



## **Re: the reasoning of Falun Dafa as non religious nor political**

Dear Corporate Services Committee

I am writing on behalf of our local Falun Dafa community to clarify the understanding of our community while we request to raise a flag to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Falun Dafa day, which marks 30 years of its spreading to the public.

Originated from China, based on thousand years' tradition, this practice has attracted many from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds in the world. Practitioners are trying to achieve physical and mental health by practicing it. Unfortunately, Communist Beijing decided to persecute us 23 years ago by very brutal measures. No matter what, we are lucky to settle here in Canada and enjoy the peace and freedom.

When we interact with local communities, the political and religious issues are two frequent questions raised and we would like to explain it a bit here for your information. To address the questions, we would like to explain some cultural differences here first.

### **Two of Chinas' cultural observations:**

First: It is commonly recognized that before communism, China's history and culture has been the combination of Daoism, Buddhism and Confucianism. Chinese in general were not religious people but not atheism either. Interestingly, ancient China rarely had religious wars. This was the eastern way of lives. In general, Chinese believe divine beings are watching and we have better behave well. This is believed naturally even among many Chinese in China now with or without any belief.

Secondly, we know that Martial Arts and TaiChi are not religious either. However, those KongFu or TaiChin masters know that these are not only physical exercises. Quite commonly, those practices require the masters to strictly maintain high moral standards in order to achieve advanced level.

### **Why Falun Dafa community is not religious.**

Following these traditions, Falun Dafa practitioners are trying to maintain physical and mental health by doing the meditations and try our best to follow the universal principles of Truthfulness, Compassionate and Tolerance. These are only things matter to our practice.

Falun Dafa group has no worships, no memberships, no hierarchies, no donations. We are purely a volunteering group, free to join and free to leave. All the materials are free on internet and people can learn it at home and practice it by themselves all the time.

### **Why Falun Dafa community is not political**

To talk about politics, Falun Gong practitioners are free to hold different political opinions. We donot have a uniform political agenda nor political goals. Actually, we are not supposed to engage any political dispute as a group. It is purely each practitioner's choice.



Although you may see many of our campaigns against the Beijing Communist regime, this is a passive action to resist the brutal persecution and to defend the universal moral principles we are following. Most people in the world will agree it is wrong to persecute innocent peaceful people.

As a matter of fact, in the Communist Vietnam, we are having more and more people learning the practice without much problem with the government.

**The importance of Flag raising to our celebrations:**

When we request the flag raising in London, we are merely to show to the public, that Falun Gong is a community is enjoying the peaceful lives here, which is particularly meaningful that our community here has faced constant threat and pressure from Beijing Communism oversea's aggression.

It really shows the city's strong inclusiveness to all ethnicities and all cultures. On the flag, we are promoting universal principles: Truthfulness, compassionate and Tolerance, which is not defined nor owned by Falun Dafa community, but by each and everyone's hearts.

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A Sample of the flag is here for your reference.

