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June 25, 2018

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To the Shambhala Community:

I write to you with great sadness, tenderness, and a mind of self-reflection.

It is my wish for you to know that in my past there have been times when I have engaged in relationships with women in the Shambhala community. I have recently learned that some of these women have shared experiences of feeling harmed as a result of these relationships. I am now making a public apology.

In addition, I would like you to know that over the years, I have apologized personally to people who have expressed feeling harmed by my conduct, including some of those who have recently shared their stories. I have also engaged in mediation and healing practices with those who have felt harmed. Thus I have been, and will continue to be, committed to healing these wounds.

As the lineage holder of Shambhala, I want to demonstrate how we can move toward a culture of kindness in line with our legacy of teachings. Kindness can sometimes begin with acknowledging the ways we have harmed others, even if we did not intend to do so. Thus, with the strong support of my wife, the Sakyong Wangmo, I am now entering a period of self-reflection and listening. I have worked with, and at times struggled

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easy solution to navigating these responsibilities. Like all of you, I am human and on the path. It is important to me that you know I am here, continuing to do my best.

Above all, it is important to me that we continue to create a caring community where harm does not occur. It is my fervent wish that we be a community that relates to each other with compassion and kindness, so I have offered teachings and written practices to support such a culture. I want to encourage our community to completely immerse itself in caring and kindness. This is not easy work, and we cannot give up on each other. For me, it always comes back to feeling my own heart, my own humanity, and my own genuineness. It is with this feeling that I express to all of you my deep love and appreciation. I am committed to engaging in this process with you.

With love,

Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche

Translation Note:

- We apologize that this letter is currently only available in English. Translations will be provided as soon as possible in as many languages as possible.
- Toutes nos excuses pour cette lettre uniquement en anglais pour l'instant. Une traduction en français sera disponible très bientôt.
- Pedimos disculpas porque esta carta se encuentre sólo en inglés en este momento. Habrá una traducción disponible en breve.
- Ci scusiamo che questa lettera è per il momento solo in Inglese. La traduzione di questa lettera è imminente.
- No momento esta carta está só em inglês. Em breve a tradução estará disponível.
- Entschuldige bitte, dass dieses Brief diesmal nur auf Englisch erscheint. Eine Übersetzung dieses Briefes folgt in Kürze.
- "Przepraszamy, ta wiadomość jest obecnie dostępna jedynie w języku angielskim. Polskie tłumaczenie listu zostanie przesłane wkrótce."
- Omlouváme se, že tento dopis je zatím pouze anglicky. Překlad tohoto dopisu bude následovat.

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