

**PRESS RELEASE**

27 November 2023

**RE: The United Nations brings violence inflicted on animals into the Human Rights domain. In terms of the new Rights of the Child, children may no longer be exposed to violence, be it domestic or inflicted on animals.**

As countries around the world engage in **16 Days of Activism against Women and Child Abuse and Violence**, we are heartened that 2023 has brought change for the better into the lives of children across the world.

On 18 September this year, the United Nations launched additional guidance in regard to the Rights of the Child. For the first time in history, as part of environmental health and well-being, children are to be protected from any form of violence – be it domestic or inflicted on animals. In accordance with UN Committee GC26, all member countries of the UN are now under ‘strict obligation’ to change policies, practices and laws in order to comply with this ‘legally binding’ addition to the Rights of the Child.

The GC26 Committee’s direct quote is: ***“Children must be protected from all forms of physical and psychological violence whether in their home or in society, and from exposure to violence, such as domestic violence or violence inflicted on animals.”***

Please see highlighted section in the attachment.

This is a ground-breaking acknowledgment at the highest international level that children are physically and psychologically harmed by violence in whatever form it takes, and that children’s innate emotions of empathy, care and compassion are to be preserved, protected and nurtured.

The Humane Education Trust has worked for more than 34 years to convince South Africans at every level of society that our abusive treatment of animals impacts negatively on all of us. **Humane Education as an antidote to violence.**

See [www.naturebased.education](http://www.naturebased.education)

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