



29 July 2023

**OPEN LETTER**

Kind Attention:

***Dr Dion George***

South African Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Email: [MinisterG@dffe.gov.za](mailto:MinisterG@dffe.gov.za)

Dear Minister George,

We understand that your Ministry is tasked with the issuing of hunting permits and therefore, we approach you now to request your support for the recently decreed UN **Right of the Child** to be protected from witnessing violence, be it domestic, societal or against an animal. The violence inherent in trophy hunting received specific mention. Please see [UN General Comment 26 Article 19](#) Please also see [Concluding Observations](#) delivered by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 08 February 2024, specifically Section 27e.

Please also scroll down to page 7 of a recent issue of our magazine **Animal Voice** [here](#):

Of note is that in 2018, Poland led the way to prohibit minor children from attending hunts. Despite extreme pressure from the hunting lobby to reverse the ban, claiming, inter alia, that it was an infringement of family tradition, the ban remains in place as of 2025. Supported by its Ministry of Education, the Polish Government accepted that early hunting indoctrination teaches children a dehumanizing, objectifying attitude toward nature, conveying that it is acceptable to take life for the sake of pleasure.

See: <https://zakazpolowania.pl/aktualnosci/ban-on-hunting-with-children/>

Please advise if you will support this call by the UNCRC.

Kind regards,

LOUISE VAN DER MERWE

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