







Kind Attention:

Mr Sudesh Reddy Head of Communications UNICEF (UN International Children's Emergency Fund)

Pretoria, South Africa Email: sureddy@unicef.org

Tel: 012 4254700/1

Date: 23 November 2023

RE: 16 Days of Activism

Dear Mr Reddy,

We thank UNICEF for its role in protecting children, and take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. *The Humane Education Trust* runs a curriculum-aligned programme for schools which is based on UN principles of compassion and respect for all beings.

Please see here: https://naturebased.education/

In the current year 117 schools used our online platform with an estimated reach of 11 104 learners. We are now about to send out our contribution to 16 Days of Activism.

Please see here: https://www.animalvoice.org

Most importantly, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to the United Nations for its recently-launched additional guidance in regard to the *Rights of the Child*, especially GC26 and its call for all children to "be protected from all forms of physical and psychological violence whether in their home or in society, and from exposure to violence, such as domestic violence or violence inflicted on animals."

We know now that exposure to abuse and violence whether to people or animals, erodes the innate empathy of our children and forges the perception that violence is a normal form of adult expression. Please see here: https://www.animalvoice.org/un-news

To this end, we are uplifted by the fact that several of the world's lawyers are working hard to set things right in regard to the world's treatment of animals. Please see this development in the latest issue of our *Animal Voice* magazine here: https://www.animalvoice.org/ (you will need to scroll down very slightly).

Thank you for the time you may take to view our contribution to the 16 Days of Activism.

Kind Regards,

LOUISE VAN DER MERWE

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