



ANIMAL VOICE

SOUTH AFRICA

www.animalvoice.org



Romanian footballers carry dogs onto the field to raise awareness for animals

Will South Africa's national soccer teams score a goal for the animals?

Come on Bafana Bafana and Banyana Banyana, you can do it!



Do Africa's children want to inherit a world stuffed with caged animals?



eeditorial



Dear Readers,

Animal Voice is a national South African magazine dedicated to alleviating the suffering of farmed animals at the hands of mankind, and to establishing some form of justice, through education and lobbying, for those who are born nonhuman. Founded by journalist Louise van der Merwe, the magazine started off as *Humanity for Hens* in 1990 and became *Animal Voice* in 1994 with the exposure of live-plucking of ostriches, and the subsequent banning of this practice as a result of our exposure.

Now aged 74, and 88 issues of *Animal Voice* later, Louise is delighted to introduce readers to Alexis Olds who has been appointed by *Compassion in World Farming* as its new head in Southern Africa. See p9 to read more about Alexis.

Louise, meanwhile, will continue as editor of *Animal Voice* and with her work in humane education which, as you will see from some of the pages in this issue, is growing by leaps and bounds and is in need of much persistent dedication to ensure we bring about a kinder world, not only for the animals, but for our children too.

Thank you, one and all, for your continued support of our endeavours and for your part in bringing success to what we do.

Kind regards,

Louise van der Merwe

Consultant: Compassion in World Farming

Managing Trustee: The Humane Education Trust

Editor: *Animal Voice*

Director: Nature-Based Education

Mobile: +27 82 457 9177

Email avoice@yebo.co.za
education@naturebased.online

Web www.animalvoice.org
www.naturebased.education

Animal Voice Issue 88

Compiled and edited by Louise van der Merwe

Design, Social Media and Schools Outreach by Erika du Toit

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Please Donate

**Every step forward
that is achieved is
thanks to your support!**

Please donate so we can
continue our mission
towards a kinder world.





Can SPORT help bring an end to the massive trade in living animals to slaughter in foreign countries?



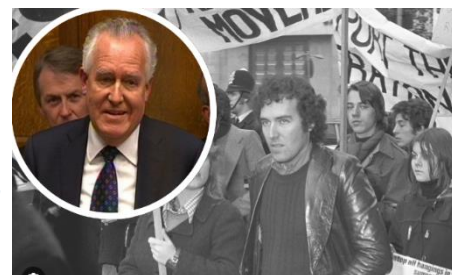
Courtesy NSPCA

RUGBY helped end Apartheid... so could we call upon FOOTBALL to help end live transport?

Peter Hain is a member of the House of Lords in the UK but many older South Africans may remember him quite differently. Back in the late sixties and early seventies, Peter Hain's name became synonymous with anti-apartheid activism.

Educated in South Africa, Peter Hain went into self-exile in the UK at the age of 16, and embarked on a campaign of disrupting rugby tournaments in which the all-white Springboks were participants. Demonstrations at the opening of matches made newspaper headlines back in South Africa. Hain's notoriety saw supporters of apartheid brand him 'a traitor' and he was accused of blighting sport with politics. Then came 15 November 1969 when a protest march led by the then 19-year-old Hain stormed the pitch of Wales' St Helen's rugby stadium in Swansea. Protesters lay on the turf in passive defiance and the clash between demonstrators and police made global headlines. Eventually South African sportsmen were ostracised globally. **On 7 December 2015, the South African government officially recognized Hain's contribution to ending apartheid with 'The Order of Companions of OR Tambo'.**

With the power of rugby in mind, Animal Voice has written to FIFA's Secretary-General, Mattias Grafström, as seen in the following letter...



A young Peter Hain leads a protest against the Springboks

Dear Secretary-General

The submission by Saudi Arabia of its bid book to host the FIFA Football World Cup in 2034, prompts us to bring the following to your kind attention: **South Africa currently sends hundreds of thousands of animals on weeks-long sea journeys to Mauritius and the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, for cultural slaughter. We have pointed out to our own South African government authorities that children are exposed to this slaughter in violation of the Right of the Child not to be exposed to violence against an animal.**

Cont. overleaf



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

Cont. from previous page

In terms of [GC26:35](#), the UN stipulates that ‘children are to 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.’

We applaud FIFA for its support of human rights, specifically as set out in Bidding Regulation 4 c and 4 d where FIFA notes that:

- all stakeholders in the Bidding Process are subject to the FIFA Code of Ethics
- FIFA is committed to conducting its activities in accordance with management standards and practices that safeguard principles for the protection of children and respecting internationally recognized human rights in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles.

The long-distance trade in living animals to slaughter in foreign countries is abhorred by animal welfare organisations around the world. Australia has taken heed and will ban this trade from 2028.

See here: <https://www.four-paws.org/our-stories/press-releases/july-2024/australia-bans-sheep-exports>

It is noteworthy that Apartheid in South Africa was brought to its knees not least of all by the sport of rugby. Sports boycotts of the all-white Springboks, protests, demonstrations and riots that turned ugly, brought global awareness to apartheid and the need to end it. Ultimately President Mandela employed rugby as a way to help lessen divisions between black and white South Africans and foster a shared national pride. See more here: <https://www.history.com/news/nelson-mandela-1995-rugby-world-cup-south-african-unity>:

As with rugby, the power of football can help build a kinder world. We urge FIFA to use its influence, for the sake of our children.

Kind regards,
Louise van der Merwe

See our website here: <https://www.animalvoice.org/liveslaughter>



Sign our petition to FIFA’s Secretary General Mattias Grafström to use FIFA’s influence to **end the trade in living animals to slaughter** in foreign countries.

According to [Foodformzansi.co.za](https://www.foodformzansi.co.za) a new trade deal has opened a potentially massive trade in meat between SA and Saudi Arabia.

Already Saudi imports Halaal-compliant fresh, chilled and frozen meat products from South Africa.

Animal Voice asks that the market be contained to fresh, chilled and frozen meat products and not in living animals destined for slaughter.

<https://www.foodformzansi.co.za/sa-meat-exports-set-to-soar-with-lucrative-saudi-arabia-deal/>

Read more about the horrendous trade in living animals in the Daily Maverick:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-02-22-the-cruelty-of-floating-feedlots-that-ply-the-seas-with-living-cargo-destined-to-die/>

HELP STOP THE TORTURE



In one of the biggest steps in history...

Animal rights are elevated into the human rights domain

Founder and director of the [World Link Coalition](#), Malcolm Plant has made WhatsApp a powerful medium through which to alert the world that member states of the United Nations – all 196 of them - are obligated to comply with its directives and that these directives are legally binding.



Malcolm explains that in 1989, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – an international agreement on childhood. On 18 September 2023, an addition was made to the Rights of the Child in the form of GC26, which includes that no child may be exposed to violence, be it societal, domestic or inflicted on an animal.

“GC26 has elevated Animal Rights into the Human Rights domain, and as such, initiates one of the biggest steps in history for child and animal protection,” he says.

“It is a new awakening which recognises the scientific fact that a child has an innate and natural compassion and empathy for the animal world, and that it is conditioning that teaches them about divisions, prejudices, abuse, violence and cruelty.

“If we dare to imagine a world where the natural empathy of the child is retained into adulthood, then compassion for all other living beings is not eroded by the greed and politics of broken humanity. In this way, children are our leaders into a new tomorrow.”

Malcom also points to Article 12 of the UNCRC which states that children who are capable of forming a view must be afforded the right:

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



Coming up!



The Humane Education Trust is invited as a stakeholder in the **Africa Children's Summit** to be held in Parktown, Johannesburg, from 4 – 7 April 2025.

Under the auspices of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, the **Africa Children's Summit** will be host to participants from 23 African countries, with the aim to facilitate and generate meaningful engagement for children at a policy level, and amplify their voices.

The theme of the ACS is **'Seen, Heard and Engaged'**.



Anzio Jacobs is the head of Child Safety and Protection at the *Nelson Mandela Children's Fund*, and Project Lead for the Africa Children's Summit 2025.

Do Africa's children want to inherit a world stuffed with caged animals?

Battery cages have a 30-year life-span...

The South African Poultry Association actively promotes the battery cage system for laying hens. This means that, with a 30-year service lifespan, a cage system installed today will still be useable in 2055, thus imposing on our children an industrialised egg-producing system that is excused, in part, on the grounds that farmers have invested heavily in it.



Children are exposed to immense cruelty at South Africa's end-of-lay cull depots

Each year, more than eight billion eggs laid by 27 million hens are eaten in South Africa according to recent statistics disclosed by the *Daily Maverick*

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-10-13-battery-chickens-spare-a-thought-for-their-crap-lives/>

The question is:

Do our children *want* to inherit a world stuffed full of caged animals, or do they want to inherit a world where cage-free has become the norm and regenerative agriculture is the order of the day?

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.



It's time to ask the children which world they want to inherit. Please see our presentation titled *The Role of Children in the Future of Food* delivered on HET's behalf by Zimbabwe lawyer Constance Machinda (left) at the Africa Protein Summit, held in Kenya in July 2024.

<https://www.animalvoice.org/protein-summit>

The Humane Education Trust has formulated a simple online questionnaire that learners can use to express their opinions for submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child at the UN.

<https://www.animalvoice.org/children-must-be-heard>

As factory farming colonises Africa, Zimbabweans are determined to put a stop to it

Working in co-operation with the *Open Wing Alliance*, Alfred Sihwa and Sanele Ndlovu are targeting *Simbisa Brands*, owner of the largest fast food restaurant franchises in Africa, to help transform caged egg production to cage-free.



Alfred Sihwa, director of the Sibanye Animal Welfare Conservancy Trust based in Lupane, Zimbabwe, told Animal Voice:

"Because of the extensive reach and influence of Simbisa Brands across Africa, Sanele and I believe that persuading Simbisa Brands to source only cage-free eggs, is a priority. Simbisa Brands operates a total of 280 outlets in Zimbabwe, with an additional presence in Zambia, Kenya, Ghana, Mauritius, DRC, Malawi, and Namibia."

Anyone wishing to support this effort should get in touch with Mr Sihwa: **Sibanye Animal Welfare Conservancy Trust**, Box 118 stand 157 Lupane.

+263733564964: +263 713919855

sibanyetrust@gmail.com or zimbanyezim.org

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.



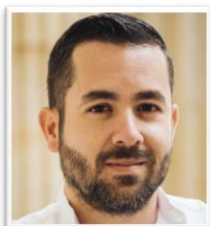
Colombian President Gustavo Petro announced the ban as a victory for both children and animals: **“Death will no longer be a show”**, he said.

<https://historica.world/colombias-ban-on-bullfighting-a-shift-in-cultural-tradition-and-ethical-priorities/>
<https://worldanimalnews.com/colombia-makes-history-by-banning-bullfighting-a-triumph-for-animal-welfare/>



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.”**



Animal Voice asked South African leaders for their views on [GC26:35](#)

No child may be exposed to violence against an animal...



Dr Julie Reddy,
Deputy Chair of the South African National Commission for UNESCO:

“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 15 April 2024



Christina Nomdo,
SA Children’s Commissioner for the Western Cape:

“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.”



Paul Hoffman SC,
Director of the Institute for Accountability in Southern Africa:

“The rights of children receive special mention in Section 28 of the Bill of Rights, namely:
A child’s best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child [ss (2)]
The likelihood of trauma, upset, discombobulation and distress through exposure to violence against animals is clearly not conducive to serving the best interests of children.”
www.accountabilitynow.org.za

View our presentation to UNESCO Africa [here](#):

The Humane Education Trust (HET) thanks the Department of Education for its valued support of our endeavours towards a kinder world.

The following resources have been selected by the Department of Education for procurement as Learner Teacher Support Material in 2025:

- Animals and the Seasons*
- Diere en die Seisoene*
- I'm a very special modern-day dinosaur*
- The Great Cage Escape*
- Bana ba nang le Kutlwelobohloko*
- Friends don't bite*

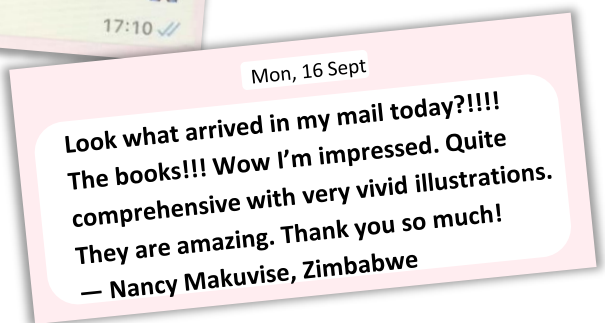
Since January 2022, our online platform with its FREELY down-loadable, curriculum-aligned lesson plans, has been used by:
Teachers **412** | Schools **345** | Learners reached **57,515**
Universities **2** | International Support **10**

[Figures updated on 30 August 2024]



Messages from teachers:

Veterinarian **Dr Ivana Lyon** (below left) is one of HET's valued teachers. At right is Dr Ivana's colleague, **Dr Shaun Sagor**. With them are Oudtshoorn's children, learning about animal care.



Your donation will help us reach our 2025 target of a Caring Kids book in the hands of around 100,000 learners.
Please donate generously here



Teachers who wish to become part of Nature-based Education should sign up on www.naturebased.education

The fight for a better food system

The New York Times

puts a spotlight on
'Life after Factory Farming'

In an article dated 29 August 2024, The New York Times throws a spotlight on the Transformation Project that is catching on in the USA as a way out of factory farming.

Directed by Tyler Whitley, the [Transformation Project](#) is an initiative of the charity **Mercy for Animals**, assisting farmers to cut their losses when it comes to cages, and transform the massive barns that once held 20 000 hens or a thousand pigs, into greenhouses growing organic produce and mushrooms.

Quoted in *The New York Times*, Mr Whitley said:

"I came to view factory farming as a cancer... I hated how it robbed people of their humanity."



From
this
to
this



Does the label 'free range lamb' make you think the sheep led a good life? Don't be misled...

Most people would like to think that the lamb or mutton on their plate enjoyed a life worth living.

But they could be wrong

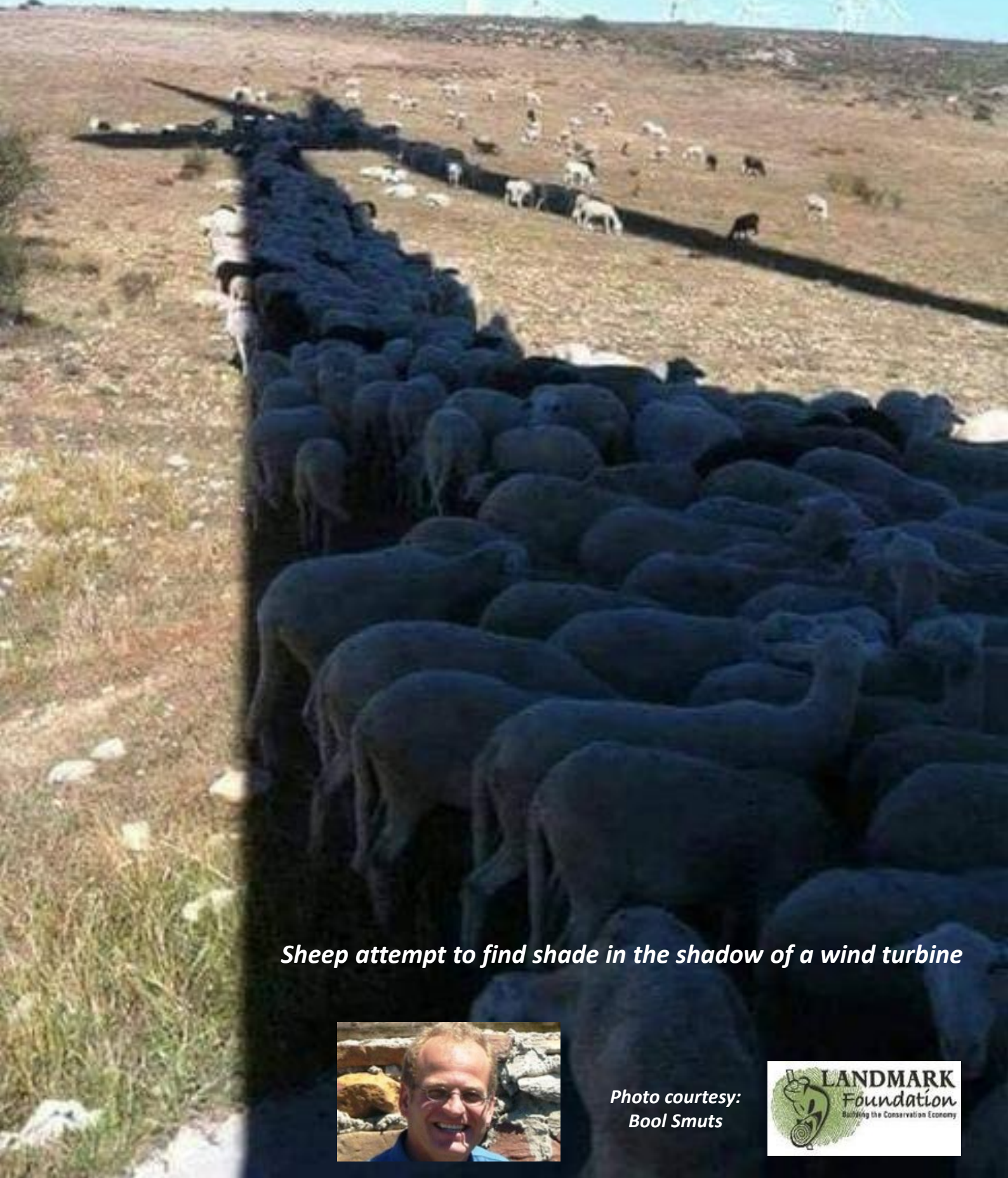
Most sheep live the harshest of lives in semi-arid and arid conditions in South Africa. Worse still, climate change has exacerbated the blazing heat of these regions to the point where 40°C is common in the summer months. Anyone who has taken a trip through the Karoo will have seen how sheep huddle in desperate attempts to find shade in each other's shadow.

ANIMAL VOICE asked *Booi Smuts*, well-known South African wildlife conservationist, animal activist and founder of the Landmark Leopard and Predator Project, for comment.

He said: ***"Surely we can offer sheep a bit of empathy and compassion and a decent quality of living? Providing shade also makes sense in economic and production terms with the costs being offset by production gains in terms of improved fertility, improved growth, less mortality and disease, and let us not forget that stress produces cortisol in the meat."***

See next page

Animal Voice thanks the South African Bureau of Standards for agreeing to compile minimum standards for sheep that will ensure the provision of shade



Sheep attempt to find shade in the shadow of a wind turbine



*Photo courtesy:
Bool Smuts*



Welcoming...

Alexis Olds and getting to know her...

Alexis has been appointed by Compassion in World Farming as the new head in Southern Africa.

Animal Voice: At what age can you remember feeling an affinity for animals?

I have had an affinity for animals for as long as I can remember. There has never been a time in my life when I wasn't drawn to animals. I could ride a pony long before I could ride a bike.

How did your life proceed in the development of this interest?

I have always been drawn to animals and the natural environment. I've known since a young age that I wanted to work with animals. My life took me in an academic direction, studying zoology and botany in university, later specializing in conservation and biodiversity and a Masters degree in ichthyology. I spent a decade working in the nature conservation sector before moving into the agricultural and animal welfare sector.

You travelled four hours from George to Cape Town in order to apply for the job with Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) and meet its CEO Philip Lymbery who was in Cape Town in April 2024. Please tell us about this decision, and your feelings when you were told you had succeeded in getting the job.

I don't know if it was divine intervention or fate, but I had been looking for a new career avenue that aligned with my love of animals and the environment. None of the jobs posted really piqued my interest until I saw this job posted on LinkedIn. I read up on the job description and I just knew this was the job I was meant to have, that this was my calling.

I spent very many hours working on my application. Receiving the first and then second interview invitations were exhilarating, and I knew I was on the right track. While quite stressful waiting for feedback, I felt confident throughout the process. Upon receiving the offer of employment, I was incredibly grateful and excited. I do believe that I can make a meaningful contribution to the agricultural industry and animal welfare sector.

alexis.olds@ciwf.org
www.ciwf.org



Please tell us about some of the things you would like to achieve for farmed animals during your tenure with CIWF.

The long-term goal is to eradicate factory farming in southern Africa without jeopardizing food security. We will do this by working with the government to change legislation pertaining to animal welfare in the agricultural sector. We will work with farmers to move to higher welfare systems that won't impact their livelihoods.

I'd like to develop positive relationships with government departments and farmers so there is buy-in for improved farming practices that support environmental restoration and higher animal welfare. I strongly believe that NGOs play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between government and the private sector.

I'd like to see a societal shift in eating behaviour to less reliance on animal-based products. We will work with retailers, restaurants and other NGOs on campaigns that will influence this outcome. By working with the government, agricultural sector and consumers, we are tackling animal welfare challenges on all fronts which will bring about meaningful change.

JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS

Amy P Wilson hit *Animal Voice's* headlines in 2018 when she became the first South African to graduate from the Lewis and Clark Law School in the USA with a Master's degree in Animal Law. She went on to establish the NGO *Animal Law Reform*, and in July this year, Amy and her colleagues launched a ***Manifesto for Transforming Animal Protection in South Africa: A Constitutional Imperative***

***Animal Voice* invited Amy to tell us more about this ground-breaking initiative. Here is what she told us:**

“This year, we celebrate 30 years of South Africa’s vibrant democracy. Even though we still have a long way to go, vast strides have been made to pursue social justice for humans. Unfortunately, however, our fellow *animals* have been largely left behind. Trillions of animals suffer and are killed at the hands of humans every year, including through abhorrent and cruel practices which many are completely unaware of. There has never been a more urgent need to protect *ALL* Earthlings, and there is an opportunity to do this through a proposed new ‘*Animal Welfare Bill*’ currently being drafted by the government (specifically the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, or DALRRD). South Africa has one of the most progressive Constitutions on the planet, with some of the most robust human rights protections. Even though animals were not explicitly included in the Bill of Rights, our courts, including the highest court of the land, have recognised that human rights are inextricably linked and intertwined with the protection of animal interests. They have further recognised that animals are sentient beings with intrinsic value, deserving of protection in their own right.

Against this background, with the intention of developing a contemporary Animal Welfare Bill, **Animal Law Reform South Africa (ALRSA)**, **HSI-Africa** and **SAIFAC** (a centre of the University of Johannesburg), initiated the ‘**Animal Law Project**’ to create a platform for the animal protection sector to provide feedback on realities and challenges of the current governance regime, and to offer inputs as to what they might expect from such revised legislation.



In July 2024, following extensive consultations with the animal protection sector, selected experts, people involved in the fields of academia, law and conservation (as well as DALRRD, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development), the Animal Law Project developed “**[A Manifesto For Transforming Animal Protection In South Africa: A Constitutional Imperative](#)” outlining the drivers for change, the values and principles and a mechanisms for a new regime.”**



Ahead of World Animal Day on 4 October 2024, we are calling for support for the work of the **Animal Law Project** by members of the public, animal protection organisations, and all others who have an interest in our work.

We are asking for signatures on a public petition as well as endorsements from organisations and associations, both of which are available via our website.

We then hope to use this support to further engage with government and request that they adopt our proposals into legislation, including the new proposed Animal Welfare Act.

For any queries relating to the ALP, please reach out to:

contact@animallawproject.co.za

Philip Lymbery delights the crowd by eating meat after four decades of veganism



When *Compassion in World Farming* CEO, Philip Lymbery accepted an invitation from pioneering start-up Newform Foods to sample its **cultivated lamb meatballs**, he was unsure at first. After all, it had been nearly 41 years since anything remotely meaty had passed his lips.

But the fact that a very happy, healthy sheep, still enjoying life at the **Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary** in the Western Cape, would provide the meatball, compelled him to break his meat-fast for the sake, literally, of farmed animals.

The special tasting event was hosted in Cape Town on the 30th of April 2024 by Brett Thompson and Tasneem Karodia, co-Founders of Newform Foods.

Said Brett: *"It was truly an honour to make it possible for Philip Lymbery to eat meat for the first time in 40 years! I wonder how the next 40 years will look."*

After savouring the meatball, Philip gave his verdict: *"remarkable, lovely, for me a little bit strange, but... I am so pleased I have tasted the future!"*

See Philip tasting a cultivated meatball 



Philip Lymbery, CEO of Compassion in World Farming, together with Newform Foods' COO Tasneem Karodia and CEO Brett Thompson.

Author of four internationally acclaimed books warning of the pending food, climate, and environmental catastrophes fueled by factory farming, Philip's latest authorship is as co-editor of *Cultivated Meat - to secure our future*, and it is the publication of this book that prompted Brett Thompson to invite Philip to a 'tasting'.

"We've always been massive fans of Phil and his work in animal advocacy. We knew when we developed a lamb product that getting him to try it would be the ultimate stamp of approval," he said.

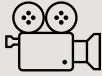
Addressing the crowd of cultivated meat enthusiasts, Philip said: *"Our food system is broken. We are eating our way to extinction, taking other species and the planet with us. At the moment we are exceeding planetary boundaries. Scientists tell us that we need to reduce global meat consumption by about half. We've got to do things differently. We've got to re-think protein. Cultivated meat offers the promise of helping to transform our food system to one that is healthier, more humane, more sustainable, and it can play an important role in closing down factory farms."*

He added that while veganism was now well-known and plant-based proteins were rising in prominence, nevertheless *"we live in a society that wants to eat meat and that's where cultivated meat comes in. I'm told that a simple sample of stem cells cultivated in a bioreactor can create 80 000 (regular) burgers. True, there are production barriers to cross, but the more we normalise cultivated meat in society, the more we can make it happen. Experts suggest that cultivated meat will be on the market within the near future."*

Vegan chef **Norah Hudson**, a trustee of the *Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary* which is home to *Pecorino*, the sheep who donated his cells for Philip's meat ball, also attended the event.

Said Norah: *"Today I'm going to go back to the sanctuary and look Pecorino in the eye and say 'Pecorino, you taste like heaven and I am so happy that I can share this information with you as a living being.'"*

Norah Hudson



Pecorino was rescued as a new-born lamb next to the dead body of his mother just before Christmas in 2022. It wasn't clear why she had died, but *Pecorino* fortunately found himself in the care of the *Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary*. He grew into a healthy young lamb and became a prime candidate for cell extraction for **Newform Foods**.

Nicola Vernon, founder of the sanctuary, saw an opportunity for this while *Pecorino* was under anaesthetic for sterilisation. She explained: *"Our sanctuary vet Dr Francois Viljoen extracted a cluster of cells, no bigger than a peppercorn, from his shoulder muscle. The extraction leaves a tiny mark with just one soluble stitch to hold it together while it heals. Today, Pecorino is a beautiful strong healthy sheep with a band of close friends who are always looking for some mischief to get up to."*

Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary

Website: <https://greytonfarmsanctuary.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greytonfarmanimalsanctuary>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/greytonfarmanimalsanctuary>

About Newform Foods:

Recently *Newform Foods* CEO Brett Thompson announced that significant progress is underway.

"We are now registered in the UK and our beef and lamb cell lines – and soon to be pork – are nearing commercialisation. We've had the privilege of joining [Cell Ag Europe \(CAE\)](#), a coalition of companies dedicated to creating a resilient and sustainable future through innovative food production."

newformfoods.com or info@newformfoods.com

Brett Thompson
Co-Founder and CEO **Newform Foods**





More than three decades ago The Humane Education Trust began a campaign to highlight the ***suffering of laying hens in battery cages...***

We eventually presented 28 000 signatures to the Minister of Agriculture for the abolition of battery cages. Thousands of supporter postcards arrived at Woolworths and Pick n Pay asking for free range eggs. See archive [here](#)

By 2004, both Woolworths and Pick n Pay had responded to the outcry of customers against letting a hen live out her life in space allowance smaller than an A4 sheet of paper. Free-range eggs became an option at both Woolworths and Pick n Pay, and eventually at other supermarkets too. However, Woolworths took an extra giant step and banned battery eggs from its stores altogether, in favour of free-range eggs. See archive [here](#)

Today the retailer sells over 140 million free-range eggs a year as whole eggs, in baked and prepared foods, and as liquid eggs.

On 25th April 2024, **Philip Lymbery**, CEO of Compassion in World Farming (the leading international farmed animal welfare organisation to which The Humane Education Trust became affiliated along the way) presented Woolworths with an **Award in recognition of 20 Years Cage-Free**.

Said Philip, "Woolworths' outstanding contribution to animal welfare means that 450 000 laying hens annually live free-range lives and never see the inside of a cage. I am delighted to extend my congratulation to Woolworths for their outstanding commitment. As farm animal welfare gains global momentum, this award underscores Woolworths' pivotal role in Africa, championing improved conditions for laying hens. It symbolises their dedication to addressing customer concerns about animal welfare, ensuring that the hens under their care are raised to elevated standards of welfare."

Zyda Rylands, Woolworths Food CEO, responded: *"We are incredibly proud to receive this award as an acknowledgement of our unwavering dedication to animal welfare and ethical sourcing. Our work on cage-free eggs, shaped by continuous dialogue and collaboration with animal welfare groups like Compassion in World Farming, represents just once facet of Woolworths' ongoing Good Business Journey. Animal welfare is of paramount importance to both Woolworths and our customers, and this motivates us to continually enhance and improve all aspect of animal health and well-being."*



CEO of Compassion in World Farming, **Philip Lymbery**, presents **Zyda Rylands**, CEO Woolworths Food, with Compassion's award for 20 years cage-free. Standing with them is **Louise van der Merwe** (left), and **Latief Behardien** (right), Woolworths Food's Chief Technology and Sustainability Officer.

For the Love of Kin

Historical moments in time...

"This story is told by Pecorino, the sheep who provided his cells for the cultivated meatballs."

For the Love of Kin

is a fictionalised version of what really happened in South Africa in 2024 when *Compassion in World Farming* CEO, Philip Lymbery accepted an invitation from pioneering food company *Newform Foods* to sample its cultivated lamb meatballs.

The fact that a very happy, healthy sheep, still enjoying life at the *Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary*, had provided the meatballs, was motivation enough for Philip to break his 40-year fast from meat.

Illustrations: Pandora Alberts Author: Louise van der Merwe

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