

## Letter of recommendation

February 12, 2023

Tsadra Foundation  
245 West 4th Street  
New York, NY 10014, USA

To whom it may concern,

My name is Guisella Pérez Barrera, 38 years old, occupational therapist currently residing in Viña del Mar, Chile. I have also been a Buddhist practitioner since 2018, practicing and volunteering in the Drikung Kagyu V Región sangha in Viña del Mar.

I have known Francesco since 2018, when I started participating in the sangha with him. When I met him, he was acting as a director and translator for our resident lama's teachings, also doing the role of guiding rituals and practices, and at the same time providing instructions and knowledge of the Dharma whenever it was pertinent. From 2020 onwards I have been working with the sangha as a director and secretary. It has been during this time that I have grown closer to Francesco personally, nowadays considering him to be a very close friend.

Throughout our conversations as friends, we concluded many times that the life situation or life stage in which Francesco finds himself is ideal for entering into retreat. During the last year I have been able to accompany him in this process, watching how he has transformed what initially was a dream into a project. I am happy about this since I see many auspicious conditions in him as a friend, such as his experience in the Dharma, his knowledge of the English language, him being single, without any children, with his family matters resolved and without attachment to a job. With all these elements in mind, I think it was natural to conclude that engaging further in the Dharma was a natural next step to follow in the path he has been traveling so far.

In this sense, as I previously mentioned, I consider that Francesco has great qualities to accomplish a retreat of such magnitude and to benefit others based on that experience.

Regarding his relationship to the Dharma, I find it remarkable that he has a good relationship with our lama. It is very balanced and nice, it shows that he puts intention and work on establishing a reciprocal relationship of learning from his teacher and serving him, with his lama's activities and well being as his main concern. There is a devotional attitude in it that is very inspiring to others.

Personally, I can see that he has a high level of commitment regarding study and retreat. I have always noticed him reading and getting new books, integrating what he learns with his daily life. I know that he has gone to do ngondro retreat, and in general I can say that his participation in our sangha's retreats and activities is very committed and active. From what I can appreciate of his own personal practice and retreats I think he has good initiative, endurance and resilience. At the same time, I see that he has experience and knowledge

with respect to the significance of such retreat. He has endurance, determination and willpower. He is also creative with his own resources to face difficulties, and humble so as to ask for help or guidance. In general I think he is brave, and at the same time he can be very flexible and adaptable.

Nevertheless I notice that the only obstacle for accomplishing this retreat lies in his current financial situation, and therefore it becomes necessary for him to be able to qualify for a scholarship that may help him achieve his goal.

It is because of this that I was very happy when I heard that your foundation existed, since you can help my friend do his retreat without this concern and in the fullest way. I am grateful that there are people like you that support this kind of initiatives that are rare in these fast-paced times, where the Dharma is usually not the priority. This in spite of its great value and importance for those of us who understand a little bit of it and have the fortune of living happier lives because of it.

That is why I thank you in advance for your good disposition towards the case of my friend. I am totally confident that he will honor this opportunity, which I consider virtuous since its origin, in his motivation, in what the actual practice entails, and in its results, which I am sure will bring great benefit to many beings.

It is a source of pride to me that a Chilean person has come to have the motivation to do this retreat, considering how rare it is for the Dharma to be present in this part of the world. Therefore, I can only wish that this may be accomplished in the most auspicious way possible, thinking that this will surely inspire more Chileans to practice the Dharma.

Finally, I wish that your foundation may continue prospering and helping many beings. Yours is a very noble endeavor and deserves great recognition. I wish you all the best.

Please feel free to contact me at +56 9 8520 8790 or [guisella.perez@gmail.com](mailto:guisella.perez@gmail.com) if you have any further inquiries.

Sincerely,

**Guisella Pérez Barrera**

