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Gila Gamliel
Minister of Environmental Protection
7 Bank of Israel Street
Jerusalem
Israel

Amsterdam, 20 October 2020

Dear Minister Gamliel,

I write to you on behalf of the Fur Free Alliance, an international coalition of more than fifty animal protection organisations who work together to end the exploitation and killing of animals for their fur. We believe that fur factory farming is inherently cruel and encourage governments around the world to bring about legislation to end this practice.

We were delighted to hear that a proposal to prohibit the inhumane and unnecessary fur trade in Israel is presently under consideration in the Israeli Parliament. The Fur Free Alliance respectfully urges the Israeli government to commit to adopting this forward-thinking and widely-supported legislation to make fur history in Israel.

Growing concern for animal welfare is increasingly leading to fashion brands, cities and states deciding to reject the use of animal fur. In the last few years, major international fashion brands, such as Gucci, Prada, Versace, Chanel and Michael Kors, have all announced that they would no longer be producing real fur apparel and instead transitioning to other materials, which are more humane and better for the environment.

Public opinion polls from a large number of countries around the world have consistently demonstrated that the majority of citizens consider the keeping and killing of animals for fur to be unacceptable. In addition, polling in Israel shows that a considerable majority (79%) of the population is supportive of a prohibition on the import and marketing of animal fur.¹

Around the globe, the tide is turning against the barbaric fur trade. In October 2019, California made history by becoming the first state in the United States of America to adopt a ban on the sales and manufacture of animal fur products. The legislation will go into effect in 2023 and follows similar sale or import bans in the cities of Los Angeles (2018), San Francisco (2018), Berkeley (2017), West Hollywood (2011), São Paulo in Brazil (2015), and in India (2017).

The import and sale of seal, dog and cat fur has already been prohibited in the European Union. Last month, it was announced that the Minister for the UK's Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs, Lord Goldsmith, is spearheading plans to make Britain the world's first fur-free country once Brexit comes into force.²

¹ Survey conducted by market research company Maagar-Mochot (Tel Aviv, 2009)

² <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/fur-sales-banned-uk-post-brex-it-plans-a4555901.html>



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Furthermore, over the past two decades, over 15 countries have taken legislative action to ban and phase-out the inhumane practice of fur production, including Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. As concerns about animal welfare and the ethics of fur continue to grow, proposals to prohibit fur production are presently being considered in Poland, Ireland, Lithuania, Estonia, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

On fur factory farms around the world, millions of foxes, mink and other wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviours, only to be cruelly gassed or electrocuted to death. In the wild, animals are caught in crippling leghold traps where they can be left for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, including threatened species and even pets.

In addition to the fur industry being inherently inhumane, the confinement of thousands of wild animals in unsanitary, crowded and stressful conditions is an ecological disaster and a breeding ground for infectious diseases. To date, over 3.5 million animals have been preventatively culled on more than 138 mink farms in the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain and the United States following the detection of SARS-CoV-2 amongst the mink population. At present, the numbers of coronavirus infections on mink fur farms continue to rise in alarming rates in the Netherlands, Denmark and the US.

This is a cruel and outdated industry, which produces a luxury product for which there are today many warm and beautiful alternatives that do not involve animal suffering.

Compassionate people around the world continue to look to the Israeli government to fulfil its commitment to end the brutal fur trade. We, the members of the Fur Free Alliance, strongly encourage you to be on the right side of history and prohibit the widely-condemned trade of animal fur products in Israel.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require additional information, or would like to arrange a video conference to discuss this important matter in greater detail.

Yours faithfully,

Joh Vinding
Chairman of the Fur Free Alliance



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The Fur Free Alliance is an international coalition of over 50 animal protection organisations representing millions of supporters worldwide.





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Oikeutta
eläimille



adčynienyja
klietki

tušti
narvai

otwarte
klatki

открытые
клетки

відкриті
клітки

respect for animals
FIGHTING THE INTERNATIONAL FUR TRADE



svoboda
zvířat
organizace
na ochranu zvířat



UNIQUE PLANET
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Veganstvo



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- ACTAsia
- Anima
- Anima Mundi
- Animal Friends Croatia
- Animal Rights Center Japan
- Animalia
- Animals Friend Fund Latvia
- Associação ANIMAL
- Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals
- Beauty Without Cruelty
- Bont voor Dieren
- Born Free USA
- Campaigns and Activism for the Animals in Industry (CAAI)
- CARE
- Change for Animals Foundation
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund
- Djurens Rätt
- Dyrenes Alliance
- Dzīvnieku Brīvība
- Ecoetica
- Ecoveg
- Four Paws
- GAIA
- Galop
- Humane Society International
- Humánny Pokrok
- Hungarian Anti-Fur League
- JAVA
- LAV
- Loomus
- NOAH
- Observatorio
- Oikeutta Eläimille
- One Voice
- Open Cages Belarus
- Open Cages Lithuania
- Open Cages Poland
- Open Cages Russia
- Open Cages Ukraine
- Respect for Animals
- RSPCA
- Sloboda za Životinje
- Svoboda zvířat
- Swiss Animal Protection
- The Humane Society of the United States
- Tu Abrigo Su Vida
- UAnimals
- Unique Planet
- VEGAIA
- Vegan Initiative
- Vier Pforten
- Voices for Animals
- World Animal Net