

THE WORK OF THE HUMANE EDUCATION TRUST IS ACKNOWLEDGED INTERNATIONALLY

A ground-breaking new international resource titled the *Palgrave Companion to Humane Education* is to be dedicated to Louise van der Merwe, editor of *Animal Voice*, director of the online platform naturebased.education, and Managing Trustee of The Humane Education Trust. **What an honour and heartfelt thanks!**

Due out in 2026/2027, the *Palgrave Companion to Humane Education* is one of the first resources of its kind to introduce the concept of how we treat animals as a vital component of Education everywhere. Published by Palgrave Macmillan, it is edited and compiled by the **Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics**.



Here, Reverend Professor Andrew Linzey, Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, and a member of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Oxford for more than 28 years, agreed to talk to *Animal Voice*.

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Animal Voice:

Reverend Professor Linzey, you first graced the pages of Animal Voice way back in 1994 when you held the world's first academic post in theology and animal welfare at Mansfield College, Oxford.

*Your book **Animal Theology** had just been published and we were eager to hear your call for humanity to take action to promote animal well-being. You said traditional liberation theology had been grotesquely human-centred and that true liberation theology would embrace every being suffering oppression.*

Prof Linzey:

Yes, changing perceptions is a difficult and arduous business. People seldom want to think through their assumptions or confront their own prejudice. It is challenging to change comfortable habits both of mind and body.

Animal Voice:

*In an interview you did with *Compassion in World Farming*, you said that without a change in our perceptions, there really can be no future for the animal welfare movement.*

Prof Linzey:

Yes. Campaigns, strategies, petitions, demos – all the paraphernalia of activism are of course essential, but by themselves can seldom, if ever, bring about the necessary change of perception. If one looks at similar reforming movements, for example, for the abolition of slavery, or the emancipation of women, or more recently, Apartheid in South Africa, we can now see with hindsight how essential the foundational insight that motivated these movements were. Change came about with an evolving perception that equal value and dignity belonged to all human persons, black or white, male or female.

Animal Voice:

And when it comes to animals?

Prof Linzey:

What the animal movement is about is a changing understanding and renewed perception of the intrinsic God-given worth of each and every individual sentient being. Our task is to encourage, invite and even exhort people to look upon animals as more than what is commonly thought to be an 'animal'. Each such creature is a living, sensitive being worthy in its own right, irrespective of what it can give to us.