

Rigpa Sangha feedback on the draft Vision Board Charter

11 January 2019

Context

One of the Vision Board's first actions was to create a Charter to define and be transparent about how it operates. This includes a process for appointing new members. The proposed charter was sent to the sangha on 1 November 2018 for feedback and can be seen on the Rigpa.org Moving Forward webpage. The sangha feedback has been considered and we are now ready to start the process of nominating new Vision Board members to replace the two members that stepped down following the findings of the Lewis Silkin investigation report.

The sangha feedback

Overall, the feedback on the Charter is positive, with almost 700 responses and an average rating of 'good'.

Three comments suggested that the Vision Board should not make the final nominations by itself. This has now been changed to: "Final approval of the nominations therefore rests with the Vision Board *and the Rigpa Boards coming to a consensus agreement, with the guidance of Rigpa's spiritual advisors.*"

The following sangha feedback has also been incorporated in the Charter:

- Specifying that Sogyal Rinpoche is the founder of Rigpa
- Adding a fuller reference to the new Rigpa Code of Conduct and to the Shared Values and Guidelines of the Rigpa Community
- Specifying our commitment to a culture of transparency
- Defining more fully what is meant by equality
- Specifying in more detail how the activities of the vision board fulfill its role of safeguarding the spiritual authenticity of Rigpa
- Explain more fully how the vision board is connected with the sangha and inviting new ideas
- Add further details on how we make decisions by consensus
- Adding the vision board email address to the document.

Two suggestions that were considered but not adopted:

- *Limit the number of times when a Vision Board member can be re-appointed.*

The role of the Vision Board is to safeguard the spiritual authenticity of Rigpa. In this context, there is no need to limit the number of times someone is appointed. Appointments follow a process of nominations by a large group of senior instructors, practitioners and role holders.

— *Limit the total number of members to 9.*

We wish to leave the possibility open to have between 7 and 11 number.

The final Vision Board Charter

The Charter that will now guide the activities of the Vision Board is available on rigpa.org on the [Rigpa Moving Forward](#) web-page.

The Vision Board has a specific role in Rigpa's decision-making processes, that of safeguarding the spiritual authenticity of Rigpa, helping ensure all its activities remain true to its spiritual vision, values and culture. It works with the Rigpa Boards of the fourteen Rigpa entities, the International Coordination Group and the working groups on specific topics including Programme and Events, Finances and Moving Forward.

An international decision-making system that includes these entities is being put into place to facilitate Rigpa's work internationally, and the latest update on how this is progressing can be found on rigpa.org under [Rigpa teams](#).

Appointment of new Vision Board members

The Charter will now be used for the appointment of new vision board members.

Contact vision.board@rigpa.org