



## STATEMENT

The Tibetan Community Switzerland & Liechtenstein would like to address the media storm surrounding His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

We have been deeply hurt and saddened by the spiteful comments and false interpretations of the event on February 28, 2023 where His Holiness spoke to over 120 Indian students about the importance of empathy, integration and trust. The way the media hastily condemned the interaction between His Holiness and an Indian boy without understanding the entire context and exchange deeply affects the Tibetan community.

Our sympathy goes out to our brothers and sisters around the world, especially Tibetans in Tibet who have experienced pain and suffering as a result of the malicious slander and who have been forced to denounce our revered spiritual leader ever since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) illegally occupied Tibet in 1959.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has dedicated his entire life to the betterment of humanity. He is the living embodiment of kindness and peace, preaching and practicing compassion, non-violence and the unity of humanity. His Holiness personal integrity has never been in question throughout his life.

Language, culture and context determine how people see a particular situation. However, the interaction between His Holiness and the Indian boy, which took place in public, was perceived and interpreted differently. This defamation through non-factual research work by the media has severely affected all his followers worldwide and has left a deep wound. We strongly condemn any form of defamation and malicious comments aimed only at damaging the esteemed image of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

The faith and trust of Tibetans in Switzerland & Liechtenstein (TCSL) towards His Holiness the Dalai Lama remains unwavering. We wish His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama a long and healthy life.

Zürich, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

