



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Racism

<https://savetibet.org/why-tibet/racism>

Tibet is one of the clearest cases of institutional racism in the world today.

China's occupation has forced Tibetans to live as second-class citizens in their own land. And China shows an oppressive and paternalistic attitude toward Tibetans.

As a result, discriminatory policies are enforced in Tibet, like the relocation and forced resettlement of Tibetan nomads and herders; the widespread repression of Tibetan Buddhism; and crackdowns on Tibetan communities after incidents of self-immolation.

Tibetans cannot [practice their religion freely](#), nor can they protect their culture and language in a meaningful way. Instead, they live under repressive laws that deem any expression of their identity as extremist or even terrorist. Following [self-immolations](#), collective punishments have been meted out to the family and friends of the self-immolators.

Tibetans face discrimination in employment, housing and travel. Unlike ethnic Chinese, Tibetans are regularly denied passports and the right to travel abroad. There have been instances of hotels denying rooms to Tibetans because of their ethnicity and jobs offering lower salaries to Tibetans than to Chinese.

China also spreads racist narratives about Tibetans. Chinese government reports claim that before China's invasion in 1949, Tibet was "darker and more backward than in Europe in the Middle Ages," and that Chinese rule has taken Tibet "from a state of isolation, poverty and backwardness to one of opening, prosperity and civilization."

China's racism has real consequences. Tibetans have been [jailed](#) for simply promoting the Tibetan language. And Tibetan nomads have been forced by the Chinese government to [abandon their traditional way of life](#). Life as a second-class citizen can lead to desperation and protest, as shown by the heartbreaking stories of Tibetan self-immolations.

Instead of China's discrimination, what Tibetans need is the right to manage their own society from the ground up. Help put a stop to China's racism against the Tibetan people.

