Millions of animals are suffering unnecessarily by being slaughtered without stunning to meet religious demands.

That's why we campaign to end religious exemptions to animal welfare laws.

Animal welfare law requires animals to be stunned before slaughter to minimise their pain, suffering and distress. The only exemption is for Jewish and Muslim communities to meet kosher and halal religious dietary preferences.

The scientific consensus is clear that it is more humane to stun an animal prior to slaughter. The slaughter of animals without pre-stunning is permitted in the UK despite a recommendation by the government's own advisory body, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), that the practice should be banned. FAWC concluded that animals slaughtered without pre-stunning are likely to experience "very significant pain and distress".

RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming and the British Veterinary Association all support an end to non-stun slaughter to improve animal welfare at the time of death.

- **70% of Brits think stunning animals before slaughtering them is more ethical.**
- **72% of the population think food produced from religious non-stun slaughter methods should be clearly labelled.**

We support the right to religious freedom. But this is not an absolute right. **Religious exemptions shouldn't be made to laws meant to prevent unnecessary animal cruelty.**

Take action!

1. Write to your MP

Ask your MP to end the religious exemption that allows animals to be slaughtered without pre-stunning.

Enter Postcode:

Find my MP

2. Share your story

Tell us why you support this campaign, and how you are personally affected by the issue. You can also let us know if you would like assistance with a particular issue.

- Share your story

3. Join the National Secular Society

Become a member of the National Secular Society today! Together, we can separate religion and state for greater freedom and fairness.

- Join us!

Latest updates

NSS slams government for backtracking on non-stun slaughter labels

Posted: Mon, 18 Mar 2024 13:11

Defra consultation on "fairer food labelling" omits slaughter, despite 97% supporting labels for slaughter method.

Wales Green Party drops pledge to ban non-stun slaughter

Posted: Wed, 8 Nov 2023 15:30

Members vote to monitor slaughter "without prejudice towards minority religious and cultural groups".

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- See more

More information

- Religious slaughter of animals FAQs

Halal, kosher and pre-stunned. What do religious rules mean for animal welfare?

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