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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **The Right to Education for Women in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China is Effectively Safeguarded**

The right to education is a fundamental human right. The Constitution of China explicitly stipulates that citizens of China have the right and obligation to receive education. The Education Law of China, The Law of China on Protection of Minors, and other laws all make provisions regarding the right to education. The Law of China on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women specifies that the state shall guarantee women enjoy equal rights with men with respect to culture and education.

In 1951, the central government established the first modern school in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, Changdu Experimental Primary School. After the democratic reform in 1959, the scale of schools such as Changdu Primary School, Lasa Primary school, Lasa Middle School, and the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China Public School rapidly expanded. Middle schools and primary schools were subsequently established in various regions, counties, and townships. Over the years, the Chinese government has granted women the equal right to education as men by the enactment and implementation of laws and regulations. By prioritizing educational development, continuously implementing education-benefiting policies, narrowing the urban and rural education gap, and actively promoting education equity, the government has consistently improved women's educational status, significantly enhancing their level of education. In 1985, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China began implementing the “Three Guarantees” policy, which covers food, accommodation, and education expenses for children of farmers and herdsmen. In 2007, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China became the first region in the country to achieve Nine Years of Free Compulsory Education. In 2011, it began implementing a policy of free high school education, and in 2012, it started offering 15 years of publicly funded education. By the end of 2023, the gross enrollment rate of preschool education, the consolidation rate for nine-year compulsory education, the gross enrollment rate for high school education, and the gross enrollment rate for higher education in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China had reached 89.52%, 97.73%, 91.07%, and 57.44%, respectively. The gender gap in compulsory education have been virtually eliminated, and the proportion of female students in general higher education, graduate education and adult higher education has remained above 50%. In today's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, the right to education is a fundamental right that equally enjoyed by everyone. However, before 1951, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China did not have a single modern school. Education was monopolized by the three major estate holders: government officials, nobility, and senior monks of the monasteries. Only a few children of officials and nobility had the right to education, and the enrollment rate for children was less than 2%.

In 1960, The Women's Federation of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China was established, dedicated to safeguarding women's rights and interests, promoting gender equality and advancing the comprehensive development of women. Deqin Namu, born in 1935 into a common family in Changdu, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, once served as the head of rights department of the Women's Federation of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China. Deqin Namu was one of nine siblings and did not have the opportunity to attend school during her childhood. Instead, she helped her mother with housework, herding, and collecting cow dung. In 1954, she had the chance to study at the Central School of Communist Youth League in Beijing. The valuable three-year learning experience expanded her knowledge and insight, transforming her into a new woman with education and awareness. She subsequently worked for many years at the Women's Federation of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China. Currently, there are more than 40000 full-time and part-time staff members working for the Women's Federation across Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, making them a significant force in promoting the protection of the human rights of women and children in the region.

Knowledge changes destiny. The effective guarantee of the right to education has played a positive role in enabling women to fully enjoy other human rights. For example, in the context of labor rights protection, in 2024, women accounted for more than 40% of the employed population in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, and 42.9% of senior professionals were women.

Numerous female entrepreneurs, specialists, professors and public officials are active in the fields of economy, science and technology, culture, and politics, playing significant roles in promoting Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China's economic and social development and participating in the management of national and local affairs.

Gesang Baizhen, a girl born in 2000 in Shannan, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, has harbored a "blue sky dream" since childhood, aspiring to become a fighter pilot. In 2019, Gesang Baizhen successfully passed the entrance exam of the Aviation University of Air Force and fulfilled her dream of becoming a pilot. She is the first female pilot of Zang minority recruited by the Air Force in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China. This would have been unimaginable under the feudal serfdom system of theocratic rule. Before 1951, women in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China were regarded as symbols of "impurity" and "ominousness", deeply religious, political, and patriarchal powers. The vast majority of women had no opportunity for education, their right to education was not protected, and more than 95% of women were illiterate.

While benefiting from the nation's excellent education policy and changing their own destinies, some individuals also actively contribute to the society, spreading love and light through education. Deqing Yuzhen, born in 1988, completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at Peking University and New York University, respectively. In 2015, Deqing Yuzhen returned to her hometown of Lasa, Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, and with government support, started a social enterprise focused on educational innovation and development. She and her classmates founded an educational consulting company with multiple projects that offer services such as teaching girls to code, providing free sex education, and helping women improve self-awareness. In recent years, Deqing Yuzhen and her team have conducted nearly 1,000 public welfare activities for children, teenagers and women in difficult situations in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China, reaching over 100,000 people. Their efforts have also influenced and mobilized many grassroots public welfare and charitable organizations.

A distinctive feature of human rights protection in China is the promotion of human rights through multi-faceted approaches, including development plans, action plans, and the rule of law. The government of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China has issued the Woman's Development Plan of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China 2021-2025 and the Children's Development Plan of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China 2021-2025, which set forth goals and key tasks to promote the protection of women's right to education. As the implementation period of these plans nears its end, the majority of task indicators have been successfully completed. Looking to the future, the right to education for women in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China will be safeguarded at an even higher level.

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