

**Submission
No 303**

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FARM
BILL 2019**

Name: Mrs Kim McDonald

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Dear committee members,

I write the submission from my heart and a soul that has been destroyed by the heartbreaking cruelty and suffering that is rife and legal in the Animal Agriculture Industry. This cruelty and suffering exists everywhere in our world, but for some unjust and unbelievable reason, the most vulnerable living beings on our planet are exempt from the protection of laws to protect against this.

We are all born innocent and kind, a blank slate that is written upon and impressed upon by those who teach and guide us. When we are babies and toddlers and young children we are in awe at the wonder and beauty of all animals, and we would never harm them. But somehow, somewhere, someone decided it was okay to confine, exploit and subject innocent animals to the most brutal of treatment, and the rest of society followed behind. THIS WAS NEVER OKAY OR NORMAL.

The animal agriculture industry hides behind walls of misery that most of the public know nothing about, and if they did, they would be horrified. The practices that are legal on farms are beyond belief.

1. Male chicks are ground up alive because they are of no use to the egg industry!
2. Hens are caged for the entirety of their lives, unable to feel the earth beneath them or ever spread their wings!
3. Baby calves are taken from their mothers at birth, and if they are male, they are hammered to death soon after birth because they are seen as a product that is useless to the industry, or they are slaughtered for veal. If they are female they suffer the same fate as their poor, gentle mothers - impregnated by a farmer, year after year until they can no longer produce milk, and then they are taken to the slaughterhouse to face the horror of a grisly death! The mothers and babies cry for each other for days.
4. Pigs are killed in gas chambers, writhing in agony as their organs explode! No they don't just fall peacefully asleep.
5. Mother pigs are confined in pens where they cannot even turn around. This is their life until death. They cannot even have any contact with the babies that are suckling from them.
5. Then animals that are seen as more fortunate to not be confined and caged in factory farms, are left in paddocks without any shelter from the harsh elements. Most of the time there is not a tree in sight!
7. Baby lambs freeze to death by the thousands, as the farming industry tampers with the fertility of the ewes so that they are born in the bitterly cold winter and lambs will be ready to be slaughtered for the supermarket shelves to feed the demand for spring lamb! I am sure the public have no idea!
8. Cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, and goats are transported in trucks for extremely long distances without water or food, enduring extreme heat or cold for hours on end. Many times I have been forced to drive behind these trucks and have been reduced to tears because I feel so helpless.

These are just some of the evils of the animal agriculture industry, and of course this industry does not want the public to know. Hence, if slaughterhouses had glass walls, everybody would be vegetarian!

Whistleblowers and animal activists are the people who expose this evil and suffering, and they risk their lives to uncover the worst cases of cruelty known to man. Why do they do this? Because these animals deserve a voice, they deserve protection from the suffering that is inflicted upon them, behind walls of secrecy that only sees them as a commodity to profit from. These

are the kind and compassionate people in our world that drive the changes that make this world a better place for us all. To impose unreasonable laws to silence them would be a travesty to humanity. History proves time and time again, that when good people stand up against injustice, the world evolves for the better. Slavery is just one example.

Yes, there are kind farmers, but these farmers are only kind to their own kind, they are not kind to their animals. The books that were read to us as children, that portrayed farmers as these kind people, who loved and valued their animals are a fallacy that has been in existence for decades. These books tell yet more lies to our impressionable children, because this is what society has been led to believe is true for most animals in the farming industry. This couldn't be further from the truth.

There is also another very sinister and frightening problem that lurks within this industry, and that is the human tragedy that results. The people that are forced to work in these industries are subjected to the daily violence of killing and suffering, and this in itself is enough to highlight the wrongs in this system. The mental torture these workers suffer is horrendous, and eventually they become desensitised, and the pain and suffering they are forced to inflict becomes robotic. The scary fact is that these people live in our society, and it is a well researched fact that those people who are cruel and brutal toward animals, are likely and capable of turning that brutality and mental frustration toward their own kind. It is so sad for those that are forced to perform such gruesome acts for a living. Humanity is has no right to expect this of another.

If there was nothing to hide in the animal agriculture industry , then it wouldn't be necessary to for activists and whistleblowers to do what they do. If there was complete transparency in this industry, I wonder how many people would accept the knowledge and still demand the product. I think we all know the answer to this question.

For far too long the animal farming industry has gotten away with cruelty so horrendous that it is just sickening. It is time for the government to make them accountable and punish them for the heinous crimes they commit, instead of trying to impose more laws that will keep the evil hidden from the public.

Its time for change, and its time to introduce laws that protect the most vulnerable from the hands of cruelty and suffering. Its time the public knew the truth, because the majority of people on this earth find cruelty abhorrent and want laws that ensure all living beings are treated with the respect ad kindness.

IF WE COULD LEAD HAPPY, HEALTHY LIVES WITHOUT HARMING ANY LIVING BEING, WHY WOULDN'T WE?