



SAKYADHITA INTERNATIONAL AND BUDDHISTDOOR.COM

PRESENT

AWAKENING WOMEN: AN ONLINE MULTIMEDIA RESOURCE FOR THE  
GLOBAL BUDDHIST COMMUNITY  
AN APPEAL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Contact: [awakeningwomenonline@sakyadhita.org](mailto:awakeningwomenonline@sakyadhita.org)

CONTENTS

1. WHY SAKYADHITA AND BDI ARE WORKING TOGETHER.....	2
2. WHY THIS PROJECT NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION.....	2
3. THE COMPONENTS OF THIS PROJECT AND HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE.....	3
4. CONCLUSION: A GENERAL APPEAL TO MOBILIZE.....	5
5. CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS.....	5

## 1. WHY SAKYADHITA AND BDI ARE WORKING TOGETHER

Sakyadhita is the world's largest voluntary organization working on behalf of Buddhist women. It is a happy coincidence that Lady Clara, the wife of Sir Robert Hotung, founded the foundation that publishes Buddhistdoor International (Tung Lin Kok Yuen) in 1935. Lady Clara's overriding interest was educating girls, so the foundation auspiciously started off as a nunnery. Therefore, women's concerns are inescapably built into BDI's heritage. The editorial stance of the website can therefore complement Sakyadhita's mission.

## 2. WHY THIS PROJECT NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION

This collaboration is, of course, something we'd quite *like* to do. But its underlying objective is something we have absolutely *got* to do regardless of any collaboration, for women are critical to Buddhism's future. As always, we look to the Buddha for the final say, and the Blessed One made it clear that the Buddhist community should be upheld by four pillars: *bhikkhu*, *bhikkhuni*, *upasaka*, and *upasika*. In other words, there is only one sustainable, long-term way to nurture Buddhist education and Buddhist communities, and that is to ensure that the voices of all four pillars are heard, their importance acknowledged.

Even for a religious institution that strives for human perfection, Buddhist history has shown us that this imperative was not always attended to properly. But just as human life is a precious opportunity for spiritual, moral, and meditative cultivation, our modern world has provided us with unique chances of building bridges with people and groups. It has never been easier to share information, media, and educational material, be it in the form of articles and books, visuals like art and photography, audio files, and other multimedia. Disseminating information for and about Buddhist women on a scale as envisaged by our proposal would make a huge difference for not only those who seek the resources we provide, but also attract otherwise unacquainted people to the causes we support.

As research proves time and again, real change does not trickle down from the bastions of authority, no matter how well intentioned those bastions may be. It takes an active collaboration between different groups and other like-minded individuals to spread and share knowledge effectively.

## 3. THE COMPONENTS OF THIS PROJECT AND HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

The fruits generated by this collaboration will be shared freely between the platforms of Sakyadhita's websites, media, and BDI. There is a spectrum of activities that need your help and assistance, and its diversity means there will be something of interest to almost anyone.

- *Interview series*

- Building on Sakyadhita and Buddhistdoor’s current collaboration, BDI is currently developing interviews with selected practitioners, activists, and pioneers, as well as speakers, scholars, and monastics affiliated or associated with Sakyadhita. Usually the interviews are written interviews, although podcasts, video interviews, and audio records (mp3) are all options being explored. If you are involved with Sakyadhita’s activities or have written and taught about any aspect of Buddhist women, you might consider being interviewed and projecting your voice onto our online platforms.
- *Contributors and article contributions*
  - Sakyadhita and BDI invite any and all writers to submit contributions to be published as feature articles or columns on the website. Topics can range from grassroots work across Asia to analyses of doctrinal concepts or current events.
- *Ebook uploads*
  - If mass-printed books laid the ground for a revolution in education, freely downloadable e-books may well represent the next step of sharing vast and important quantities of information.
- *Collecting information: as “information-dissemination” is the field where Sakyadhita and BDI’s interests intersect best, the objective here is to inspire people by circulating an online wealth or treasury of information about Buddhist women and monastics.*
  - Resources on Ordination: this projected initiative is a comprehensive bibliography, available initially online and then possibly paperback, of textual (Vinaya) and scholarly resources concerning female Buddhist monastics and the legitimacy of ordination. This will be uploaded as an ebook on the Buddhistdoor website and freely circulated among Sakyadhita media platforms. We are currently looking for researchers who might be interested in helping us to create this resource.
- *Other Media*
  - The larger objective is to collect together images, interviews, inspiration and chanting from diverse Buddhist women – a media database for Buddhist women’s resources (Buddhistdoor International and Sakyadhita would both separately and independently host this material). We propose to include:
    - Media (Visuals)
      - A World Map charting the presence of Buddhist women in the world – This will be a long-term initiative for researchers, geographers, and other data-collectors who wish to map the diffusion and numbers of Buddhist women in the world.

- Photo Albums of Buddhist women around the world – This compilation is now open to any who wish to submit their photos.
- Artwork: documentations and picture files of: painting, calligraphy, tea making, and women – This category is now open to any who wish to submit their artwork.
- Videos (collect together - e.g. Ayya Khema's, different monasteries etc.) – If you have an interest in multimedia, you might like to see your shoot uploaded onto BDI or Sakyadhita's website.
- Media (Audio) –for Sakyadhita and BDI's Audio Channel
  - Music – For those who can share or even produce music, we want to build an album of music that will inspire both men and women to support the path of Buddhist laywomen and monastics.
  - Dharma Talks – For those who can share or personally give Dharma talks, what seekers of information really want is the inspiration and affirmation to motivate and encourage. Nothing facilitates wisdom-in-action better than Dharma talks, and this will be a vital category.
  - Meditation Instructions - For those who can share or personally give talks about meditation.
  - Audio Project: The audio project will be an online archive of all the major chants chanted by female monastics and/or laywomen from all the major traditions - and also of the different styles within the traditions. We are looking to collect recordings from a vast array of Buddhist monastics: Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Taiwanese, Tibetan, Mongolian, and Theravadin (chanting in Thai, Burmese, Sinhalese and Khmer) Venerables. We would need people to edit the recordings and different co-ordination teams (possibly as well as an overall co-ordinator, a co-ordinator for each country). It would also be helpful to have chanting books from the different traditions online (along with translations into different languages). This particular initiative would take perhaps 1-2 years to complete.
- Writing – open to all interested.
  - Poems

- Dhamma books by women
- Translations (e.g. *Therigatha*)

#### 4. CONCLUSION: A GENERAL APPEAL TO MOBILIZE

It is necessary to clarify that this collaboration does not indicate, on either side, any desire for some manner of formal affiliation between BDI and Sakyadhita. Indeed, the two work best as equals in friendship with intersecting interests rather than out of any formalized obligation. Therefore, all projects are non-obligatory and their fruition will come as a result of mutual trust (as well as investment in time and energy). While there is no significant remuneration to speak of in return to participate in these initiatives, there is no shortage of inspiration to draw from about this work. We invite you to join us because this is an initiative built on optimism and hope, one which hopes to share with a wider global audience knowledge that could possibly make a huge difference in women's potential.

We are united in our desire for Buddhism to be the refuge *par excellence* for women as well as men. If we take refuge in the Triple Gem, the Triple Gem will reflect the purity of our inner nature. Through supporting each other, we uphold the Buddhist tradition just as the four pillars of the Buddha sustain the dispensation.

#### 5. CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in contributing to any of these projects, please contact us at [awakeningwomenonline@sakyadhita.org](mailto:awakeningwomenonline@sakyadhita.org) with your queries, feedback, or submissions (of any file type).

#### 6. WHAT ABOUT FUNDING?

If any prospective donations are for support Buddhist women internationally, Sakyadhita will gratefully accept them. If they are for a particular project, they can be sent to that project (please notify us at [awakeningwomenonline@sakyadhita.org](mailto:awakeningwomenonline@sakyadhita.org)). For example, Sakyadhita is in need of funds and people to format and publish books on Buddhist women.