Tibetan	2906
	
<hr/>	
Brian Connett ~ Australia ~ Theravada Forest tradition	2907
	
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Anonymous ~ United Kingdom ~ Theravada other	2908
 The Buddha didn't prevent women being ordained into the Bhikkuni sangha, so why should less enlightened beings prevent them simply because tradition dictates. It seems the form has become the bhikkus' dictator instead of their liberator.	
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Anonymous ~ Boston, United States ~ Theravada other	2909
	
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Shaun Odwyer ~ Tokyo, Japan ~ non-Buddhist	2910
 In all faiths with ordained clergy, arguments appealing to tradition can no longer suffice to bar women who have sufficient faith and aptitude to qualify for full ordination.	