

VEN CHOKYI *

Venerable Chokyi has been a dedicated Dharma student since 1990 and is devoted to Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche. At the time of ordination, Ven Chokyi was academic coordinator of Indigenous Studies at the University of NSW and prior to that worked in the arts sector for over 20 years. She ordained with Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche in 2006.

After ordination, Venerable Chokyi was Spiritual Program Coordinator at the FPMT Centre in Sydney, Vajrayana Institute, for 10 years and in 2018 was appointed the resident western teacher at Chenrezig Institute, an FPMT Centre in Queensland.

Venerable Chokyi teaches the FPMT foundation course Discovering Buddhism, a two-year program which gives students a solid foundation in the teachings and practice of Tibetan Mahayana Buddhism.

AT Chenrezig Institute she has also assisted with Geshe Tsultrim's longer courses and is an integral part of the Centre's retreats, including the annual Lamrim and annual short Vajrasattva retreats. In 2019, Venerable Chokyi led a milestone three-month Vajrasattva retreat at Chenrezig. This was only the second time the long retreat had been held in Australia. The first one was held by Lama Yeshe at Chenrezig Institute more than 45 years ago. Venerable Chokyi also leads regular meditations for the public and community sector.

Venerable Chokyi is the International Director of Liberation Prison Project, a position held since 2010. Since its inception in 1996, the project has offered spiritual advice, teachings, and Dharma material to prisoners who want to explore, study and practice Buddhism. Over the years the project has supported the Buddhist practice of over 20,000 men and women in prisons around the world.

Venerable Chokyi has been the Chenrezig Nuns' Community representative on the board of the International Mahayana Institute (the international organisation representing FPMT monks and nuns) and current chair of the Australian Sangha Association. She is also a member of the Sunshine Coast Interfaith Network and the Women's Interfaith Network in Sydney.

Venerable Chokyi has also organised Chenrezig Sangha's participation in the spiritual program, including the international Thangtong Gyalpo Prayerathon, which is held weekly at Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche's request.

Completely committed to learning and teaching the Dharma to benefit all beings, Venerable Chokyi is a much-loved mentor to students, known for her great depth of wisdom, good humour and huge heart.

References:

<https://liberationprisonproject.org>

<https://imisangha.org>

* Extract from Chenrezig website <https://www.chenrezig.com.au/about/our-teachers/>