

NatureBased
EDUCATION
A DIVISION OF THE HUMANE EDUCATION TRUST



THE **HUMANE**
EDUCATION TRUST
CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA



2nd OCTOBER
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
NON-VIOLENCE

Presented by
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Most of us view violence as a human issue that manifests for some or other reason, and that perpetrators need therapy or anger management classes or jail time.

However,
recognition that the roots of violence are deeply embedded in our maltreatment of animals, has resulted recently, in epic changes in world ethics.

Global acknowledgement of this fact, is evident in the recent inclusion of animal welfare into the **Human Rights** domain.

On 18th September 2023,
the *United Nations* officially adopted
General Comment 26 Article 35
as an addition to the
Charter on the Rights of the Child.

In terms of General Comment 26:
“Children must be protected from all forms of physical and psychological violence whether in their home or in society, and from exposure to violence, such as domestic violence or violence inflicted on animals.”



What makes this so important is
that it is an acknowledgement
at the highest international level that
how we treat animals matters –
for ourselves, as much as for them.



South Africa's Children's Commissioner for the Western Cape **Christina Nomdo** has confirmed her support for the UNs' GC26.

“As a society, we are challenged by deep cultural norms that include harmful practices against animals. We need to counter all practices that involve the abuse of animals. So it is not only about working with children but, in addition, it is about confronting the adults who introduce children to these practices and ‘normalise’ them in the minds of our children. This is the harm.”

Dr Julie Reddy,

Deputy Chair of the South African
National Commission for UNESCO,
has added her support...



“If we teach our children at a very young age about care and respect for other...

it doesn't matter who they are or what they are...

respect for the diversity that we find ourselves in, we will be a much, much better country and we will learn compassion.”

Pretoria 16 April 2024



The violence we inflict on animals is unconscionable.

Shooting stray dogs in the dead of night
— Morocco



Incarcerating farmed animals
for life — worldwide



Using animals in gang initiation rituals —
South Africa



Killing animals for the fun of it
— South Africa



Fox hunting as a sport among the UK's gentry has already been **banned** but **continues illegally**



Bull fighting — Spain, Portugal, Mexico



Trophy hunting with children —
Southern Africa



Indeed, this *shop* at *OR Tambo airport* in Johannesburg sets the scene for a *cultural practice that is now internationally taboo*



On 8th February 2024, at the
*United Nations' 95th Session of the
Committee on the Rights of the Child,*
Vice-Chair Dr Rinchen Chopel urged
the South African delegation to
**criminalise the practice of allowing
children to participate in trophy hunting.**



He said: *“GC26 has made a significant break-through. Various psychological studies on violence and animal abuse have shown that witnessing or participating in violence can severely impact children’s moral and psychological development, normalizing violence, and conditioning life-long negative behavioural patterns. The popular and societal acceptance and practice of child participation in animal trophy hunting is horrendous to say the least.”*



Colombia moves to protect children from violence against animals

Colombia has become the latest country to **ban bullfighting**, as part of a cultural shift away from violence.



Colombian President Gustavo Petro announced the ban as a victory for both children and animals:

“Death will no longer be a show”,
he said.



Member of Colombia's House of Representatives, Alexandra Vasques tweeted:
“it is a great step to end torture disguised as culture.”



Member of Colombia's House of Representatives, Alejandro Garcia Rios said:
“the world is undergoing a cultural transformation, according dignity for all living beings.”



With **World Food Day** coming up on 16th October, I would like to focus our attention on the **institutionalised violence** [psychological, emotional and physical] **inflicted on *farmed* animals.**

Out of sight, out of mind, yet their suffering is beyond comprehension.

Most of the food we eat and the food
we give our children to eat, comes from
tortured, tormented animals
whose experience of life is
***unrelenting abuse, deprivation,
and violence.***

Industrialised Agriculture

Inhumanity to Animals



Industrialised Agriculture

Inhumanity to Animals



Industrialised Agriculture

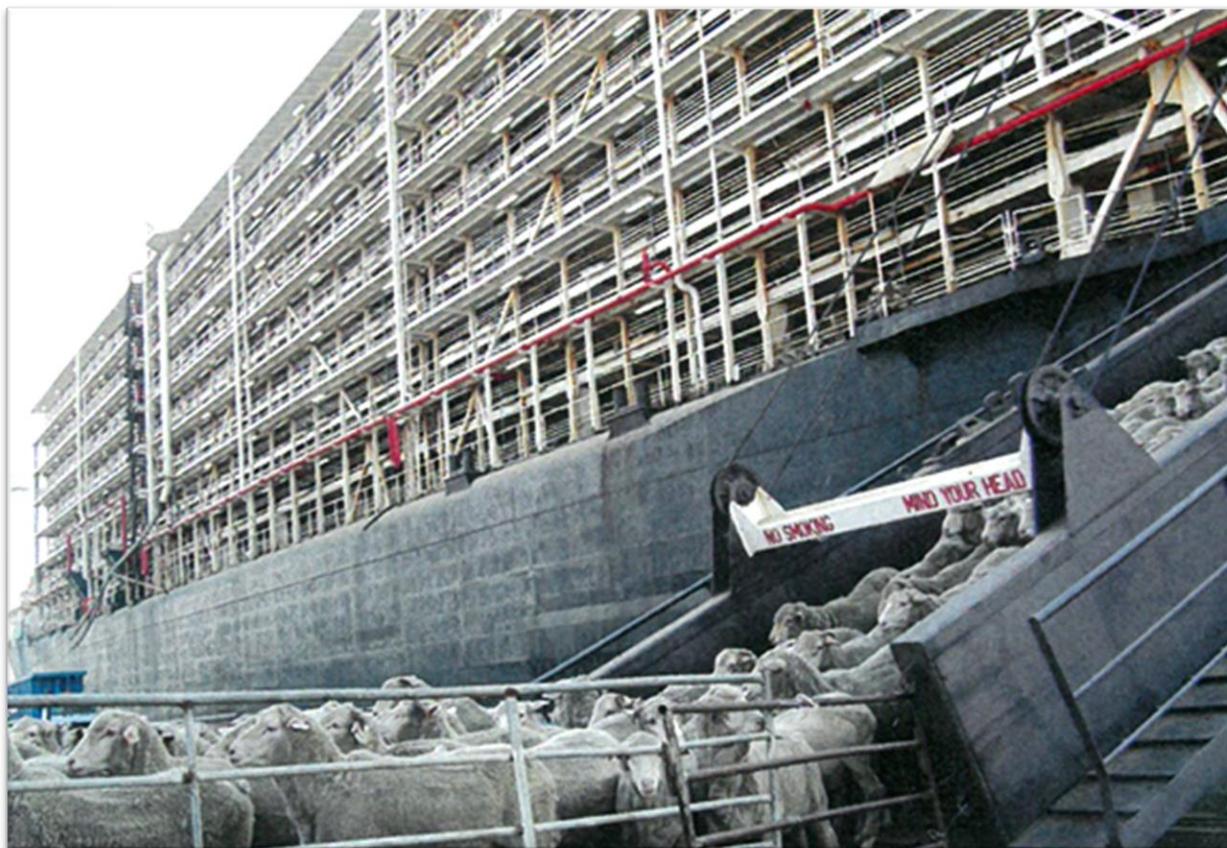
Inhumanity to Animals



Weeks-long sea journeys to slaughter

Inhumanity to Animals





The 16 000 cattle and sheep aboard the Bahijah livestock carrier that left the Australian port of Freemantle earlier this year, for cultural slaughter in Haifa, Israel, travelled 12,000 nautical miles, more than half the circumference of the earth at the equator, to their deaths.

Culturally compliant chilled and frozen meat must surely take the place of a journey that endured for 36 tortuous days of torment.

But, times are changing.

The old adage that
children should be seen and not heard is
way out-of-date.

Again,
the United Nations has taken the lead.



In terms of Article 12 of the
Convention on the Rights of the Child,
children who are capable of
forming a view
must be afforded the right...

- **to express these views freely** in all matters affecting them
- and **such views must be given due weight** in accordance with the age and maturity of the child

No longer can the children of Africa remain oblivious.



They are recognized now as stakeholders
in the future they will inherit.

**As custodians of
the future our
children inherit,
the time is *now*
for us to act.**

After all,
the cages and crates invested in now,
have a 30-year service life.

It is a massive investment that farmers
should not be making in the face of a
world that is changing so fast —
but they are.

**Battery cages are set to be legal
right up to 2039 and beyond.**

We need to inform and ask our children...

- **How do you feel, as a child of Africa,** about a future whereby Africa is colonised, yet again, but this time by a system of industrialised agriculture that is condemned for its contribution to climate change, as well as for its inhumanity to animals?
- **How do you feel, as a child of Africa,** about rural farmers losing their livelihoods because of the intrusion of massive international food corporations and the factory farms that supply them?

- **How do you feel, as a child of Africa,** about inheriting a world where nature disappears before your eyes, as land is stripped bare, to make way for vast fields of soya to feed farm animals locked in cages, crates and feedlots?
- **How do you feel, as a child of Africa,** about inheriting a system of food production that is psychologically and physically violent towards the very beings that we use for our food?

- **How do you feel** about asking the governments in Africa to invest exclusively in regenerative farming methods where rural farmers are able to compete; where farm animals play their part in the sustainability of soil; where animals eat grass and shrubs – the food we as humans cannot eat; where farm animals are afforded the ability to exercise natural behaviours;

- **We must ask our children:**

Which Africa do you choose?

Your voice matters.

Your voice counts.

It is your future we are talking about.

Please tell us?

As for children not being exposed to violence against animals...

has anybody been to the

cull depots

around South Africa recently

**where end-of-lay chickens, broken and
spent, are sold live?**



Inhumanity at South African Cull Depots

End-of-lay hens are crushed into impossible spaces...



broken and dying...



deprived of water and food...



These children in the Middle East are
exposed to the cultural slaughter
of South African cattle, sheep and goats,
shipped on weeks-long sea journeys
to their slaughter.



*See the expressions of dismay on the children's faces
as they witness the slaughter.*

**The whole world is culpable in our
torment of animals.**

Here is another shocking example of an
atrocity witnessed by children...



Photo: Courtesy Nikki Botha

Aftermath of the Gadhimai Festival sacrifice in Nepal

Let us understand why children should be protected from violence



We are all born with empathy.

Without empathy the development
of human society could not have evolved
because civilization depends on
**collaboration, cohesion,
understanding and concern**
for each other.

This is empathy.

The long-term consequences of exposing a child to violence include:

- Progressive **desensitization** to violence
- **Normalization** of violence
- **Erosion** of empathy
- **Disruption** of fundamental human values
- **Acceptance of violence** as part of life
- **Participation** in acts of violence

The Humane Education Trust
has spent 34 years working in
cooperation with educators and with the
Department of Education on the
inclusion of humane education resources
in the national curriculum.



Today we have a significant selection of resources that have been included as readers and as ***Learner Teacher Support Material.***

Currently, we are converting our resources into **interactive e-learning readers, lesson plans and activities**, at the request of the Department of Education.

Some years ago,
Safe Schools gave us an opportunity
to work with learners in Belhar, Cape Town

What learners said...

*“For me, humane education is a great
and joyful programme.
It’s made me into a better person.”*

– Elton, Grade 10

*“In what other subject do you learn
to love, care and protect?”*

– Hewston, Grade 10

*“Humane education gave me a new
pair of eyes. Everything I look at now,
I see differently.”*

– Brendan, Grade 10

Our most recent submission to the department of Education, is a reader titled ***'For the Love of Kin'***.

It is a fictionalized version — *because it is told from the point of view of a sheep* — of what actually happened in Cape Town in April 2024.



Philip Lymbery, CEO of the international
NGO *Compassion in World Farming*,
was invited by *Newform Foods*
to taste a cultivated meatball,
developed in a bioreactor from the cells
of a happy sheep still living at the
Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary.



40 years a vegan, Philip said:
“Remarkable, lovely, for me a little bit strange, but... I am so pleased I have tasted the future!”



**There is much hope that cultivated meat
will become commercially available
within the next decade.**

In closing, I must tell you that sometimes I think something as radical as the **elimination of the word 'animal'** from our vocabulary, is needed in order to address the roots of violence.

Back in the middle ages, **animals** were called **'beasts'**; in law, they were identified as **'things'**. For some reason the word 'animal' has a connotation that implies **'lesser'** in our minds.

What if we gave them the name *'kin'*?

Kin implies family.

The meaning of 'Kith and Kin' is
'Family and Relatives'.

Are they not our relatives in the tapestry of life?



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Thank you.