

## **BUDDHIST WOMEN CALL FOR CLIMATE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION**

An international meeting of more than 1,000 Buddhist women from 40 countries has called for action to reduce climate change and to give social justice to the world's oppressed peoples.

In a resolution passed at the 14<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women that met in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from June 23 to 30, delegates addressed issues ranging from overcoming religious intolerance and extremism, to eliminating discrimination, protecting species habitat, and working to eliminate capital punishment globally.

The resolution from the conference, "Compassion and Social Justice," expressed concern for the major issues facing humanity today, and put forward proposals aimed at social transformation. It supported Pope Francis' call for political and public action to address climate change and urged governments in both developed and developing countries to give priority to reducing carbon emissions.

"The issues facing today's world are so critical that it is incumbent on all of us to do whatever we can," said Sakyadhita Conference Co-ordinator Professor Karma Lekshe Tsomo.

"Buddhist women's voices need to be heard. It is not enough to just wish for the well-being of the world. We need to put our values into practice by engaging with those in power and promoting policies that reflect the Buddhist value of compassion.

Professor Tsomo said that as a first step the women attending the 14<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita International Conference had raised their voices to:

- Extend compassion and promote social justice for oppressed peoples, including religious, ethnic, and racial minorities, and political refugees;
- Explore deeply the application of Buddhist teachings to mitigate situations of conflict and potential conflict;
- Work to eliminate all forms of discrimination and social inequality, including gender injustice, across religions, cultures, and diverse segments of society;
- Overcome religious intolerance and extremism;
- Work to eliminate capital punishment globally;
- Support Pope Francis' call for political and public action to address climate change;
- Protect the future and habitat of all species on the planet;
- Urge governments in both developed and developing countries to give priority to reduce carbon emissions;
- Work with loving kindness and compassion to understand the causes of economic injustice and find practical solutions to address these issues.

**June 30 2015** For more information: <http://sakyadhita.org>