



Hello <<First name>>>,

We are writing to you from Tashiding where the Dungshyu (cremation ceremony) for Sogyal Rinpoche has just taken place. On this occasion, we auspiciously presented to Jetsün Khandro Rinpoche — as a representative of Rigpa's spiritual advisors — the biographies of the 'senior teachers' and 'vajra masters' that were nominated by our senior sangha members in the past few weeks.

As you know, we have embarked on a process of empowering key holders in Rigpa. Of course, the sangha as a whole will be holding our lineage as envisioned by Sogyal Rinpoche. In the past, the lineage was often held by a reincarnation, a heart-son or a realised disciple and sometimes by an entire monastery. It's quite remarkable that in our case the entire sangha is asked to carry this lineage into the future. How exactly this will work is something that we will all need to figure out together.

However, Jetsün Khandro Rinpoche reminded us that in every dharma community there needs to be students who lead and take responsibility. To clarify these roles and responsibilities, the Vision Board requested the senior members of our sangha to nominate people in their centres with the potential to hold our unique lineage in different areas.

It was so inspiring to see how the national teams rose to the challenge of initiating the nomination process with such enthusiasm and how they came up with a first lists of teachers, dorje lopöns and main activity holders within a short time.

Over the coming months, the first task of the nominees will be to work together to establish the roles, responsibilities and training needs in this new period that is ahead of us, and to reflect. At the same time, each of us will continue to contemplate deeply on what it means to be a lineage holder, starting with the Monthly Gathering in December, and continuing [in Lerab Ling](#) and [local centres](#) on Sunday 15 December.

The final step of this process of empowering - the actual authorization of nominees - is no small matter and, in our own context, we feel this needs to be considered very carefully with respect to the authentic Buddhist tradition and the particularities of our circumstances. Our spiritual advisors have been offering their advice and guidance throughout this process, and offered to meet together and personally entrust our future teachers and vajra masters next summer.

The process of empowering is a dynamic, ongoing process that will continue to be open to all of us. Further nominations can be received at any time, and the training put together as part of this process will be open to all of us. We are also gathering nominations for teachers, instructors, practice holders and activity holders to support the 108 Rigpa centres around the world.

Of course, our lineage will not just be held by us. We will continue to have the support of some of the greatest masters of our time — including Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, Jetsün Khandro Rinpoche, Khenchen Namdrol, Tsoknyi Rinpoche and many others, who are committed to teaching and guiding us all in the future.

By all of us becoming holders of this lineage, we are opening a new chapter in Rigpa, for the flourishing of the buddha dharma in West, and for many more people to connect with this living lineage of wisdom and compassion and ultimately discover and realise the innermost nature of their mind!

For now, we look forward to connecting [in Lerab Ling](#) and [through streaming](#) for further reflection and Vision Board news on Sunday 15 December in the morning.

With warmest wishes,

Mauro, Philippe, Seth, Valerie, Verena, Vinciane
Yara & Fian
Rigpa's Vision Board



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