



## Diamond Way Buddhism Association - Karma Kagyu, Slovakia

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### **Buddhism for modern people in everyday life, Diamond Way Buddhism entered Slovakia**

20 years ago, there was not much possibility to meet with Buddha's teaching in Slovakia. There were just few small Zen Buddhist groups, being among the first ones. In 1996, we were young idealistic friends from Karate club, who had close bonds and shared the similar view, and who have discovered the teachings of Diamond Way Buddhism, which perfectly fitted to what they wished for their development. Teachers like Lama Ole Nydahl, 17<sup>th</sup> Gjalwa Karmapa, Lopon Tsechu Rinpoche and others showed us perfect and unshakable example of recognized mind, which powerfully manifests spontaneous joy, fearlessness, wisdom and compassion to all beings and in every situation. We have obtained practical means, powerful methods of Guruyoga meditation, together with the Foundational "Ngöndro" Practices, which gave us tools for discovering timeless values and unlimited qualities of the mind. The way how it happens here, is by integrating the practice into everyday life. We are lay practitioners, who stay in the middle of the society with the families, partners and jobs. Meditation practice used in our centers leads to the view of seeing everything on the highest possible level, which brings continuously more and more meaning, joy and freedom into everyday life situations. Nowadays, our highly developed humanistic culture in the West, is an excellent frame for Buddha's teachings, which allows us to discover unconditioned timeless happiness beyond the experiences of old age, sickness, loss and death.

In order to make it possible, that those who have the potential to work with Buddha's highest teachings could meet with these methods, first Diamond Way meditation centers and groups in Slovakia were founded in 1998 as part of international network of centers founded by Lama Ole Nydahl and guided by H.H. 17th Karmapa Trinlay Thaye Dorje. These centers are based on friendship; they don't have any hierarchy or any organizational structure. Their members also take part in voluntary work in the running and building of the centers, projects and activities. Our centers are not influenced by culture and politics, and are focused on using Buddha's teachings in everyday life. Nowadays we have centers and groups in 13 cities in Slovakia, which are the part of more than 600 centers worldwide. It is the result of the activity of H.H. the 16. Gyalwa Karmapa Rangjung Rigpe Dorje, great Tibetan meditation master of Karma Kagyu lineage, who saved the teachings from destruction in Tibet and in 1972 asked Lama Ole Nydahl and Hannah to bring the richness of these methods to the West. 40 years of this activity turned into a great success and brought Buddhism to thousands of fresh idealistic minds.

In Slovakia, where majority of inhabitants are Christians, we don't expect great masses of people becoming Buddhists in the future. We go rather for the quality in our centers, where the friends can really open up, inspire each other and develop all the human qualities for benefiting others. We are very proud that we can take part in this historical process of transforming the teachings about the nature of mind into our culture and country and we enjoy this development. 2600 years after Buddha's enlightenment, thanks to the unbroken lineage of transmission, our great teachers bring this example as something fresh and living, which inspire us to do our best to become the same.

**Ján Kysucký, vice-president of the Association**