

*The Cologne Center Council met in retreat to discuss the present situation in the Shambhala community and composed the following letter:*

Shambhala finds itself at a crossroads where there are many open questions regarding structures, the role of the Sakyong and how we wish to continue as a community.

We recognise that for some members in Cologne, the Sakyong continues to be a central part of our community. For others trust in the Sakyong has been deeply shaken and his position called into question. Others do not wish to take a position for now.

The Sakyongs are the source of the Shambhala lineage in the West. Anyone who feels inspired by the Shambhala Teachings has a place in our community. Our center can support multiple practice paths and contemplative disciplines.

We have many experienced teachers in our community and are able to offer a spectrum of programs and activities. Our guiding question is: Is it furthering dignity, integrity and healthy relationships?

In that respect, we empower ourselves for the next few months to make relevant decisions for ourselves. We will remain engaged with topics relating to the right use of power, sexual misconduct and culture change within Shambhala, through continued involvement in projects and trainings addressing these.

As a further consequence, we will be discussing how the space within our center will be arranged, and shared to ensure that it reflects the diverse needs of our community.