

ANIMAL SPIRIT



The Animal Interfaith Alliance Newsletter Spring 2016 - Issue 4

Faiths Working Together for Animals

In This Issue:

AIA's Cooler Eating Campaign

Gandhi: The Sanctity of Life & the Ethics of Diet

AIA in Politics

AIA's Letter Writing Campaigns



www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com



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The Animal Interfaith Alliance is a registered not-for-profit company number: 8958588

*Registered company address:
31 1/2 Hoop Lane, Golders Green,
NW11 8BS*

Member Organisations

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA) - www.aswa.org.uk
Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA) - www.catholic-animals.com
Christian Vegetarian Association UK (CVA UK) - www.christianvegetarians.com
Christian Vegetarian Association (CVA US) - www.all-creatures.org
Dharma Voices for Animals (DVA) (Buddhist) - www.dharmavoicesforanimals.org
Institute of Jainology (IOJ) - www.jainology.org
Islamic Concern (IC) - www.islamicconcern.com
The Jewish Vegetarian Society (JVS) - www.jvs.org
Oshwal Association of the UK (OAUK) - www.oshwal.co.uk
Quaker Concern for Animals (QCA) - www.quaker-animals.co.uk
Sadhu Vaswani Centre (Hindu) - www.sadhuvaswani.org



Quaker Concern For Animals

Vision

A peaceful world where people of all faiths, and all those who believe in a compassionate world, work together to treat all animals with respect and compassion.

Mission

To create a united voice for animals from all of the world's faiths and spiritual beliefs, based on their founders' teachings, to bring about the humane treatment of animals.

www-animal-interfaith-alliance.com

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Editorial



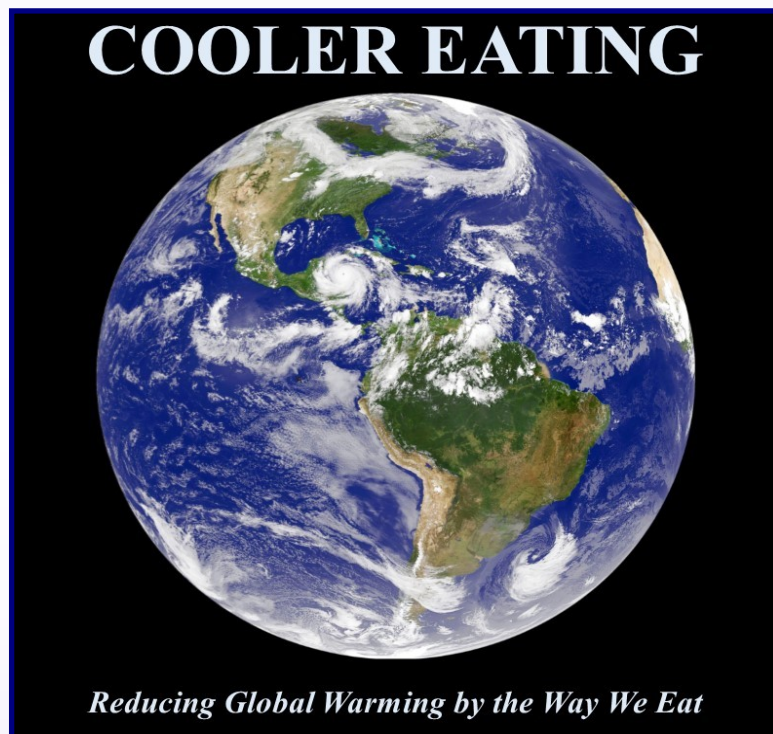
Welcome to the fourth edition of *Animal Spirit*. I am sad to say that this edition, and all forthcoming editions for the foreseeable future, will be in the reduced form of an online newsletter, rather than the full magazine which had previously been produced. However, that does not mean that we have not been very active since the last publication and we continue to voluntarily campaign hard for animals all over the world and spread the message that compassion for animals is at the route of all faiths' teachings. We cannot do this important work without funds so, if you have not already done so, please become a friend of the AIA. We are also very grateful for all donations.

Barbara Gardner

AIA Launches its 'Cooler Eating' Campaign

In the wake of the Paris Conference on Climate Change, the Animal Interfaith Alliance (AIA) launched its Cooler Eating campaign to raise awareness of the effects of meat-eating on global warming. AIA is encouraging people to embrace a plant-based diet which is less harmful to the climate, the environment, human health, the billions of factory-farmed and slaughtered animals around the world and which also helps to tackle world hunger.

Aware of the interconnectedness of all life, AIA is concerned for the care of our common home, its biodiversity and the creatures that share that home with us and make up the inter-related web of life.



AIA supports the report produced by the influential think-tank, Chatham House, on 24th November, entitled *Changing Climate, Changing Diets: Pathways to Lower Meat Consumption*, which states that almost 15% of global emissions are caused by the livestock sector and a reduction in meat consumption could drastically reduce emissions. Its findings were that:

- Our appetite for meat is a major driver of climate change.
- Reducing global meat consumption will be critical to keeping global warming below the 'danger level' of a two degrees Celsius rise.
- Public awareness of the issue is low, and meat remains off the policy agenda.
- Governments must lead in shifting attitudes and behaviours.

The report can be read at <https://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/changing-climate-changing-diets> and comes on top of a decision by the *World Health Organisation*

(WHO) to classify meat as carcinogenic.

AIA CEO, Barbara Gardner, said, 'AIA greatly welcomes the Chatham House report. People of all faiths and none must come together to help to tackle the effects of global warming which pose a terrible risk to our common home and to future generations. The issues surrounding meat-eating must be put on the political agenda. We can also make a difference as individuals by changing our eating habits and supporting the many farmers who produce all the wonderful plant-based products available'.

AIA Appoints New Representative in Europe



AIA is very pleased to announce that it has appointed Dr Andre Menache to be its *European Representative & Science Advisor*. Dr Andre Menache BSc(Hons) BVSc MRCVS is based in Europe and is a veterinarian who advises extensively on animal welfare matters. He is director of *Antidote Europe*, and is a patron of *QCA*. He has been president of *Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (UK)* and general manager of *The Federation of Animal Protection Societies in Israel*. He currently provides scientific support to several grass roots organisations. AIA is delighted to be able to extend its influence for animal welfare beyond the UK and into the EU.

Gandhi: The Sanctity of Life and the Ethics of Diet

The Gandhi Foundation Multifaith Celebration 2016

By Judith Wilkings

On Saturday 30th January, *The Gandhi Foundation* held their annual multifaith celebration at Kingsley Hall in association with *The Animal Interfaith Alliance*. Mark Hoda, Chair of *The Gandhi Foundation* & Rev. Feargus O'Connor, Chair of *The Animal Interfaith Alliance*, introduced the event.

Before introducing the speakers, Graham Davey of *The Gandhi Foundation* provided an outline of Gandhi's commitment to non-violence, his vegetarianism and frustrated veganism, and his positive compassion for all living creatures. As a Hindu, influenced by Jains, Gandhi had respect for all living things; all touched by the Divine, all equals with human beings in God's eyes. Gandhi was outspoken against vivisection and Rev O'Connor suggested that the two organisations could join in support of the *Dr Hadwen Trust* and their work replacing animal experiments.

Ketan Varia (Jain) of *The Animal Interfaith Alliance* spoke of ensouled nature and the need to limit our diet to plant life – most urgently today but based historically on the Jain belief that the greater number of senses an organism possesses, the greater our responsibility to shield it from unnecessary suffering – and the need to educate without coercion on these matters.

Rev. Nagase (Buddhist) of *Battersea Peace Pagoda* spoke of the Buddha's compassion for all beings. He mentioned serious environmental concerns over Japan's nuclear industry and weapons in general, before chanting a prayer that helped bring the proceedings to a place of profound contemplation.

Rev. Martin Henig (Christian Anglican) observed that the Christian tradition has always drawn heavily on *the Old Testament*, referring the audience to Psalm 104 and its strong vision of animals' importance to the God of compassion and love.

Sheikh Rashad Ali (Muslim) seconded the importance of non-coercion. He spoke of the Islamic tradition's deep concern with matters of welfare, quoting *the Hadith* and stating that the creation taken as a whole is in fact 'the family of God', each creature spiritually connected. From his perspective, adequate legal protection is what animals most sorely lack today.

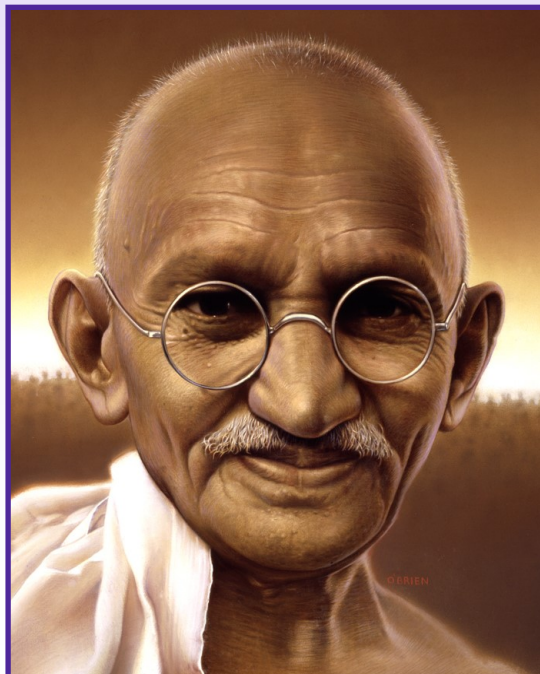
Jewish vegan campaigner, Jonathan Fitter, finished with a powerful 2012 text provided by *The Jewish Vegetarian Society*, demonstrating *the Torah's* mandate of veganism. He went on to say that five per cent of Israel's population are now vegan and that even Israel's military are observing meat-free Mondays.

The event was well attended and delicious vegan food was served in the *Three Bees Cafe*. Attendees also enjoyed a tour of Gandhi's cell, which he occupied when in London in the 1930s.

Judith Wilkings, member of *The Jewish Vegetarian Society*, *Quaker Concern for Animals* and *The Animal Interfaith Alliance*

For further information on *The Gandhi Foundation* go to <http://www.gandhifoundation.org>

'I want to realise brotherhood or identity, not merely with the beings called humans, but I want to realise identity with all life, even with such things as crawl upon the earth.' – M. K. Gandhi



Why Donate to AIA ?

AIA's is a unique alliance of organisations which represent all the major faiths. Not only is it the only organisation to speak out on the moral treatment of animals by drawing on the combined wisdom of all the faiths, but it also promotes social harmony by bringing the faith groups together on an issue that they all share a concern for. Such cooperation between the faiths is what politicians are encouraging and, as such, they are listening to AIA.

Therefore AIA is in a uniquely strong position to campaign for animals.

However, in order to continue campaigning for animals AIA needs funds. Please make any donation you can by visiting our website and donating via PayPal or by completing the 'Friend' form on the back page and sending a cheque. Your support is very much appreciated.



AIA in Politics

LAWS Conference

We were delighted to have been given the opportunity to talk about AIA's work at the *Labour Animal Welfare Society's* (LAWS) conference on Saturday

20th February 2016 to explain the importance of the faith organisations in promoting the ethical reasons for kindness to animals, in order to improve their welfare. We are most grateful to Mark Glover of LAWS for inviting us and giving us this wonderful opportunity.

The keynote speaker was Kerry McCarthy MP, Shadow Defra Minister, who gave an excellent presentation about her work and the objectives for Labour in animal welfare. Other speakers included Josh Kaile, Head of Public Affairs for *World Animal Protection* (WAP), who spoke about Wildlife Crime: Domestic and International; Nick Palmer, Director of Policy at *Cruelty Free International*, who spoke about Animal Welfare: Does Labour Care?; Kevin Flack, Parliamentary Officer for *IFAW*, who talked about Animal Welfare in Europe and Mark Glover who discussed the European Referendum.

Mark Glover raised the point that, although LAWS could not effect government policy for at least four years, it could have a very effective role in other areas of politics, such as the EU, other international organisations, such as CITES, and Councils and other local bodies. Nick Palmer raised the point that although most labour MPs agreed with most animal welfare issues and were happy to sign EDMs and petitions, they gave animal welfare a low priority, such that they might not make the effort to turn out for a debate if they had other pressures. However, it was agreed that the current labour leadership had been the best leadership for animal welfare yet.

As regards the most topical issue of the day – membership of the EU, it was generally felt that staying in would be the best thing for animals due to all the animal protection legislation that had been achieved in Europe. Kerry McCarthy explained that EU legislation was about Protection and not Regulation. These EU achievements for animals included:

- Banning sow stalls and battery cages for eggs in the EU.
- Banning imports of cat & dog fur and seal products from sea hunts into the EU.
- Banning EU members from killing whales and banning the import of whale products.
- Banning steel-jawed leg-hold traps within the EU.
- Banning the testing of cosmetics on animals in the EU.
- Banning driftnets for fishing saving countless sea mammals and birds.
- Banning the import of wild birds into the EU.
- Producing EU Directives on habitats and the protection of birds which conserve wildlife and migrating birds.
- Protecting wild animals.

As Mark Glover said – *If animals could vote they would vote to remain in Europe.*

We would like to send our very best wishes to Wally Burley, LAWS Chair and a founder member of LAWS, who has been ill and was unable to attend the conference.

For more information on LAWS go to <http://www.labouranimalwelfaresociety.org.uk>.

The Animal Interfaith Alliance is non-party political and supports the animal welfare societies of all political parties.

Labour Animal Welfare Society



EFRA Announces Inquiry on Animal Welfare

The *Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* (EFRA) **Sub-Committee** has announced that it will be holding a series of short inquiries on animal welfare over the course of this Parliament and has invited written submissions. AIA has and will be responding to these. The first inquiry focused on domestic pets, including cats, dogs and horses and AIA has made a written submission on this.

New Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation



AIA is delighted to support the new *Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation*, founded by Blue Fox founders, Lorraine and Chris Platt, with Sir Roger and Lady Suzy Gale as its Patrons. AIA has long supported

the *Labour Animal Welfare Society* (LAWS) and we are delighted that the Conservatives now have an equivalent organisation. AIA is non-party political and is pleased to endorse animal welfare organisations from all parties.

The *Conservative Animal Welfare Foundations'* objective is to raise awareness of the lives of billions of animals reared on intensive farms around the world and how this impacts on animal welfare, the environment and people's health, and to highlight the action people can take to advance farm animal welfare. Further details can be found on their website at <http://www.conservativeanimalwelfarefoundation.org/>

AIA's Letter Writing Campaigns

By Marian Hussenbux



Marian Hussenbux is AIA's multi-lingual correspondence secretary, who voluntarily writes unceasingly to politicians around the world to ask them to alleviate the suffering of animals. Here are details of some of the letters she has written since the previous issue.



To Clondalkin, near Dublin - to police, town councillors and priest, re domestic animals tormented and killed - Oct-Nov



To Karnataka Forest Department re death of fragile poorly cared for elephant Chanchal in circus - 20 Nov



To George Eustice, Minister, re EU subsidies for corrida bull breeders - 20 Nov



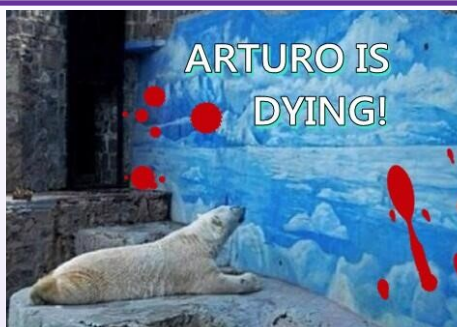
To Vietnamese Ambassador in London re New Year pig killing - 21 Nov



To South Australian Premier, in opposition to the Ag-Gag bill - 3 Dec



To two commissioners in Nevada State - thanks for voting against killing contests - 8 Dec



To Argentine President re Arturo, re refusal to transfer polar bear in the zoo to Canada - 16 Dec



To Seneca County, NY State - continuation of appeal to protect White Deer - 16 Dec



To Irish vets and 3 Sinn Fein politicians - re objection to support for hare coursing - 23 Dec



To PSOE
(Socialist) Mayor of
Algemesi, Spain, re
torture and killing
of heifers in festival
– 31 Dec



To New Harmony
Baptist church in
the US about
squirrel killing
– 2 Jan



To US Navy about
use of sonar which
harms marine
mammals - 6 Jan



To Indian PM,
appealing to him
to keep jallikattu
ban – 11 Jan



To Chinese CITES
representative re
elephant calves
exported from
Zimbabwe – 10 Jan



To a Texas
community
association
planning to trap
and send deer to
slaughter - 14 Jan



To Alex
Cunningham MP
– thanks for
speaking against
bear fur caps
– 16 Jan



To town councillors of
San Miguel de Allende,
Mexico – against
'heritage' bullfight
event – 18 Jan (dressed
up in old style outfits,
linking in with a
historical festival)



To Mayor Bill de
Blasio, NYC, re
carriage horse
compromise bill –
21 Jan



To Cartagena
council in
Spain re new
multi-purpose
complex to
include a
bullring
– 25 Jan



To World
Association of
Zoos and Aquaria
re elephant calves
from Zimbabwe
to China – 26 Jan



To Minnesota
State/Marshall
City, MN, re
coyote killing
contests
– 17 Feb

ANIMAL INTERFAITH ALLIANCE FRIEND FORM

Title: Dr _____ Mr _____ Mrs _____ Ms _____ Other _____

First name _____ Surname: _____

I wish to become a friend of the Animal Interfaith Alliance: _____

Or – I wish to renew my friendship of AIA: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Country: _____ Email Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Mobile number: _____

Type of Annual Friend (please tick):

Individual Friend £15.00 _____ or Individual Friend Concessions £7.50 _____

I would like to make a donation of £ _____

Please either make cheques payable to 'The Animal Interfaith Alliance' and send to The Treasurer, Animal Interfaith Alliance, 56 Cole Lane, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0PN.

Or make bank transfers to Triodos Bank, Sort code: 16-58-10 Account number: 20530234

Or pay by annual direct debit

To (name of your Bank/Building Society) _____

Bank's Address _____

Post Code _____

My account number is _____ Sort Code _____

I would like to give the sum of £ _____ on the 1st day of each month/year,

starting on _____ / _____ (Month/Year) until further notice in writing, to account number 20530234 of The Animal Interfaith Alliance, Triodos Bank, sort code 16-58-10.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

AIA Interfaith Celebration for Animals & AGM

**Saturday 22nd October 2016
at Golders Green Unitarians,
31 Hoop Lane, Golders Green,
London, NW11 8BS.**

AGM starts at 2.00pm – All friends of AIA and representatives from AIA member organisations are welcome. Please note that only AIA member organisations can vote.

Interfaith Celebration for Animals at 3.00pm – Led by Rev. Feargus O'Connor, Chair of AIA, with guest speaker Rev. Prof. Martin Henig MA. DPhil. D.Litt., AIA director and ASWA Vice President, plus readings from all of the main faiths. *All welcome, including dogs!*

Diary Dates

ASWA AGM – Saturday 21st May, 11.00am, St Michael's Chester Square, London SW1. Guest Speaker Brett Cochrane, Group Head of Science at the Dr Hadwen Trust. Further details at www.aswa.org.uk/page/whats_coming_up/upcoming_events

Quakers Yearly Meeting – 27th – 30th May at friends House, Euston. Further details at www.aswa.org.uk/page/whats_coming_up/upcoming_events/

Pope Francis' World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation – 1st September

World Animal Day – 4th October.
www.worldanimalday.org.uk

Animal Blessing Service – Sunday 9th October, 3.00pm at St John Vianney Church, Charlton Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 8ER. Animals and their human friends are invited to remember St Francis of Assisi in their own special service of blessing and thanksgiving. Led by Canon Peter Turbitt. All Welcome!

ASWA Remembrance Sunday Service – Sunday 13th November, 3.00pm at the Animals In War Memorial, Park Lane, London. Further details at www.aswa.org.uk/page/whats_coming_up/upcoming_events/

See website for updated events

AIA Lays Wreath at 'Animals in War' Remembrance Day Service



The *Animal Interfaith Alliance* laid a wreath in remembrance of the millions of animals killed in war at the *Remembrance Day Service* for animals in war at the *Animals in War Memorial*, Park Lane, London on Sunday 8th November at 3.00pm. The service was led by AIA member organisation, the *Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals* (ASWA) with special guest Sally Baldwin of *Nowzad Dogs*.

The service was led by Rev. Helen Hall and Rev. Prof. Martin Henig. Thom Bonneville, a director of AIA, laid the wreath with other AIA directors in attendance.