

12 August 2023

To the Tsadra Foundation:

I am writing to recommend Taras Melnychuk for the Tsadra Foundation Advanced Contemplative Scholarship. Taras has applied for this scholarship in order to help pay for the Three Year Retreat scheduled to begin at Gampo Abbey in 2024. Taras has already been accepted as a participant in this retreat.

I have known Taras for about 10 years. I have been involved with the Dorje Denma Ling retreat centre in Nova Scotia for many years and I got to know Taras when he became a staff member there. I believe he has served as a Dorje Denma Ling staff member off and on for about a decade. He has many useful skills and his work there is much appreciated.

I have had the opportunity to attend a number of dharma classes over the years with Taras, and I could see that his interest in and commitment to the dharma were extraordinary. As well as being a committed practitioner he was extremely well-read in dharmic literature.

When Taras returned to Dorje Denma Ling this spring, his intention to do the three year retreat was clear. I believe he is well-prepared to do the retreat, and I believe it will be of great benefit for him to do it. Furthermore, I believe that, having completed the retreat, he will have the capacity to become an excellent dharma teacher and a source of inspiration for others.

As I'm sure you know, Taras is an exiled Ukrainian with limited financial resources. Your scholarship will make it possible for him to do this retreat. I hope you will give his application serious consideration.

Very truly yours,
David Flint
Member of the Dorje Denma Ling Governing Council