

Fundraising for a Free Tibet

Fundraising is essential for the work we all do for Tibet – like it or not, money is the fuel that drives campaigning! So whatever the size of your group and wherever you are, there's plenty of ways to fundraise, here are just a few suggestions.

1. **Ask your Student Union:** This is the 'easy money' option, with most Student Unions having money available to help societies with various activities. This can be for photocopying and printing, travel costs for a trip or for a big event, but this varies from university to university. Some Unions will also give you money for affiliation fees (which would be useful for us – hint hint!). Try asking the societies officer at your Student Union office, you might be surprised.
2. **Film and Speaker Night:** This is a perfect opportunity to raise money and awareness in one great event. Just book a lecture theatre with a projector or borrow a big TV and put on a documentary or feature film about Tibet. You could even get a guest speaker to talk about it. All you need to do to raise money is ask for donations on the door or sell popcorn/snacks. We've got a selection of films that we can lend you for just such an event and we can help you find a guest speaker if you want one – email info@sftuk.org. If you're feeling adventurous you could even do a Tibetan film season!
3. **Tibetan Dinner:** Most people have never tried Tibetan food so this is a fun way to introduce a bit of Tibetan culture. You can find recipes at these websites: asiarecipe.com/tibet.html or www.tanc.org/new_food. Tibetan New Year (Losar) is a good time to hold this kind of event and there are some more recipes and a way of making Chang (Tibetan barley beer) on the Celebrating Losar section of www.sftuk.org
4. **Pub Quiz:** Any venue will do, you don't have to use a pub. All you need for a decent quiz is 6-8 rounds of questions on different topics, such as Science & Nature, Music and General Knowledge, with 10-20 questions in each. You can either charge per-person or per-table and you can get prizes donated or offer a portion of the entry-fees to the winning team. For ideas on questions just check out the websites below or fire up your search engine of choice: www.pubquizhelp.34sp.com.
5. **T-Shirts and Merchandise:** SFT UK has a range of things you and your group can sell, from T-shirts and prayer flags to sew-on patches and stickers – see the merchandise sheet in this pack or visit www.sftuk.org and click on the merchandise link. You can also create your own merchandise or even hold a design competition and get badges, mugs, calendars and T-shirts made for your group!
6. **Bake Sale:** Loads of people love freshly baked goodies, so why not give them what they want and raise some cash in the process. Just ask the members of your group to bake a selection of cakes, biscuits, brownies and flapjacks and sell them at a stall in a busy part of your university. Just before lunch is always a good time.
7. **Hold a Sponsored Event:** There are all sorts of things you can do for this, from the traditional (24 hour fast, 24 hour silence, run, bike ride) to the more unusual (hitch-hike, rubber-duck river race, fire-walk, conkers championship), so why not brainstorm a few ideas. Get as many people involved as you can and get them all to ask friends and families

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to sponsor them.

8. **Party for Tibet:** Everyone loves a party, especially SFT members, so a party is a great way to have fun and fundraise. It can be anything from a little get-together to an all night dance-fest, it's totally up to you. Whether you make £20 or £500 you'll be raising funds to fuel the fight, and have a great time too!
9. **Hold a Competition:** There are many ways you can do this; you can adapt some of the ideas from the sponsored event section (e.g. race, hitch-hike, etc) or you can make it more Tibet related (design a banner, paint a picture, write a story about life in Tibet). You can make some money by charging a small fee and if you get some great prizes donated you're sure to get people interested.

Tips on Running a Successful Event

- **Get stuff for free.** As soon as you start paying for things for a fundraising event you are eating into the money you raise and, worse still, you're at risk of making a loss. Venues in particular can be very expensive so try to find somewhere that doesn't charge.
- **Advertise, advertise, advertise!** It sounds obvious but people won't come to events they don't know about. There's loads of ways to advertise such as emails, posters, flyers, putting a message on your group/university/SU website, student paper and student radio. Networking with other organisations like Amnesty and People & Planet is also a good way of spreading the news.
- **Be specific.** Tell people what you're raising the money for, e.g. travel expenses for your group to go to a conference or materials for a protest. If they see it's going to a good cause people are more likely to help.
- **Have Fun!** People are always more likely to part with their cash if they're having fun and it's a good boost for your group if they have fun organising and running it too.

There's just one thing left to say... once you've raised enough money to cover your group's costs, please consider sending a contribution to the SFT UK office. Everything we do from printing and mailing materials to you guys to organising conferences, actions and demonstrations costs money and we are entirely dependent on donations from our members and supporters.

Make cheques payable to **Students for a Free Tibet UK** and send them to our address below.

Thank you!

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