



Triratna in the Buddhist World: The Liaison Office

Munisha

www.thebuddhistcentre.com/liaison

The Liaison Office



Triratna in the Buddhist world

- Triratna actively works with other Buddhists
- In fact Triratna is one of just 3 or 4 Buddhist organisations in **Europe** who support someone with money to work with other Buddhists.
- This may indicate we are one of the most outward-facing Buddhist movements in the world.

Triratna in the Buddhist world

- 1-4 million Buddhists in Europe (mostly Germany, Italy, France and UK)
- About 250,000 Buddhists in the UK, 9000 in Ireland
- Triratna, the NKT and SGI-UK are the three largest Buddhist organisations in the UK
- But more than 60% of UK's Buddhists are minority ethnic
- Triratna is 99% white (outside India)
- And most of Europe's Buddhists don't belong to any organisation
- Conclusion: Triratna is very significant but not representative!

Two main groups I work with



Network of Buddhist
Organisations UK



European Buddhist
Union

Network of Buddhist Organisations UK

- Over 10 years on the committee
- NBO invented Buddhist Action Month
- *www.nbo.org.uk*
- *Facebook*

A Buddhist voice for Europe

The EBU is the umbrella association of national Buddhist unions and Buddhist organisations in Europe

[+ Read more about us](#)



EBU activities

Buddhism In Action: a European Buddhist Union event

Berlin, 1-3 April 2016 – Join Buddhists from across Europe in the beautiful Rigpa temple in Berlin for a weekend of Dharma, conversation & good food.

[+ Read Article](#)



Member info

Jai Bhim: new DVD on Roma teenagers: Exit from Home of Poverty

Sajokaza is one of the poorest villages in Hungary. Bauer and Krammer were confronted with shocking pictures and stories of exclusion and hopelessness. But there is also a glimmer of hope: the Dr Ambedkar High School.

[+ Read Article](#)

Meet our members

Meet the members of Europe's largest network of Buddhist organisations.

Learn about Buddhism

The origins of Buddhism and how Buddhism came to Europe.

Events calendar

About membership

Member login

European Buddhist Union

- Is active in European political institutions and NGO gatherings
- Campaigns for governments' recognition of Buddhism
- Head of Council of Europe's Human Rights Committee is/was a EBU committee member.
- *europeanbuddhism.org* *Facebook*



What I do

- Help with NBO and EBU websites and Facebook pages, keeping information flowing around
- Drafted EBU Statement on the 2015 European refugee crisis
- Bringing Buddhist Action Month from the NBO to Triratna, and inspiration back from Triratna to the NBO! (Triratna most active in BAM so far.)
- Presentation about Triratna to the EBU meeting in September 2015.
- EBU audience impressed, especially with our Young Buddhist project

Buddhist Teachers in Europe

- A 3-day meeting following the EBU meeting every year
- EBU and BTE show how *extremely* unusual Triratna is.

Why bother?

- Ensuring friendly relations with other Buddhist traditions.
- Enabling others to learn from Triratna (and vice versa).
- Understanding Triratna better, by comparison, and helping Triratna understand itself better.
- Working together for the flourishing of Buddhism in Europe.
- Enabling Buddhist thinking and values to affect public policy, through political institutions.
- Creating a culture more favourable to Buddhist life.

How Triratna is viewed: 1

- Among those we *work* with, respected and appreciated: we have turned up and DONE STUFF, harmoniously and co-operatively and for many years.
- Most Buddhist organisations not interested in working together
- UK Buddhist chaplaincy group impressed with Triratna chaplains.
- Shenpen Hookham's praise for Bhante's achievements
- We're also active in UK prison chaplaincy.

How Triratna is viewed: 2

- Probably few understand us because we are so unusual:
 - The Order, not lay, not monastic, is a huge single worldwide ordained sangha
 - not just a lot of individual “teachers” from one vertical lineage, teaching in separate little sanghas.
 - Our centres are all legally independent.
 - We’re not legally registered in any one country.
- There *are* still critics out there: people with no recent experience of us.
- Relatively little online controversy about us.

Other liaison work

- Triratna in other European countries has varying but generally low levels of involvement with other Buddhists
- But some individual centres do work with other Buddhists (and other faiths) locally – eg Birmingham, Glasgow, Berlin, Melbourne

Stay in touch with Liaison on TBCO

- A new “Triratna in the Buddhist World” space on The Buddhist Centre Online:
www.thebuddhistcentre.com/liaison
- Anyone doing liaison activities can post to it.
- To help us stay informed and share good ideas.