



Driving in Cape Town earlier this week, I pulled up behind a SUV at a stop street. Big signage displayed at its rear said: *'Daddy's little hunting buddy.'*

No doubt, the father in the driver's seat had only parental love for his 'little buddy' and almost certainly had no idea that he was perpetuating a South African cultural practice that is receiving condemnation at the highest international level - **trophy hunting with children is now set to be prohibited.**

BREAKING NEWS

BY LOUISE VAN DER MERWE

On 8th February 2024, at the conclusion of the United Nations' 95th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued the following statement:

The Republic of South Africa is now legally bound to prevent children from being exposed/engaged with the killing of animals to collect body parts as 'trophies'.

Similarly nations which import these body parts as 'trophies' must now recognise that their trophy may come from an animal killed by a child.

Earlier, at the start of the 95th Session on January 2024, Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Dr Rinchen Chopel*, urged the South African delegation to criminalise the practice of allowing children to participate in trophy hunting, as a matter of urgency.

He pointed out that in terms of GC26, as contained in the new Rights of the Child which were introduced on 18th September 2023, children may not be exposed to psychological or physical violence, be it domestic, societal or inflicted on an animal.

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He said: **“GC26 has made a significant break-through. Various psychological studies on violence and animal abuse have shown that witnessing or participating in violence can severely impact children’s moral and psychological development, normalizing violence, and conditioning life-long negative behavioural patterns.**

“The popular and societal acceptance and practice of child participation in animal trophy hunting is horrendous to say the least.”

Asked for comment, *Malcolm Plant* of the European Link Coalition, noted:



“Coming from the most powerful child protection authority on earth, animal welfare has been elevated into the human rights domain. Our world is really changing. We are changing it.”





This shop at OR Tambo airport in Johannesburg sets the scene for a cultural practice that is now internationally taboo.



Noteworthy is that bull-fighting and the shooting of stray dogs in the street are among cultural practices that also now fall foul of the Right of the Child not to be exposed to violence against an animal.

FIFA has been requested to ascertain in future, as part of the bidding process, whether a potential host country is in compliance with GC26.

Click on the following compelling videos on the ground-breaking initiatives by the United Nations on behalf of children and animals

Hear the magnificent voices of Africa calling for peace with all of nature

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Children may no longer witness trophy hunting in South Africa

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The day the world changed:
The elevation of Animal Rights into the Human Rights domain took place on 18th September, 2023.

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In terms of the newly established addition to the Rights of the Child, no child may be exposed to any form of violence, physical or psychological, be it domestic, societal or against an animal.

*' Protect children
from the vicarious
effects of exposure to
violence inflicted on
animals such as during
Trophy Hunting ' –
United Nations*

NO MORE !



*' Protect children from the vicarious effects of exposure to
violence inflicted on animals such as during Trophy Hunting ' –
UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*

