

# ANIMAL SPIRIT



**The Animal Interfaith Alliance Magazine**

**Autumn 2017 - Issue 7**

***Faiths Working Together for Animals***

## **In This Issue:**

**Campaigning Activity 2017**

**Eurogroup for Animals**

**14th Interfaith Celebration for  
Animals**

**Faith & Animal Welfare**  
*- Joyce D'Silva*

**The Ethics of Fur**  
*- At the Oxford Centre for  
Animal Ethics*

**Felines of Faith**  
*- Barbara Allen*



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## Member Organisations

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA) - [www.aswa.org.uk](http://www.aswa.org.uk)

The Bhagvatinandji Education & Health Trust - [www.beht.org](http://www.beht.org)

Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA) - [www.catholic-animals.com](http://www.catholic-animals.com)

Christian Vegetarian Association UK (CVA UK) - [www.christianvegetarians.com](http://www.christianvegetarians.com)

Christian Vegetarian Association (CVA US) - [www.christianveg.org](http://www.christianveg.org)

Dharma Voices for Animals (DVA) (Buddhist) - [www.dharmavoicesforanimals.org](http://www.dharmavoicesforanimals.org)

Institute of Jainology (IOJ) - [www.jainology.org](http://www.jainology.org)

Islamic Concern (IC) - [www.islamicconcern.com](http://www.islamicconcern.com)

The Jewish Vegetarian Society (JVS) - [www.jvs.org](http://www.jvs.org)

The Mahavir Trust

Oshwal Association of the UK (OAUK) - [www.oshwal.co.uk](http://www.oshwal.co.uk)

Quaker Concern for Animals (QCA) - [www.quaker-animals.co.uk](http://www.quaker-animals.co.uk)

Sadhu Vaswani Centre (Hindu) - [www.sadhuvaswani.org](http://www.sadhuvaswani.org)

Veerayatan: Compassion in Action - [www.veerayatan.org](http://www.veerayatan.org)

The Young Jains - [www.youngjains.org.uk](http://www.youngjains.org.uk)



## 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.

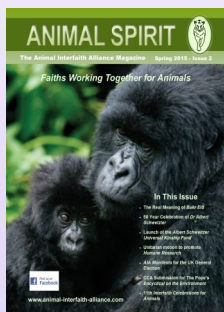
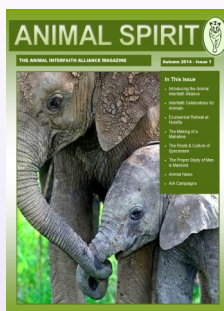
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## Animal Spirit Magazine

Previous editions of *Animal Spirit* can be found on the AIA website .



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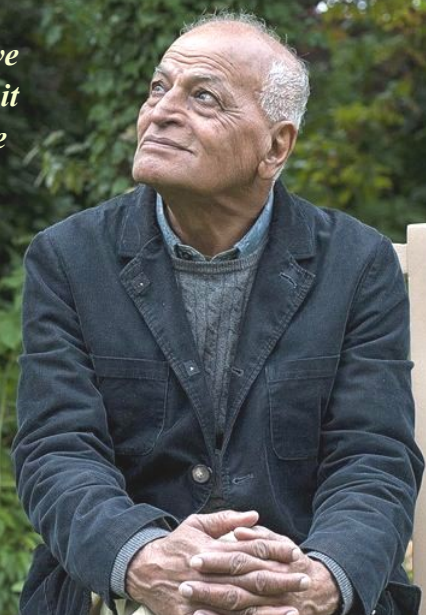
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*'Love is not love if it does not include love of animals. What kind of compassion is it which adores human life, but ignores the slaughter of animals?'*

*Satish Kumar - AIA President  
(You are, Therefore I am - Green Books 2010)*



## Please Help AIA Support Animals

AIA 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 page 31 and sending a cheque. Your support is very much appreciated.

# The Animal Interfaith Alliance in 2017

By Barbara Gardner

**T**he first part of 2017 has been very active for AIA, particularly with our international campaigning work which is described in detail in Marian Hussenbux's report on pages 5-13. AIA has been bringing the weight of the interfaith community to the fight to end cruel practices and for the freedom of animals all around the world.



## Britain

In Britain, we have campaigned against a battery rabbit farm, the cruel practices of the Norfolk meat traders, the use of the ankus on zoo elephants, animals in circuses and hunting in its various forms, including writing to the Prime Minister to persuade her that allowing a vote on repealing the *Hunting Act* would alienate voters from the faith communities. She didn't listen and our warnings appear to have been proved correct.

On 8th July we held the 14th *Interfaith Celebration for Animals* at *Golders Green Unitarians*, organised and led by AIA Chair, Rev. Feargus O'Connor. Full details are given on pages 16-18. Our guest speakers were Joyce D'Silva from *Compassion in World Farming* who talked about *Faith and Animal Welfare* and Dr Alpesh Patel from *Animal Free Research UK*. Joyce's inspirational speech is reproduced on pages 19-21.

## Europe

In Europe, we campaigned against hare coursing in Ireland, Norwegian whaling, the poisoning of street animals in Bosnia and bullfighting - even writing to Pope Francis, requesting that he condemns this cruel practice.

We have also started working with *Eurogroup for Animals*, a coalition of animal welfare groups across Europe which is based in Brussels and campaigns at the European level for better animal welfare laws and better enforcement of them. AIA member organisation, *Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA)* joined *Eurogroup* directly (which AIA was unable to do as it is an alliance of organisations and *Eurogroup* only have individual organisations as members). In June, Chris Fegan (CCA CE and AIA Deputy Chair) and I attended the *Eurogroup* conference and AGM in Brussels and had the privilege of taking part in *Eurogroup's* strategy setting process and voting at the AGM. Chris has also joined *Eurogroup's* Brexit working party which will be working on ways to ensure that UK animal welfare legislation is not reduced during the Brexit process and that opportunities are taken for improving animal welfare in the UK. Details on pages 14-15.

## Globally

AIA will also be adding its voice to the campaign to end the truly shocking global fur trade which kills 30 million animals each year. Despite fur farms having been banned in the UK (although imports and sales of fur continue), fur farms are still common throughout the world. In July, Chris Fegan and I attended the *Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics* annual conference which, this year, was on the *Ethics of Fur* and was sponsored by *Respect for Animals*. We listened to the issues and will be devising AIA's strategy to campaign on the fur issue. Details of the conference are on page 23.

Marian will also be highlighting, in her report, AIA's campaign work in North America and Canada, the Middle East, Asia and Australasia.

## Member Organisations

I would like to thank all AIA's member organisations, listed on page 2, for all the outreach work they do in their own faith communities to promote the cause for animals and for supporting our interfaith work. Please support them and their events, which are outlined on page 27 and updated regularly on our website.

## 3rd AIA AGM

**Saturday 25th November 2017  
at 2.00pm**

**at  
Friends Meeting House,  
Euston, London.**

**Guest speakers:  
Dr Richard D. Ryder  
Nitin Mehta MBE**

***All AIA Members Welcome***

***Please note that each member organisation is entitled  
to one vote.***

***If you wish to attend please contact Barbara Gardner  
at [Barbgard.aia@gmail.com](mailto:Barbgard.aia@gmail.com)***



# AIA's Campaigning Activity in 2017

By Marian Hussenbux

## Britain

In Britain, we lobbied on the following issues:

### Battery Rabbit Farm

An application was made last year for a battery rabbit farm in Gnosall, Staffs. and after much opposition from many organisations and individuals, this was rejected, but the applicant appealed. We wrote in March asking for this to be rejected and it was. Indeed, it went against a trend, as a 600,000 signature-strong petition had been presented to Europe's agriculture ministers, calling for an end to the farming of rabbits in cages. All 751 MEPs were contacted prior to a vote to reassess farmed rabbit welfare.

On 25th January this year, members of the *European Parliament's Agriculture Committee* voted in favour of a report that recommended phasing out cages for farmed rabbits. This vote was the closest campaigners had come, in over a decade, to securing new legislation for all Europe's farmed animals, paving the way for the protection and welfare of Europe's farmed rabbits.

We thanked the six Irish MEPs who supported this proposal, as there were some who had not, and it might be useful to establish links with Irish MEPs in view of Britain's decision to leave the EU.



### Norfolk Meat Traders

We referred in our last report to our correspondence with the *Food Standards Agency* about the company *Simply Halal*, which became *Norfolk Meat Traders*, where exceptionally cruel slaughter practices were revealed. The FSA had maintained to us on 25th October 2016 that none of the staff from *Simply Halal* were employed at the new company, viz:

'None of the slaughtermen and Animal Welfare Officers employed by this company are implicated in the welfare abuse at *Simply Halal*...'. However, **Hillside Investigations**, which carried out the original investigations, found that one director worked in both.

Hillside sent out an alert on 8th June this year saying: 'The same people were later allowed to set up another company, *Norfolk Meat Traders*, and carry on killing animals, this time including horses. When the "new" company were found to be slaughtering without permission, the FSA were forced to step in again and revoke their licences.'

However, in June this year, Hillside's investigators witnessed sheep being unloaded there and later filmed them in the lairage. 'The FSA were immediately informed, entered the site two days later to find staff there washing down the walls, but they did not appear to have made any serious attempt to find out what happened to these animals who were in what should have been a disused slaughtering facility.'

So this issue needs monitoring. Please visit:

<http://mailchi.mp/hillside/qwj8siry9l-982845?e=19dbfe56ae> and [www.hillside.org.uk](http://www.hillside.org.uk)





### The Use of the Ankus on Zoo Elephants

As we mentioned in an earlier issue of *Animal Spirit*, four British zoos still use the *ankus* – the spiked stick - in management of elephants. We wrote to *Whipsnade* asking them to desist from what we consider to be a cruel practice, and received the usual bland reply, saying “ZSL Whipsnade Zoo’s elephant keepers do carry an ankus, which is used merely as a prompt and guide for the animals when on their daily walks – it is never used to cause hurt or fear to the animal”.

However, DEFRA did state: “In 2010, *The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)* set up an elephant working group with the remit of improving elephant welfare in British and Irish zoological collections. The group was subsequently tasked by Defra to drive forward a programme of improvements to zoo elephant welfare. Any recommendations suggested by the BIAZA elephant working group will be considered by the UK’s Zoos Expert Committee. **This may include making changes to the requirements of Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice with regard to elephant handling.** (our emphasis).

As we considered seven years quite long enough to think about this, we wrote again to ask if there is a required date by which their report should be complete, and when this would be. Here is DEFRA’s slightly edited report:

‘A Defra funded research project published in 2008 identified a number of concerns regarding elephant welfare in UK zoos, in particular, that there was a high prevalence of gait abnormalities, of excess weight and of stereotypic behaviours. In response to this and other reports highlighting welfare concerns with captive elephants, the

*Elephant Welfare Group* was established by **British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)** in 2010. It is a multi-stakeholder group with representatives from zoos, academia and welfare organisations.

‘Lord Henley, the then Animal Welfare Minister, tasked the group with the remit to improve elephant welfare in UK collections over a 10 year period, with a review after five years. He also made it clear that if improvements were not made in the 10 year period, the Government would consider possibly phasing out the keeping of elephants in zoos in the UK. The *Elephant Welfare Group* has completed the five year interim review.

‘The *UK’s Zoos Expert Committee*, which contains animal welfare experts including the RSPCA, advises Defra and other UK animal welfare Ministers on issues relating to zoos and the *Zoo Licensing Act 1981* has considered the five year interim review and overall feel that good progress has been made. However, the Committee believes that this must now continue at an increased pace if the *Elephant Welfare Group* are to meet their goals by the 10 year deadline.

‘The *Zoos Expert Committee* also recommends updating the *Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice (SSSMZP)* to reflect the developments made by the *Elephant Welfare Group* over the last five years. The Committee are currently agreeing recommendations for the changes that need to be made.’

In view of this clear exposition, we think, though time scales are lengthy, that the committee needs to be given time to complete their important work.





## Hunting

### Vote to Repeal *The Hunting Act*

As Theresa May had stated just before the General Election that she was in favour of hunting, we wrote to her, making a strong point that many faiths strongly disapproved of the practice and asking her to consider the fact that repealing *the Hunting Act* would have an adverse effect on interfaith relations. The reply from her office revealed that they had not properly read our letter and had ignored this important point, assuming that we merely wished to state our opposition to hunting.

### RSPCA under attack again

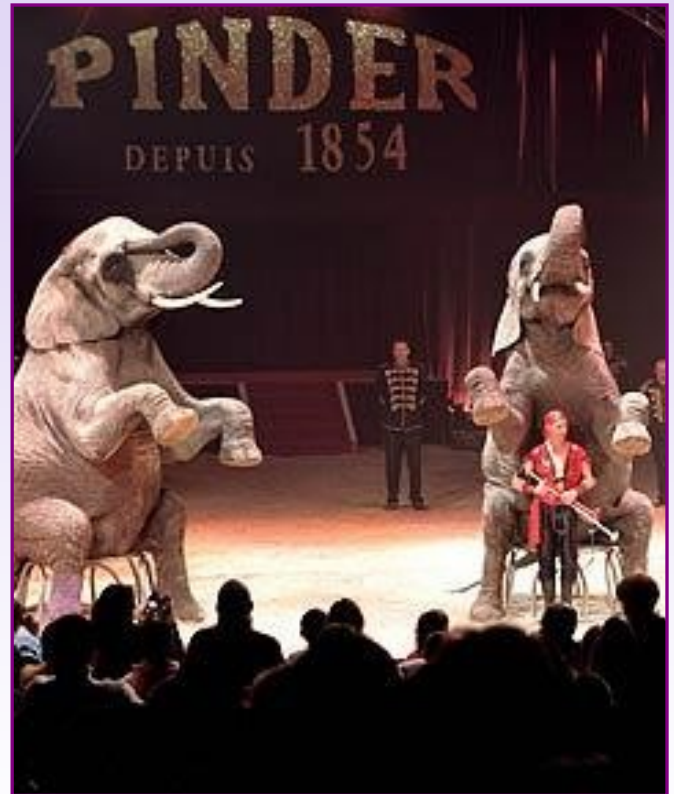
In view of the disturbing fact that the RSPCA is, once again, under attack from the pro-hunting press, we thought it important to write to the interim CEO and the Council, thanking them all for their dedicated work for all creatures and assuring them of our strong support for all that they do.

### Hunting on *National Trust* Land

We have had occasion to write to the *National Trust* before, and as *The League Against Cruel Sports* reported in June that they still issued licences for trail hunting on their land, and they were also suffering from illegal activity, including the use of firearms and the killing of deer, we wrote to the General Secretary to express our opposition to all hunting on land which we suggest should be a haven for all animals. There is some hope, as a motion to ban hunting will be debated at their AGM in October.

### Kent Wildlife Trust

Still on the subject of wildlife protection, we learned that the Chairman of the Kent Wildlife Trust supports the hunting of hares, wading birds and pheasants, having held official roles in a hare hunting group for over thirty years. We asked the Wildlife Trust to cut all links with pro-hunting individuals



### Animals in Circuses

The matter of circuses which exploit animals seems to be a perennial concern in this country, though many other states worldwide are progressing towards bans. Here, complacency rules; we wrote to the *Conservatives* asking for them to take more action to get a ban in parliament. This is part of their reply:

‘While we were unable to make progress on a ban in the last Parliament – despite our support for the recent Private Member’s Bill – it is important to note that in 2013 we introduced a strict licensing scheme to safeguard the welfare of any wild animals in circuses.

‘The licensing scheme covers the 16 wild animals that are currently in two travelling circuses and licences can be suspended or revoked if there are any breeches. This will continue to be the case until we are able to make further progress on this issue.

‘I would like to reassure you that we remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare, whatever the animal or setting.’

Our MPs – some of whom will be new – might benefit from knowing our feelings on this matter, as on others.

### Legal Protection for Crustaceans

We lobbied all the parties prior to the elections on the subject of crustaceans, asking them to pledge to give them legal protection. As the government does not accept that they can feel pain, there are no requirements to slaughter them humanely. Apart from this statement from the *Conservatives*, only the *Green Party* replied to say they have included crustaceans in their manifesto.



## Europe

### Hunting and Coursing in Ireland

Moving to European issues, hunting and coursing are still a huge problem in Ireland. We have written to a succession of Taoiseachs and ministers over the years, asking them to work to end the cruelty, to no avail. We wrote to Leo Varadkar, the new Taoiseach, asking him to take an interest in this important matter, reflect on it and act against it.



### Norwegian Whaling

We wrote to the Norwegian ambassador to the UK in March, asking her to convey to her government our deep concern about the whaling which is still practised by Norway - and indeed the quotas are increasing. We reminded the female ambassador that we had just celebrated *International Women's Day* and that a new report from Norway itself indicated that as many as 90 per cent of the minke whales targeted were female, most of whom were pregnant.

We also wrote to the *EU Trade Commissioner* requesting that the *European Union* (EU) raise the issue of whaling in the free trade agreement talks with Japan.

Almost 270,000 people signed the *Whale & Dolphin Conservation* petition calling on the EU to say 'no' to a Free Trade Agreement with Japan unless they stop killing whales. Unfortunately, it is reported that whaling will not even be discussed, even though the *EU Parliament* has already demanded stronger action against whaling.



### Street Animal Poisoning in Bosnia



Bosnia has applied to become a member state of the *EU*, but the poisoning of street animals continues there. We wrote to the President and other authorities asking for the slaughter to be stopped and humane management of street animals to be implemented.

Since EU states have called on Bosnia to continue 'socio-economic reforms (and) reforms in the area of rule of law and public administration', we also wrote to MEPS, suggesting that this deplorable treatment of animals needs to be part of the reforms necessary for membership of the EU, and asking if any more could be done at EU level to ameliorate this serious matter.

### Hunting Migrating Birds in Cyprus



Cyprus is one of the Mediterranean nations in which no birds are safe, including migratory species whose arrival we eagerly await in northern Europe. At the end of June, at the last minute because the parliamentary debate had been deferred several times, we contacted Cypriot MPs asking them not to vote for amendments to the law which would decriminalise some aspects of the killing of birds, and take less rigorous actions against illegal hunting.

Unfortunately, these amendments found overwhelming support, but four MPs voted against, so we wrote to thank them, receiving an appreciative reply from one.



### Bullfighting in Azores

Not only are bullfights regularly arranged in the Azores, but there are also sections offered in which children can take part. We asked the President to consider how unedifying it is to bring up children to participate in cruel and futile events, and to complain about tax payers' money supporting this. After the event, we asked the town council of *Angra do Heroísmo* to change their future policy on this matter.

### Bullfighting and the Papal Bull

On the subject of bullfights in general, we wrote again to **Pope Francis**, reminding him of the *Papal Bull* entitled *Super prohibitionis agitationis Taurorum & Ferarum*, commonly referred to as '*De Salute Gregis Dominici*', issued



by St. Pius V in 1567, which, though modified over the years, has never been directly repealed by another Bull or provision of canon law. We requested that he issue his condemnation of this cruel practice.

The Pope is not accessible by email, but if members wish to contact him on this matter, his postal address is:

**His Holiness Pope Francis PP**  
**00120 Via del Pellegrino, Città de Vaticano.**

## The Middle East

### Bird Killing in Lebanon

In Lebanon – in common with many nations with a Mediterranean coastline – the mass killing of birds, usually illegal, is having a terrible impact on many species, including the migratory birds. This hunting has had the effect of bringing certain species, such as the turtledove, to the brink of extinction.



We were informed by the excellent organisation *BirdLife* that in April President Michel Aoun, a Maronite Christian as his office requires, issued an appeal to put the country's nature first: "It is a shame to turn Lebanon into a wasteland without plants, trees, birds and sea animals, and cutting off trees to erect buildings is a major crime" ... There should be a peace treaty between Man and the tree as well as Man and birds, because we continue to transgress upon them". We sent our compliments and thanks to him for this enlightened statement.

Tarek Khatib, Minister of the Environment, announced the opening of the hunting season for 2017 from 15th September until the end of December, stressing that hunters requesting licensing will be subject to close scrutiny, a requirement the President himself also set out.

### Extract from '*De Salute Gregis Dominici*' issued by St. Pius V in 1567

"Therefore, considering such spectacles which are removed from Christian piety and charity, in which bulls and wild animals are challenged in circuses and plazas, and desiring to abolish such cruel and base spectacles of the devil and not of man, and to take measures for the salvation of souls as far as we are able with the power of God -- to each and every Christian prince, in any kingdom or enjoying any high position, whether ecclesiastical, civil or imperial, proclaimed by any name by any community or republic in perpetuity, by means of our constitution valid for the future, on pain of ipso facto excommunication and anathema, we interdict and prohibit the carrying out of spectacles of this nature in their provinces, cities, lands, castles and places where spectacles of this kind are realized, where bullfights and similar sports with other wild animals are permitted. We forbid military personnel and other persons from daring to join such spectacles, whether on foot or on horseback, to confront bulls or other animals.

"Ecclesiastical burial will be denied to anyone who is killed as a result of participating in such bullfights.

"We also prohibit churchmen, both regular and secular, with ecclesiastical benefices or constituted in Holy Orders, from participating in such spectacles, on pain of excommunication.

"We totally prohibit, we abrogate, annul and decide and declare forever invalid, null and useless all obligations, oaths and vows made by persons, communities or groups of persons to this date, or which may be made in the future, related to bullfights, even though they may have erroneously thought that they were honouring the saints or giving greater splendour to ecclesiastical solemnities and festivities. Such festivities must be celebrated with divine praise, spiritual joy and pious works and not with similar sports.

## North America

### Hunting



The United States has featured frequently in our correspondence lately, mainly in the matter of the killing – by shooting and sometimes by snaring - of predators. We have submitted objections to the killing of coyotes in New Mexico, cougars and bears in Nevada and also in Colorado, carried out – to add insult to injury - to protect moose deer to be shot by hunters, and bears in New Jersey. In that state, the Democrat Senator Raymond Lesniak is a staunch



supporter of animal issues; by his attempts to take action against, among other instances, puppy mills, he aims to make NJ *The Humane State*. We receive regular alerts from him.

We also thanked the California Assembly Member Richard Bloom for his support of cougars in the state and for his advocacy of bobcats.



### Carriage Horses

Carriage horses work in a very dangerous environment, liable to cause and suffer from traffic accidents, and vulnerable to pollution. We asked the mayor and councillors of the city of Charleston, South Carolina, to retire Big John, an old horse who collapsed in the street in April and to end the exploitation of horses for transportation. We are informed that retrofitted carriages are the way forward and would give employment to those people affected by a ban.



Yet again, we asked the NYC mayor Bill de Blasio – as he promised before election to the mayoralty – to impose a total ban on the horse-drawn carriage trade in the city. Over the years, there have been many accidents, in addition to the release of the damning 2007 *Comptroller's Audit*, showing that agencies like the *Department of Health and Consumer Affairs* have failed to adequately regulate this industry. Unfortunately, the *American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)* in 2014 gave up humane law enforcement, so the NY Police Department needs to fill the void.

Bill de Blasio can be contacted via his web site:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/static/pages/officeofthemayor/contact.shtml>

### Hawai'i

In Hawai'i, we have taken up two issues:

**Fishes from the reefs** were being removed with no apparent restrictions and transferred to the Aquarium, with subsequent mortality and damage to the environment. At any given moment, it is reported, 28 million reef wild creatures are in the aquarium pipeline, of which 99 per cent die within a year of capture.

Legislation is advancing through the House and Senate to put a stop to these depredations and the final step is the Governor's. We wrote to ask him to get the bill passed, but have no news yet of progress.

Secondly, you might remember poor **elephant Tyke**, who, in 1994, killed her trainer, ran amok in the streets of Honolulu and was shot. We wrote formally to urge the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture to support the petition to prohibit the importation of wild animals for entertainment.



## Canada

### Seal Hunt

Turning to Canada, we communicated with Justin Trudeau and other ministers on several issues. The yearly killing of seal pups seems to be a cruelty which never ends and we have written again to ask him to reflect on this and end it.



### Live Exports

Canada exports 700 million live animals each year, of whom 1.5 million are reported to die en route. We wrote to the National Manager (Animal Welfare, Biosecurity and Assurance Programs Section) of the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency* (CFIA), pointing out that the CFIA's proposed amendments to the regulations concerning animal transport fall far short of protecting animals from suffering - and indeed the vast majority of Canadians surveyed believe the country's transport regulations must be updated.

Justin Trudeau's email address is: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

### Rodeos



We continue to oppose the organisation of rodeos, this time in Montreal and Lumby, and another pig scramble in Truro, Nova Scotia.

### Deer Killing in Cranbrook

In Cranbrook, we protested against the killing of deer, done even though the local council had planned to relocate them away from human habitation.

### New Marine Protected Area

*Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society* (CPAWS) alerted us to the creation of the St. Ann's Bank new *Marine Protected Area* (MPA), important for leatherback sea turtles, deep-sea corals and sponges, fish abundance, and a habitat for Atlantic wolffish and Atlantic cod.

Over 100 species have been identified in this area and it comprises an important migratory corridor for wildlife travelling to and from the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

We requested the minister avoid any last-minute changes to the protected area, or a weakening of the regulations.

We are pleased to report that on 8th June the Minister of *Fisheries and Oceans* announced that the Government of Canada has now officially established the MPA. The entire area will be off-limits to oil and gas exploration activities and bottom trawling. Three fishing zones, covering approximately one quarter of the marine protected area, have been established for lower impact fisheries.

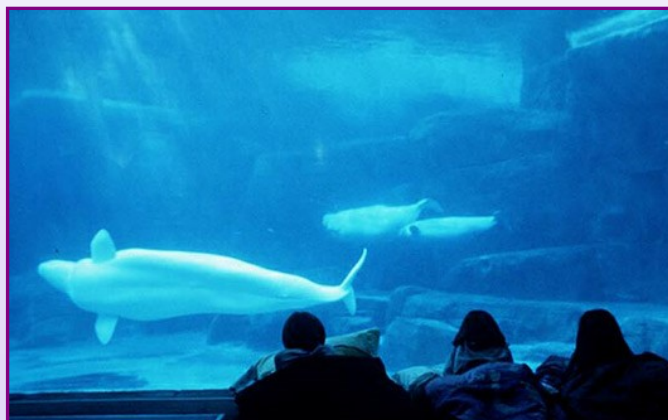
### Killing of Cormorants



We also asked the Prime Minister and the minister Catherine McKenna to end the killing of double crested cormorants on an uninhabited island in Lake Erie, done to protect rare plants.

### Cetaceans in Aquariums

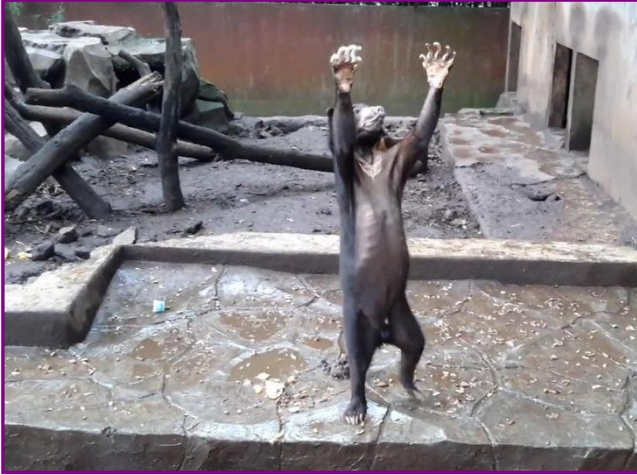
We were however happy to thank the *Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation* for their unanimous decision to end the display of cetaceans at the Aquarium.



## Asia

### The Bandung Zoo in West Java

In West Java, Indonesia, the *Bandung Zoo* came under severe criticism for its appalling neglect of the animals kept there. They rely heavily on food donations to survive, with no on-site veterinarian to look after their complex needs, and it was reported that the carnivores are fed with two-weekly donations of meat from New Zealand. Activist groups are also asking for donations to buy food.



We wrote to the President, Dr. Joko Widodo, in January, asking him to see that the relevant legislation is enforced and non-compliant zoos closed down. Readers might remember that the animals in *Surabaya Zoo* also suffer in similar ways.

It is surprising that the President is not apparently listening to these concerns. In 2013, as Governor of Jakarta, *Quaker Concern for Animals* thanked him for the effective action he took to have the ‘performing’ masked monkeys removed from the streets of Jakarta. Thanks to an excellent local group, JAAN, these monkeys have been rehabilitated and released where possible and other cities are having monkeys confiscated.

### Breeding Wild Animals in Nepal

In Nepal, we wrote to the Minister of *Forest and Soil Conservation* to protest against a very worrying development. In January, the Parliament of Nepal passed legislation under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973*. The *Wildlife Farming, Breeding and Research* legislation has a clause that specifically permits individuals to breed and use wild animals for any reason whatsoever, ranging from harvesting organs and body parts, exporting and selling them anywhere, keeping the animals for entertainment, breeding purposes, and even Zoos for educational purposes.

Any individual, business house or group of people will be able to receive licenses to use wild animals for profitable means, opening up the possibilities of fur farms, bile farms, circuses, mini zoos, meat farms, slaughter houses, and experiments on animals.

### Dog Killing in Sri Lanka



In Sri Lanka, we asked the Vice-Chancellor of Jayewardenepura University to protect the friendly dogs who were living on the premises of the University. They were born on site, presented no danger to anyone, and student clubs had been formed for their welfare and feeding. A sterilization and vaccination camp had also been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Despite all this compassionate and well organised work, it is reported that a ‘pest’ control company was employed to remove and dump the dogs elsewhere.

### Elephant Rescue in India



The treatment of elephants in the sub continent continues to be of great concern, but we are all delighted that the wonderful group *Wildlife SOS* has rescued another suffering elephant. In Maharashtra, the 63 year old temple elephant Gajraj, captured in his home in Madhya Pradesh when he was 12, was sent 800 kilometres away to beg for money in Aundh village and at the *Yamai Devi* temple. Malnourished, he was forced to live with painful chronic illness, injuries and acute psychological stress.

Keeping Gajraj in these conditions violates India's *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960*, and the *Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972* and we had asked the minister responsible why nothing was done to help him. That all changed when, on 14th June, we read that *Wildlife SOS* had rescued Gajraj amidst heavy police protection, with cooperation from the Forest Department and *PETA India*, and that he was on his way to the *Elephant Conservation and Care Center* in Mathura, the first centre of its kind.



## Elephant Cruelty in Malaysia



We have made several complaints to the Malaysian authorities about elephant Lasah, who has endured deplorable conditions, over ten years, in *Langkawi Elephant Adventures* on Langkawi island. Lasah had already spent over 20 years in several zoos, forced to work in a logging camp, perform in shows including in a popular Malaysian entertainment outlet and used in commercials and films.

Once again, we fail to understand why action to help and protect these elephants is not being taken.

## Zimbabwean Elephants exported to China



*The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* is the body to which we wrote on several occasions about the export of elephants from Zimbabwe to China, something which they did not appear to be able to prevent.

We have written to the Director-General again, as the *Humane Society International* sent out an alert about a further export planned, this time of 5 elephant calves from Namibia to a safari park in Dubai.

The cruelty inherent in such a project is bad enough. Between 2012 and late 2016, several young elephants have died. But perhaps more worrying is that CITES restricts Namibia's trade of elephants to conservation programmes in the wild and, as far as we can ascertain at this time, this export has not been stopped. We have written to ask why, so far without receiving a reply, so a reminder is now required.

## Australia

### The Great Barrier Reef



Despite their agreement to help keep global warming below two degrees, in line with the *Paris Climate Agreement*, *CommBank* has been the largest Australian financier of fossil fuel projects since the agreement was struck.

We reminded them of constant media coverage of how the Pacific Island nations and other vulnerable regions are affected by sea level rise, there are numerous reports of extensive coral bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef and, in 2016, 22 per cent of the Reef's coral died. There is also great concern about more frequent and severe heatwaves, storms and bushfires than at any time in recorded history and the continued use of fossil fuels is a significant factor in these changes. We asked the bank to commit to funding sustainable fuels.

The hopeful news is that in June *CommBank's* Board rejected the bank's proposed new climate policy. They have sent it back to the drawing board, and in two months' time, they will review it again.

### Poisoned Dingoes



Two dingoes, with poison implants in them, were translocated to Pelorus Island, Queensland, in 2016, to kill the goats there. The idea was that once the dingoes had killed the goats, the poison would kill the dingoes. This was a very controversial act and the Minister of the Environment in fact shut down the goat eradication programme that had contributed to the dingoes' plight.

We were informed that there were plans to shoot the dingoes, rather than return them to the mainland for release at a wildlife sanctuary which was willing and able to remove the 1080 poison implants from them, and to house them for life. We asked for the dingoes to be released and protected.

# Eurogroup for Animals

By Barbara Gardner

**T**his year, AIA has started working with *Eurogroup for Animals*, a coalition of animal welfare groups across Europe which is based in Brussels and campaigns at the European level for animal welfare legislation and the proper enforcement of it.

AIA member organisation, *Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA)* joined *Eurogroup for Animals* (which AIA was unable to do as it is an alliance of organisations and *Eurogroup* only have individual organisations as members).

In June, Chris Fegan (CCA CE and AIA Deputy Chair) and I attended the *Eurogroup* conference and AGM in Brussels and had the privilege of taking part in *Eurogroup*'s strategy setting process and voting at the AGM. This was funded by CCA, for which I am most grateful. Chris has also joined *Eurogroup*'s Brexit working party which will be working on ways to ensure that UK animal welfare legislation is not reduced during the Brexit process and that opportunities are taken for improving animal welfare in the UK.

## Eurogroup's Vision & Mission

### Vision

Animals will only truly be respected as sentient beings across all 28 Member States if comprehensive and effective EU legislation is in place. We strive for the EU to adopt a One Welfare approach that values animal and human welfare equally.

### Mission

Our primary focus is to improve animal welfare as quickly as possible by lobbying EU institutions to deliver better legislation and enforcement.

As the only pan-European umbrella organisation for animal welfare, we direct the national influence of each of our members into a powerful group network, creating opportunities for change across Europe that cannot be achieved individually.

Our mission has three strands:

#### 1. *Representing civil society*

We represent our members, and also animal welfare generally, at EU level, working with EU stakeholder and expert groups as a trusted partner.

#### 2. *Campaigning to drive change*

Our pan-European campaigns harness the power of public mobilisation to connect citizens with EU decision-makers and create new animal advocacy opportunities.

#### 3. *Fostering cohesion, exchanging best practices and disseminating knowledge*

We bring together people, knowledge and expertise, and develop our members' capacities to help them achieve their aims, in pursuit of our common vision.



### History

Recognising that many animal welfare issues, such as live exports, can only be dealt with at a European level, the RSPCA set up *Eurogroup for Animals* in the early 1980's to tackle these European animal welfare issues with the EU. This was the brainchild of Dr Richard Ryder who was on the RSPCA Council at the time and who, we are proud to say, is now a patron of AIA. *Eurogroup* has largely been funded by the RSPCA, but in recent years it has looked to its other member organisations for financial support.

### Key Achievements

*Eurogroup*'s key achievements over the past years include the following:

- 1983 - Ban on imports of baby seal skins
- 1986 - Directive on Animal Experimentation
- 1991 - Leg-hold traps prohibited in the EU
- 1993 - Revised Slaughter Directive
- 1993 - 6th amendment to Cosmetics Directive
- 1993 - European Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) set up
- 1995 - New transport rules for farm animals
- 1997 - Ban on veal crates
- 1998 - Zoo Directive
- 1998 - Ban on the use of driftnets
- 1998 - protocol on animal welfare in the Amsterdam Treaty
- 1999 - Ban on the use of battery cages for chickens
- 2001 - Ban on sow stalls
- 2003 - 7th Amendment to the Cosmetics Directive
- 2005 - Animal transport rules introduced
- 2006 - First Animal Welfare Action Plan
- 2007 - Ban on the import of wild caught wild birds
- 2009 - EU ban on the trade in seal products
- 2010 - European declaration on the alternatives to surgical castration of pigs
- 2010 - Council conclusions on cats and dogs
- 2012 - First practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines published
- 2013 - Animal welfare included in Free Trade Agreement with Chile
- 2013 - Alternative of non-animal test methods in research
- 2015 - Animal health law



## Some Current Eurogroup Campaigns

### Stop the Trucks



Each year, at least 1 billion live poultry and 37 million live cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and equines are transported over long distances within the EU and to third countries. Their journey can last several days, often covering thousands of kilometres, exposing them to exhaustion, dehydration, injuries, disease, and even death. Not even the old, the weak or the newly born are spared.

### Exotic Pets



Over recent years there has been a growing trend towards keeping exotic animals instead of traditional pets, placing the EU as a top importer of tropical fish, reptiles, birds and mammals. There are more than 200 million pets in Europe, including mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians. However, many species, especially exotic animals, are unsuited to a life in captivity.

### Protect our Pets

This illegal trade severely impacts upon the health and welfare of the animals involved. Many are born in inhumane circumstances, socialised poorly and transported great distances, often at the risk of disease. Once purchased, often online, their unsuspecting owners are regularly left heartbroken when things go wrong.

### CAP to improve Animal Welfare



Today's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is not delivering toward its objective of "promoting animal welfare". This was one of the outcomes of the European Commission's recent public consultation on the future of Europe's agricultural subsidies. Opposite to citizens' views, subsidies have led to the intensification of animal production.

### End Pig Pain



Every year millions of male piglets are painfully castrated in the EU to avoid the risk of boar taint. The routine tail docking and tooth clipping of piglets continues to happen in most EU member states in violation of existing EU laws.

Surgical castration of piglets without (or with inadequate) anaesthesia and analgesia remains common in Europe and affects 77 million animals every year. Additionally, an estimated 2.8 billion pigs have had their tails docked since the current EU ban on routine tail docking came into force in 2003 (source: CIWF). Routine tooth clipping of piglets is also still widespread.

For further information go to:

[www.eurogroupforanimals.org](http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org)

# 14th Interfaith Celebration for Animals

By Barbara Gardner

**O**n Saturday 8th July 2017 the 14th Interfaith Celebration for Animals was celebrated at Golders Green Unitarians where speakers from many faiths gathered.

The service was organised and led by Rev. Feargus O'Connor M.A. with guest speakers Joyce D'Silva from *Compassion in World Farming* and Dr Alpesh Patel of *Animal Free Research UK*.

Readings were given by members of eight major faiths from their faith's texts. These included Ajit and Saranjit Singh reading the Sikh text, Dr Alpesh Patel reading the Hindu text, Harshad Sanghrajka reading the Jain text, Michael Allured reading the Unitarian text and Rev. Prof Martin Henig reading the Jewish text.

Delicious vegan food was kindly donated by Mohammed Safa of the *Indian Veg Restaurant*, Chapel Market, Islington and the organ was played by Mary Craine. Candles were lit for the world's animals and the RSPCA.

## Selected Readings from the Interfaith Celebration

### Jain

Harmlessness is the true religion. All beings hate pain. Therefore we should not kill them. This is the quintessence of wisdom: not to kill any being. Propagate that religion which is a blessing to all creatures of the world.

### Hindu

They who behold all creatures as in God and God, their common soul, in all creatures, can never more feel hatred or contempt. They have divine knowledge and final emancipation whose hearts melt benevolence towards all sentient beings. Just as the footmarks of all other animals disappear in that of an elephant so all other virtues are merged in Ahimsa.

### Buddhist

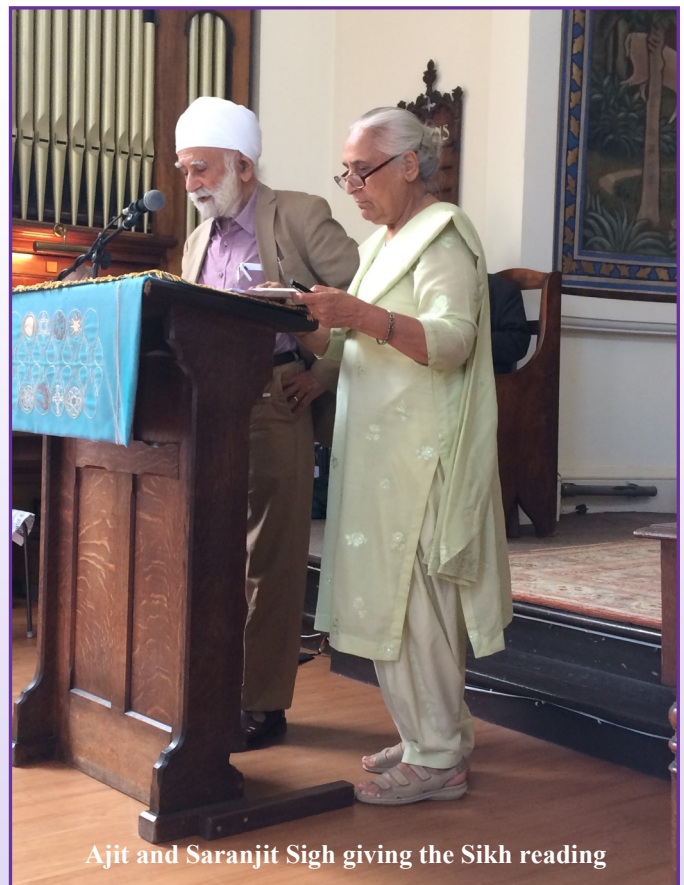
All beings seek happiness. So let your compassion extend itself to all. Because we have pity on every living creature, therefore are we called holy.

### Unitarian, H.D. Thoreau

No human being past the thoughtless age of childhood will wantonly murder any creature which holds its life by the same tenure that he does. The squirrel that you kill in jest dies in earnest.

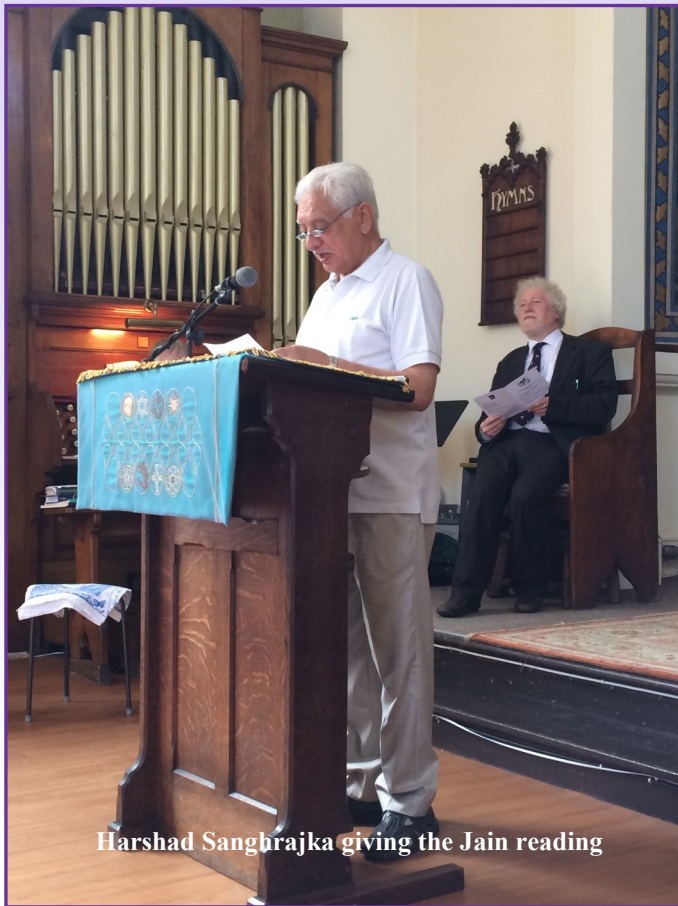


Rev. Feargus O'Connor leading the celebration

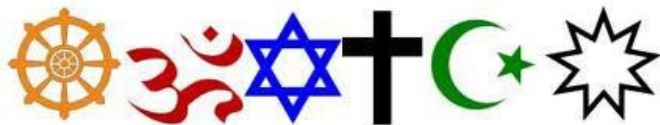


Ajit and Saranjit Singh giving the Sikh reading





Harshad Sangbrajka giving the Jain reading



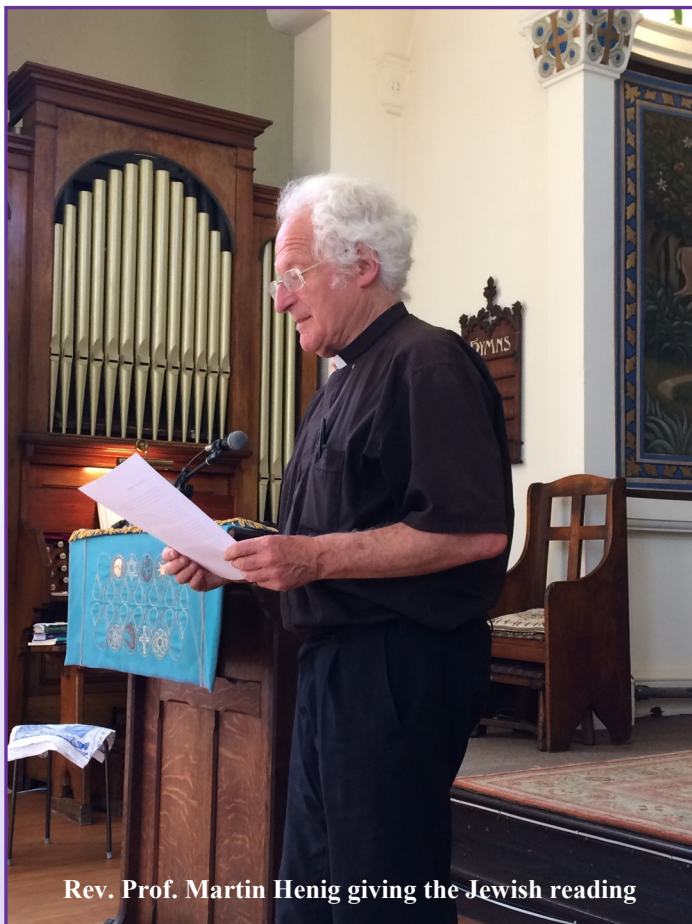
### Poem by Christian, Ralph Hodgson

Everyone talks of compassion.  
None knows its essence.  
Those who have no love for creatures,  
How can they possess kindness?' (Kabir)

It would ring the bells of Heaven  
The wildest peal in years  
If Parson lost his senses  
And people came to theirs.  
And he and they together  
Knelt down with angry prayers  
For tamed and shabby tigers  
And dancing dogs and bears  
And wretched blind pit ponies  
And little hunted hares.

I saw with open eyes  
Singing birds sweet  
Sold in the shops  
For the people to eat,  
Sold in the shops of Stupidity Street.

I saw in a vision  
The worm in the wheat  
And in the shops nothing  
For people to eat;  
Nothing for sale  
In Stupidity Street.



Rev. Prof. Martin Henig giving the Jewish reading



Dr Alpesh Patel giving the Hindu reading







# Faith and Animal Welfare

*Joyce D'Silva was the guest speaker at the 14th Interfaith Celebration for Animals held at Golders Green Unitarians on 8th July 2017. She was the Chief Executive and Ambassador for Compassion in World Farming.*

**By Joyce D'Silva**



**I**n 1984, the founder of *Compassion in World Farming*, Peter Roberts, MBE, took a veal crate farm to court, alleging that they were breaking the law by keeping their veal calves chained by the neck, in narrow wooden crates and never able to turn round. They were also fed on an unnatural liquid diet, kept low in iron in order to keep their flesh pale. Consumers liked their veal to be “white” like chicken meat.

The most scandalous aspect of this court case was that the farm was owned and run by a religious order – the Norbertine Canons, also known as the Premonstratensians. Apparently their chapel had been built from the proceeds of their veal crate farm.

I joined *Compassion* as a staff member a year after the case and I remember reading the press cuttings about it. In one, a local newspaper had interviewed the deputy prior who had said words to the effect, “I don’t know what all the fuss is about. Animals can’t suffer”.

43 years on, and I like to think that no prior or deputy prior in the UK would now agree with that statement.

In fact Peter Roberts lost the case and lost on appeal. However, huge publicity was created – the case was front page in *The Times* and on *BBC News* etc. Concerned Catholics petitioned the Cardinal and the Pope.

In 1986, just two years later, the Ministry phoned *Compassion*, insisting that Peter should attend a big agricultural conference which was to be opened by the Minister, Donald Thompson MP. Reluctantly, Peter joined me and my colleague Carol at the conference. The Minister stood up to open the conference and said “I’m announcing that the government is to ban the keeping of calves in narrow crates. There will be a phase-out period and they will become illegal on 1st Jan 1990”.

Now, I’m glad to say that, since 2007, it’s been illegal to keep calves this way right across the European Union.

## Contradiction between faith’s teachings and actions

But the whole case illustrates the conundrum of voices within all faiths respecting animals and calling for compassion towards them and the day to day lives of animals in countries where the population is deeply committed to a faith.

## Buddhism

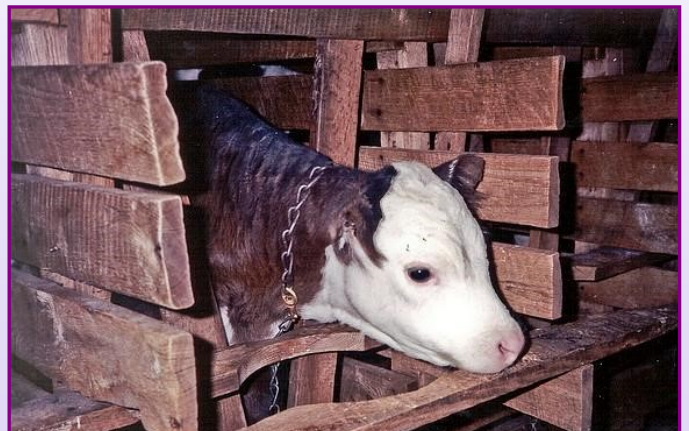
For example, in south-east Asia, where Buddhism is the main religion, it is common for people to buy caged birds at markets and release them in order to gain good merit or karma for their own future incarnation. Yet they may then go to the shops and buy eggs from hens kept in battery cages.

*“All beings tremble before violence. All fear death, all love life. Then whom can you hurt? What harm can you do?”*

*Buddha  
The Dhammapada  
(129/30)*

This seems to me to ignore Buddhist teaching about animals as sentient beings. The *Dhammapada* (129/30) records the Buddha as saying:

“All beings tremble before violence. All fear death, all love life. Then whom can you hurt? What harm can you do?”



## Islam

If you visit a predominantly Muslim country say in the Middle East, you may see grossly overworked donkeys and camels, and cattle being beaten to the ground in slaughterhouses.

Yes the Muslim holy book, the Qur'an, (6:38) says: "There is no creature on the earth or bird that flies with its wings except that they are communities like you." In the *Hadith* or record of the life and teachings of the Prophet Mohammed, there is a record of how Mohammed came across a camel in such a very poor state that he "felt compassion and there were tears in his eyes". When he discovered the owner of the camel he said "Don't you fear Allah with regard to this animal whom Allah has given to you? For the camel complained to me that you starve him and work him endlessly" (Sunan Abu Dawud 2186).

I think this quotation is especially interesting as it says that the camel spoke to Mohammed, acknowledging the deep understanding that can develop between compassionate humans and animals of other species.

## Hinduism

Hindus believe that the same self, soul or Atman resides in all beings and that animals may reincarnate as humans. In the revered holy book, the *Bhagavad Gita*, (5:18), the Lord Krishna says: "The wise see the same reality in a Brahmin endowed with learning and culture, a cow, an elephant, a dog and an outcaste."

Yet animals are often treated badly in India, factory farming is on the increase and some animal sacrifice continues at some Hindu temples.

## Judaism

The Jewish rule of rest on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-10) includes rest for farm animals. Yet a hen in cage or a broiler chicken in a shed with 20,000 others can have no rest. Israel, a predominantly Jewish country, has many chicken factory farms.

## Christianity

The predominantly Christian-based culture of the rich "Western" countries has failed to extend teachings of charity and compassion to the animals we eat for food – although many early welfare reformers said their work was based on their faith. Yet factory farming itself arose in these countries and is being maintained and promoted by most of their governments.

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*"There is no creature on the earth or bird that flies with its wings except that they are communities like you."*

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*Qur'an, (6:38)*

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*"The wise see the same reality in a Brahmin endowed with learning and culture, a cow, an elephant, a dog and an outcaste."*

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*Lord Krishna the Bhagavad Gita, (5:18)*

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## Faith Leaders and Pioneers of Animal Welfare

Although there is this wide gulf between the teachings of the faiths and the actual ways in which animals are treated, it is good to know that all of you here are acting as pioneers within your own faiths. You are not alone.

Within Christianity we have writers like Rev. Andrew Linzey whose books on religion and animals' rights are well read and respected, we have Albert Schweitzer, we have the eminent Lutheran theologian, Professor Jurgen Moltmann who has written: "All living beings must be respected by humans as God's partners in the covenant...whoever injures the dignity of animals injures God." (Caring for Creation conference, 1990).

And of course now we have Pope Francis and his wonderful Encyclical *Laudato Si'*. In it he calls for an ecological conversion based on attitudes which include "a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion".

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*In Laudato Si' Pope Francis calls for an ecological conversion based on attitudes which include "a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion".*

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In Islam we have the late Al Hafiz B A Masri with his wonderful book *Animals in Islam*. He makes it clear how he feels when he talks about factory farming: "How right is it to deny these creatures of God their natural instincts so that we may eat the end product?"

Many Buddhist leaders have now joined *Dharma Voices for Animals*. Their website quotes the Dalai Lama as saying: "We have to change the way people think about animals. I encourage the Tibetan people and all people to move toward a vegetarian diet that doesn't cause suffering."

In Judaism we have exemplary leaders like Rabbi David Rosen, former Chief Rabbi of Ireland and International President of the *Conference on Religion and Peace*, who condemns factory farming wholeheartedly and has chosen to be vegan.



In India, there are hundreds of animal groups many belonging to FIAPO, the *Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations*. Although open to all faiths, many of their members are inspired by Hindu teaching.

### Hope for the future and a way forward

So there is hope! I encourage you all constantly to raise the animal issue within your faith groups, to get it on the agenda. You can ensure that plant-based foods are served on religious occasions, that any eggs used come from non-caged hens, that if meat is served it is free range or organic.

The great thing is that not only do you have a growing body of science to back you up, showing how animals are intelligent and emotional beings, but also a growing number of faith leaders who are arguing within their faiths for more enlightened and compassionate teachings and practices regarding animals.

I'd like to end with a quote from an early Christian saint, St Isaac the Syrian, who wrote (Homily 74): "What is a merciful, compassionate heart?... It is a heart on fire for the whole of creation, for humanity, for the birds, for the animals... As a result of His deep mercy or compassion, the heart shrinks and cannot bear to look upon any injury or the slightest suffering of anything in creation."

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*"We have to change the way people think about animals. I encourage the Tibetan people and all people to move toward a vegetarian diet that doesn't cause suffering."*

*Dalai Lama*

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*Compassion in World Farming* is campaigning in many areas right now, from our direct animal campaigns to end all use of cages in farming and stopping live animal exports and long distance animal transport to campaigns on labelling and antibiotics. Tackling the wider picture, we look at the damage to health, the environment and wildlife caused by factory farming and, via our *Stop the Machine* campaign, we ask people to reduce their meat consumption and eat only higher welfare products and we are building a new initiative to achieve a *United Nations Convention* to end factory farming for good.

Many of these issues will be addressed in a major conference we are organising in October. Visit [www.extinctionconference.com](http://www.extinctionconference.com). I hope you may be able to join us. ☸

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*"What is a merciful, compassionate heart?... It is a heart on fire for the whole of creation, for humanity, for the birds, for the animals... As a result of His deep mercy or compassion, the heart shrinks and cannot bear to look upon any injury or the slightest suffering of anything in creation."*

*St Isaac the Syrian, (Homily 74)*

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# Gandhi Schweitzer Universal Kinship Appeal

## and the

### Animal Replacement Centre of Excellence



**A**t the 14th *Interfaith Celebration for Animals*, held on 8th July 2017, Rev. Feargus O'Connor presented guest speaker, Dr Alpesh Patel of *Animal Free Research UK*, cheques totalling £18,030. The money was raised from Unitarians at *Golders Green Unitarians* and *St Albans Unitarians* and included a large bequest from Irene Keable.

The money is donated to the *Animal Replacement Centre* at *Queen Mary University* in London which was set up by *Animal Free Research UK* to investigate alternative methods to animal testing in medical research.

The *Universal Kinship Appeal* was originally launched by Rev. Feargus O'Connor to raise funds for animal-free research and later adopted the names of Dr Albert Schweitzer and Mahatma Gandhi to commemorate their lives of compassion which are so inspired with the spirit of ahimsa for all fellow living beings. Thus the *Gandhi Schweitzer Universal Kinship Fund* was named.

Nearly four million animals were used in research in the UK in 2016, according to Home Office statistics. Seven animals are used in research every minute of every day in the UK.



#### The Animal Replacement Centre of Excellence

The *Animal Replacement Centre* is a joint venture between the *Blizard Institute* at *Queen Mary University of London* (QMUL) and *Animal Free Research UK*.

The ARC, funded by a £1 million investment by *Animal Free Research UK*, aims to maximise and build upon a long-standing successful partnership with the *Blizard Institute*, a pioneer in the development of in vitro human research models. The ARC will help provide a unique environment where a team of scientists will work together with the common goal to develop, validate and apply human-based models of disease.

The research programme at The ARC will be led by Professor Mike Philpott and is supported by the DHT lecturer Dr Adrian Biddle. Initially the research will concentrate on skin, breast and prostate cancer and may develop, over the years, to incorporate other research fields with strong animal-replacement requirements. The ARC also aims to inspire the next generation of scientists through education and further funding opportunities.



The *Blizard Institute* and *QMUL* have worldwide reputations for scientific and research excellence, and provide the perfect environment for interdisciplinary collaborative research - a key to success in replacing the use of animals in biomedical research. The ARC will serve as a focal point for innovative and cutting-edge technology development and extend QMUL's portfolio of non-animal research. The success of this initiative could have global implications for the advancement of non-animal medical research.

For further information about *Animal Free Research UK* go to: [www.animalfreeresearchuk.org](http://www.animalfreeresearchuk.org)

For further information about the *Animal Replacement Centre* go to: [www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/the-arc](http://www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/the-arc)



# Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics — Summer School 2017

## The Ethics of Fur

In partnership with Respect for Animals

On 23 – 26 July, 2017, *The Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics* held its summer school at St Stephen's House, Oxford in partnership with *Respect for Animals* on the subject '*The Ethics of Fur*'.

Every year more than 60 million animals are killed and sold by the international fur industry. It represents one of the largest uses of animals today. The Summer School examined the ethics of the treatment of animals killed for their fur worldwide, including trapping, hunting, killing, and “farming” of animals. They also considered the use of animal fur products in fashion globally.



Papers were invited from academics worldwide on any aspect relating to the ethics of fur, including philosophical and religious ethics, historical, anthropological, legal, psychological, scientific, and sociological perspectives. Topics included the nature of animal suffering in fur production, the international trade in animal fur, methods of killing, the environmental consequences of the international fur industry, the use of fur in fashion, the role of international business, the media promotion of fur, changing legislation, especially in the European Union, and strategies for change.

*The Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics* was founded in 2006 and pioneers ethical perspectives on animals through academic research, teaching, and publication. See [www.oxfordanimalethics.com](http://www.oxfordanimalethics.com).

*St Stephen's House*, where the summer school was held, is an Anglican Theological College and a Hall of the University of Oxford. See [www.ssho.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.ssho.ox.ac.uk/).

*Respect for Animals Educational Trust*, who sponsored the event, works internationally to raise awareness of the suffering inherent in the fur trade. Its Director, Mark Glover, is the recipient of the Lord Erskine award from the RSPCA. Further information about *Respect for Animals* can be found at [www.respectforanimals.co.uk/home/](http://www.respectforanimals.co.uk/home/).



Every year more than 60 million animals are killed and sold by the international fur industry.



# Felines of Faith

*Barbara Allen is the author of Animals in Religion and Felines of Faith which she wrote when she was part of a multi-faith group which visited Jerusalem two years ago (4 Jews, 4 Muslims, 4 Christians). They had taken the opportunity to travel to Jerusalem together to learn and immerse themselves in the different faiths. Each night Barbara would go and feed some of the many cats of Jerusalem; this story sprung up during her evening feeds.*

**By Barbara Allen**

**I am Elder. The oldest...but not the one with all wisdom...that is not my gift.**

As elder, I keep watch, I wait, I think.

Here I sit, a sentry over events past...and glories to come.

I am one of the cats of Jerusalem.

I remain on these warm, golden stones, the rocks that match my eyes, for that is my duty.

To watch...and wait...for the One who will come.

My favourite seat is near the Western Wall; also known as the 'Wailing Wall'.

I see the faithful come, pray, sway, believe.

Such belief! Belief that is older than me, older than my own kin.

More ancient than this remaining temple wall.

Sometimes at night I hear voices, murmurs that begin as whispers, from these stones...I detect prayers, then cries, the neighing of horses...even the screams of those being attacked.

Not nice sounds...no...I prefer the daytime prayers, and greetings... laughter erupting from celebrations of boys becoming men, or the squeals of delight which bubble about those who have finally arrived at the city of their dreams.

This is a place of prophets...and of dreams.

Visions spark from every stone in this sacred city.

And I...I the Jewish cat, Elder, guard it well.

**I am Middle, the middle one...only if one is in the middle does one understand the importance of this position.**

I am the bridge between what is past- and the path which continues on, towards the delights and promises of the future.

I live in this city of all forms of time; where I live embodies past, present and future.

I have a covered-in home, this enormous church<sup>1</sup> is my sanctuary.

I do not go in - well, not often, for there are too many feet and disturbances for a cat-but also because I have duties to perform - I am both gate keeper, and greeter.

You will not see me, not often, for I reside in the shadows and shade cast by the towering doors-BUT I see all who enter this holy place...

I see the lonely,

the ones seeking, searching,

the giggling tourist, the pious pilgrim

I see them all.

I also benefit from the ones who live out their faith...those who observe the lowly, who stoop, and with gentle, encouraging words...feed me...as He would have done.

As I bend and bow, the grateful recipient of one's compassion, I sniff, smelling threads of incense on her clothes, a souvenir of her visit inside...a physical reminder of the many prayers that ascend within that building...as well as outside, prayers which include mine.

I, I the Christian cat, Middle, watch, and welcome.

**I am Younger. The baby of the family - but just as loved and special as my siblings, Middle and Elder.**

I live under the stars, the expanse of the Temple Mount my home. The exquisite golden Dome of the Rock glitters in the night sky-it is my moon! I bask in its beauty, here on the Esplanade of the Mosques.

I do not go inside, there is no need, for I hear the prayers, day and night, as I sit beneath this tree, observing. I may appear to be sleeping, but no, I am feeling the vibrations of prayer, through the earth and its stones...pure energy! It nourishes me as I remain here, one of the faithful.

Some nights I sense the presence of a larger animal, the Buraq, who carried the Prophet Blessed be He, on his back from Mecca to Jerusalem...in one night!<sup>2</sup> Of course, if I'd been there I would have offered my services...but I wasn't... so now I gather as one of The Prophet's faithful community, sometimes resting against the Buraq's warm flank. I have such powerful dreams...yet this is a sacred place...who is to say what is real and what is not? Visions and miracles are not confined to the past; they continue. One has only to believe.

The night's deep, expectant silence is finally broken by the faithful as they trail towards the mosque, rubbing sleep-deprived eyes, arriving to greet the new day with prayer. Prayer...it is as natural and as necessary as breath.

I, I the Moslem cat, Younger, wait and pray.





**O**n Friday evening Elder cat scurries across the enormous plaza to a garden area, under the towering boulders of Robertson's Arch. Here the darkening light heralds a cool breeze. Arriving at a clump of bushes he relaxes, stretches his flanks and sighs.

Middle cat has a longer journey. She navigates her way through alleys, past stalls shuttered against the gathering night; she hugs the safety of walls and lanes to avoid the feet of humans, the cloud of crowd. Finally, open space... she slows down, loving the night's scents. She drags herself across the small ravine, slumps, exhausted, next to Elder.

"Greetings," purrs Elder, licking her face. "Perhaps we need to meet somewhere closer?" "No," murmurs Middle, enjoying Elder's wash, "this is the right place to be. It is our space."

Younger leaves the Temple Mount, snaking his way through the undergrowth. The stony path and its accompanying bushes are well known. Soon the group is complete. Three. Three cats. Three faiths.

"Another Holy time," purrs Middle, placing a paw on Younger's chest.

"Yes, yes," he meows in assent, bending his head slightly.

Later, wrapped around each other, a common curl, they reflect on deep mysteries.

"Fellow felines," says Middle, "why do we gather together, during this holy time, whereas humans do not?"

"Ah, little sister," answers Elder, "it is not so simple for them. Humans complicate matters. Tonight is a holy time for my Jewish brothers and sisters, as it is for Muslims. For your people, Middle, Friday is also holy, for it reminds them of a special event in their sacred history." Elder sighs. "They need to be like us."

"But," protests Younger, "where are cats in your traditions? At least in mine, humans learn that Muhammed loved cats.

Once he even cut around his robe so that he would not disturb a cat that was sleeping on him...now THAT is a cat lover! And the marks on the tabby cat's forehead, see here,' he gestures with raised paw, 'are the marks left by Muhammad's finger tips when he blessed the cat! Look, they're on me-and on you!"

While the cats were inspecting each other, Elder sighed. "Perhaps Judaism doesn't have enough about cats...but we do have the Lion of Judah<sup>3</sup> -and THAT is a BIG cat!"

Middle laughed. "Well said, brother! Not sure if I'd like to meet that lion! Younger, you say some wise words. Unfortunately cats are not mentioned in the Bible, but we do have several legends<sup>4</sup> about cats. In one of them Jesus enters a village, and sees a young starving stray; she micows and micows because she is so hungry...you know how it hurts when our bellies are empty! Jesus picks her up, feeds her, and then gifts her to a woman named Lorenza, to look after. We are called to 'love one another.' Surely that includes all-human and cat (and I suppose, even dog!)."

"Yes, Middle, you are right. Sometimes humans are slow learners. In Islam, all creatures form communities, and each community offers praise to Allah. So cats are a community...humans are a community...bees are a community..."

"Dogs?"

He sighed. "Yes... even dogs..."  
"We must love one another."

Three stars sparkle in the velvet heavens above...the night sky soft as cat fur. The One above, Praise to Him, had observed their actions, seen their true hearts...and blessed the wise ones He had created.

Below, three felines of faith sleep deeply, their tucked-in bodies blend as one.

#### Notes:

1. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre
2. The Buraq, a horse-like creature who, according to Muslim folklore, served as Prophet Muhammad's mount on his miraculous night journey to heaven. The Buraq was white, half mule, half donkey with wings on its side. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, the Buraq would carry Muhammad on his 'Night Journey', the 'Isra Mi raj', from Mecca to Jerusalem and back. Part of the Western Wall is referred to as the Al-Buraq Wall, because it is said that Muhammad had tied the Buraq to that wall during his Night Journey. The Buraq was said to have transported Abraham (Ibrahim) when he visited his wife Hagar and son Ishmael.
3. The lion symbolizes nobility. The Lion of Judah is the symbol of the Israelite tribe of Judah, mentioned in the blessing of Jacob in Genesis 49:9: 'Judah is a lion's whelp'. It is also a symbol of Jerusalem, capital of the Kingdom of Judah. In 1950 the lion of Judah was included in the coat of arms of Jerusalem.
4. Rev G.J Ouseley, *The Gospel of the Holy Twelve* (Kessinger Publishing, no year), Chapter XXXIV: 7-8, pp:56-57

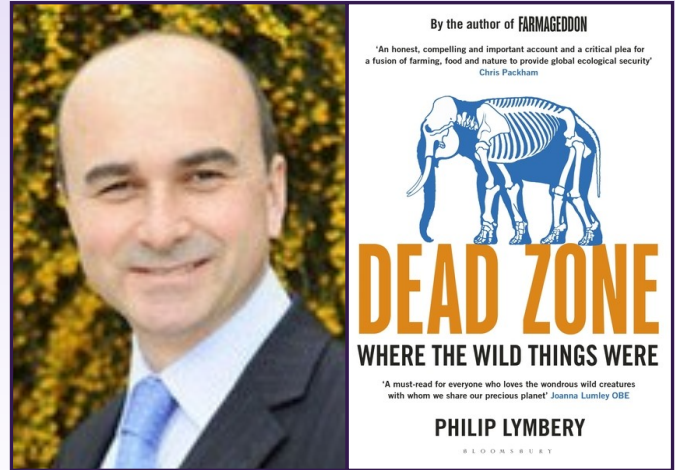
## Book Reviews

### Dead Zone Where the Wild Things Were by Philip Lymbery

**D**ead Zone, written by Philip Lymbery the CEO of *Compassion in World Farming*, is a follow up to his internationally acclaimed book, *Farmageddon*. It examines a dozen of the world's most iconic and endangered species and highlights what we can do to save them. Lymbery points out that it is not only climate change and habitat destruction that are causing so many extinctions, but also consumer demand for cheap meat. Laying bare the myths that support factory farming, it is a heart-felt wake-up call for us and an exploration of how we can save the planet with healthy food.

As well providing a very important message about the future for the Earth, the environment and all animals, as well as the iconic ones, and recommending how we can do things differently and constructively, *Dead Zone* provides an exceptionally good read, with interesting stories and anecdotes. As such I would thoroughly recommend this book.

To me, this would be an ideal book to convert into a television series - fascinating ideas, beautiful destinations, iconic animals as well as a very impactful message. It is totally compelling. Why would a production company not seize at such an opportunity, one wonders? Perhaps it is too much of an inconvenient truth for today's sensibilities. Perhaps, one day, we will look back and ask 'why didn't we listen to Philip Lymbery?'.



Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 9781408868263, £11.69

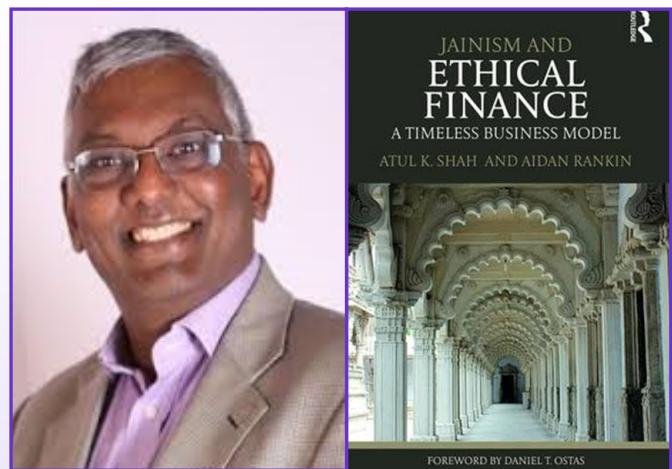
### Jainism and Ethical Finance A Timeless Business Model by Atul K. Shah and Aidan Rankin

**R**ecent experience of the Western business model must surely make us realise that we need to look elsewhere for a workable economic theory that provides both financial stability and happiness. The old profit-maximizing doctrines of the economics currently taught in the West have proved to be, at best, inadequate and, at worst, have led to a whole series of financial crises and economic meltdowns. So where should we look for a more stable economic and social model?

As Atul K. Shah and Aidan Rankin demonstrate in their book *Jainism and Ethical Finance*, the Jains have been operating a successful and reliable economic model for centuries and have produced some of the best entrepreneurs and business people around. They have also lived happy, socially cohesive lives which haven't been destroyed by their 'success'. How have they done this?

Shah and Rankin, both highly qualified in economics and Jainism, demonstrate how timeless Jain principles can produce successful social and economic lives for individuals and for the overall economy and the environment. In fact, the wellbeing of the environment and animals are every bit as important as the economy and the individual entrepreneur. They explain how the timeless principles of ahimsa (non-harming) and aparigraha (non-possessiveness) are fundamental to success.

In my view, we should discard the old books on economics and finance from our education system and replace them with *Jainism and Ethical Finance* and ensure that the current and future generations of business and accountancy students learn the Jain principles of ethical finance. If we do not, then we will continue to live with the booms and busts that have brought so much misery and poverty, and so much inequality to our generation. I would thoroughly recommend this book.



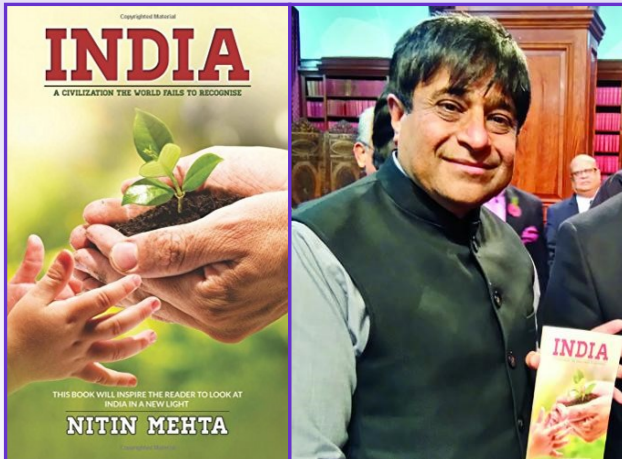
Published by Routledge, ISBN 9781138648869.



## India

### A Civilisation the World Fails to Recognise

by Nitin Mehta MBE



**T**his well-researched and beautifully written book continued to surprise me from beginning to end with the remarkable discoveries and inventions which originated in India, thousands of years before they were 'discovered' anywhere else. It is a gem of information.

Nitin demonstrates that, despite the negative media coverage which India unfairly receives, India and its culture has a huge amount to offer the world. Where other civilizations have risen and fallen, the Indian civilization has remained immortal and, according to Nitin, the secret of this immortality is Ahimsa, or non-violence, towards all living beings, including animals and insects.

To tell you more would be to spoil the delight of reading this book. So I will say no more other than to strongly recommend you to read it for yourself and embark on a journey of discovery, spanning many thousands of years.

Published by Educreation Publishing, ISBN 9781618134073

## Events

### October 2017

**Extinction and Livestock – International Conference** organised by *Compassion In World Farming* – 5th & 6th October 2017 at the QEII Conference Centre, London. Register at [www.extinctionconference.com](http://www.extinctionconference.com)

**ASWA Annual Service** – Sunday 8th October 2017 at 10.45am at St Peter's Church Nottingham. Speaker Revd Jennifer Brown. Further details: [www.aswa.org.uk/page/whats\\_coming\\_up/upcoming\\_events/](http://www.aswa.org.uk/page/whats_coming_up/upcoming_events/)

**Animal Blessing & Thanksgiving Service for Pets** – Saturday 14th October 2017 at 2.00pm at St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road, Kensal Green, London, NW10 5SN. Pet owners from all denominations are invited to celebrate the special relationship we have with the animals who share our lives. For further details please email: [animalblessinguk@gmail.com](mailto:animalblessinguk@gmail.com) or telephone 07778-453578.

### November 2017

**CCA AGM** – Saturday 4th November 2017 at 1.00pm – 4.30pm, The Brompton Oratory, Brompton Road, Kensington, London, SW7 2RP. Guest speaker – Philip Lymbery, Chief Executive of *Compassion in World Farming*. All CCA members welcome!

**ASWA Remembrance Service for Animals in War** – Sunday 12th November at the *Animals in War Memorial*, Park Lane at 3.00pm. For further details: [www.aswa.org.uk/page/whats\\_coming\\_up/upcoming\\_events/](http://www.aswa.org.uk/page/whats_coming_up/upcoming_events/)

**AIA AGM** – Saturday 25th November at 2.00pm – Friends Meeting House, Euston, London. Guest speakers Nitin Mehta MBE and Dr Richard Ryder. All AIA members welcome. Please note that each member organisation is entitled to one vote. If you wish to attend please contact Barbara Gardner at [Barbgard.aia@gmail.com](mailto:Barbgard.aia@gmail.com).

### Regular Events

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

World Animal Day – Every 4th October [www.worldanimalday.org.uk](http://www.worldanimalday.org.uk)

Meatless Pledge Day – Every 25 November (Sadhu Vaswani's birthday).

Meditation for Non-Humans – Every Sunday at 5pm– Quaker Concern for Animals holds an interfaith or no faith meditation for named/unnamed non-humans. We hold them all in love and light and send healing. Details on <http://www.quaker-animals.co.uk>

Prayer link-up – Every Wednesday at 9.30pm. Wherever you are. Irene Casey has a prayer suggestion sheet: Tel. 01925 657890.

Prayers for Animals – Every first Saturday of the month at 12.15pm. Gloucester Cathedral, Check with Rev. Helen Hall on 07919 538077.

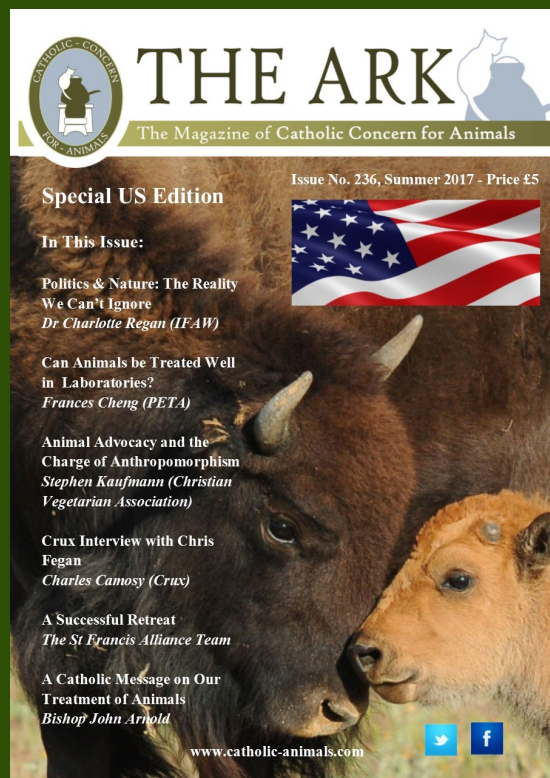
## The Christian Vegetarian Association

Please Begin or Renew Annual Membership



There is no charge for receiving the weekly CVA e-newsletter, but our ministry depends on the contributions of our members, primarily for printing and distributing our booklets at Christian concerts, revivals, and other events. Please donate at

[http://christianveg.org/freemembership\\_level.htm](http://christianveg.org/freemembership_level.htm)



Join *Catholic Concern for Animals* to receive three free copies of *The Ark* each year

Contact Sarah Dunning at [sariael@googlemail.com](mailto:sariael@googlemail.com)

## Faiths Working Together for Animals

### Meatless Pledge Day 25th November



The 25th November is *Meatless Pledge Day*, also the birthday of Sadhu Vaswani. AIA Hindu member organisation, the *Sadhu Vaswani Centre UK*, organises *Meatless Pledge Day* in the UK. Join people from all over the globe in signing the pledge form and sending it in.

Visit: [www.sadhuvaswani.org](http://www.sadhuvaswani.org)



2017

Sunday 12th November  
to  
Sunday 19th November

Details at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)





Catholic Concern for Animals

Registered charity 231022

## AGM 2017

*All members welcome!*

**Saturday 4th November 1.00pm - 4.30pm**  
at St Joseph's Hall, Brompton Oratory, Brompton  
Road, London, SW7 2RP.

(Nearest tube stations are South Kensington and  
Knightsbridge)

**Guest Speaker - Philip Lymbery,**  
**Chief Executive of Compassion in World**  
**Farming**

*1.00pm - St Joseph's Hall open for tea and coffee*  
*(please bring your own sandwiches)*

*2.00pm - Guest speaker, 2.45pm - break*

*3.00pm - AGM, 4.30pm - close*

## CCA Christmas Cards

*From the series*  
**Saints Who Loved Animals**



This series of six *Saints Who Loved Animals* Christmas cards includes *St Francis* and the animals, *St Philip Neri* and his dog, *St Columba* and the white horse, *St Cuthbert* and the others, *St Melangell* and the hare and *St Ciaran* and the animals.

A pack of six Christmas cards costs £3.00 and can be obtained from CCA at:  
BarbaraAtTheArk@gmail.com.

## Advertise in Animal Spirit Magazine

Member organisations can receive a quarter  
page advert for free in each  
*Animal Spirit* magazine.

*Rates for non-members are :*

Quarter page - £25.00

Half page - £50.00

Full Page - £100.00

*Includes an advert*  
*on the AIA website and social media.*

Contact the editor at  
Barbgard.aia@gmail.com

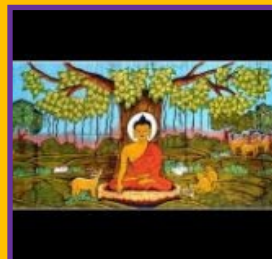
## Dharma Voices for Animals



**Become a member** at no  
cost and support the efforts  
to raise awareness of the  
suffering of animals in the  
Dharma community.

**Check out our website at**

[www.dharmavoicesforanimals.org](http://www.dharmavoicesforanimals.org)



**Watch our video** featuring  
interviews with world-  
renowned monastics and lay  
teachers including Ven.  
Bhikkhu Bodhi, Jetsuna  
(Ven. Master) Tenzin Palmo,  
Ven. Bhante Gunaratana  
(Bhante G), Christopher Titmuss, Ven. Geshe Phelgye,  
teachers from *Spirit Rock Meditation Center* and many  
others.



# Animal Interfaith Alliance

*Faiths Working Together for Animals*

## The Animal Interfaith Alliance

### Job Vacancy Chair to the Board of Directors

The *Animal Interfaith Alliance* (AIA) is looking to recruit a Chair to the board of directors, the current Chair having served his 3 year term of office.

#### The Organisation

AIA is an international interfaith organisation based in the UK whose members include animal concern organisations from all faiths. It is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. AIA's mission is to create a united voice for animals from all of the world's faiths to bring about the humane treatment of animals. Further information about AIA can be found at its website at [www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com](http://www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com).

#### The Role

This is a three year, voluntary role which will require leading the board of directors to achieve the organisation's mission. The Chair will be required to promote the cause of animals and to front AIA's campaigns, as well as to lead the AGM and other board meetings as required which are held in the London area. The Chair will also work with and liaise with the Chief Executive. A full job description is available on application.

#### The Candidate

We are looking for a highly motivated individual from a faith background with a strong commitment to animals, with the time commitment to give to the role. You will have the skills and experience necessary to help to develop and grow the organisation in order to achieve its mission.

If you are interested in applying for the role please contact Barbara Gardner at [Barbgard.aia@gmail.com](mailto:Barbgard.aia@gmail.com).

## Major Donors

We are tremendously grateful to the following major donors who have supported AIA since its inception in 2014 with the following donations.

#### Diamond - £10,000 plus

Meenal & Madhoo Mehta of the  
Romeera Foundation

#### Gold – £1,000 - £10,000

Dr Richard D. Ryder

#### Silver - £500 - £1,000

Anant Shah  
Dr Deborah Jones

#### Bronze - £100 - £500

The Mahavir Trust  
CCA,QCA

#### Donations up to £100:

ASWA, Veerayatan UK,  
Mr Michael Allured,  
Mr Thom Bonneville,  
Mr Keith Cottrell, Mr Nigel D'Cruz,  
Mrs Rita Donovan, Mrs Beryl Finch,  
Ms Angela Lynch, Ann Moody,  
Rev. Feargus O'Connor,  
Mr Harshad Sangrajka,  
Mr Hasraj Shah, Ms Christine Snow,  
Judith Wilkings.



#### Pope Francis says:

'We must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures'.

*Laudato Si' - 67*

### If you would like to make a donation or bequest

to the  
Animal Interfaith Alliance,  
please contact  
Barbara at  
[Barbgard.aia@gmail.com](mailto:Barbgard.aia@gmail.com)  
Or send a cheque to the  
address on the 'friend'  
form on page opposite.



# 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 Membership Secretary, AIA, 19 Sudeley Grove, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7XS.**

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

### **Or pay by annual standing order**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer For The Non-Human Innocents

Father of us all, who fills the void,  
Creator of the visible and the invisible universe,  
Of minerals, plants, animals and humans,  
Of the angelic realms,  
And of all the worlds we know and of those we do not.  
Father of us all, rescue us and rescue your innocent creatures.



Lord, have mercy on our sister the earth that you created with such beauty, the blue planet, polluted and poisoned by humans ever more each day!  
Lord, before it is too late, send your heavenly armies to save our sister the earth.

Lord, have mercy on our sister the water. Have mercy on the springs, rivers, lakes, seas and oceans that humans pollute without restraint.  
Send your heavenly armies to save our dear sister the water.

Lord, have mercy on our sister the plants, so abundant, so beautiful, so useful, with so many varied species that are disappearing in huge numbers every day because of human madness. Send your heavenly armies to save them.

Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the animals, your speechless creatures, mistreated, killed and tortured in their billions. Silent victims. Send your heavenly armies to save them.

Lord, have mercy on the millions of animals tortured each year in vivisection laboratories.  
Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the monkeys, so like us, and who are captured, mistreated and tortured.

Lord, have mercy on our brothers the bulls, tortured to death in bull-rings.  
Have mercy too on our brothers the horses, used for bullfights.  
Lord, have mercy on the livestock animals, bred intensively for their meat.  
Have mercy on our brothers and sisters the lambs and sheep, your creatures of peace, who have their throats cut by the million every year.  
Lord, have mercy on the millions of all kinds, killed every day in mostly unspeakable conditions to be eaten!

Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the dolphins, whales, otters, seals and all marine mammals, your wonderful sea creatures.  
Lord, have mercy on our innocent brothers and sisters, the animals condemned to a life behind bars.  
Lord, have mercy on our pet animals, tortured and killed for their beauty.

Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the donkeys, your patient creatures who are beaten as they bend beneath their heavy burden.  
Have mercy on the horses, our noble brothers and sisters, enslaved until the day they die.  
Have mercy on our brothers and sisters the elephants, massacred in such high numbers for their ivory, bound in chains for their labour, or imprisoned.

Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the wild animals, who used to be so abundant and who are hunted, trapped, massacred, imprisoned and poisoned.  
Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the pigeons, trapped in nets.  
Have mercy on the migrating birds.  
Have mercy on our brothers and sisters the birds, your winged creatures who delight and enchant us with their beauty and their songs, and who are starved, imprisoned, hunted, trapped and decimated by the pollution suffered by our sister water and our sister Earth.

Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the fish, decimated by pollution, crammed inside fish farms, in such huge quantities that the seas are emptying.  
Lord, have mercy on our brothers and sisters the insects, killed by insecticides, and especially our brothers the bees. Send your heavenly armies to save them all.

Lord of us all, ineffable Creator, have mercy on the non-human innocents, on all nature and all animals, too many to mention them all, our brothers and sisters who are so close to us and yet such a mystery to us.  
You have entrusted them to us since the dawn of humanity, and we betray and massacre them in the name of gluttony, in the name of science, in the name of our own comfort, in the name of religion, in the name of all possible names, in the name of our own pride.

***Lord, have mercy on them.***

***Lord, save them.***

***Lord, have mercy on us humans, because all this horror is our fault.***

This prayer was sent by Danielle Cartotto, former General Secretary of the French *League Against Vivisection* and a representative of *Pro Anima*, Paris. She also published a booklet *Prière pour les Innocents non Humains*.