



**WORLD  
ANIMAL  
JUSTICE**

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# **WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE**



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

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[www.worldanimaljustice.org](http://www.worldanimaljustice.org)

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# FORWARD

**Animal rights lawyers and advocates across the globe continue to work tirelessly to advance meaningful and systemic change for animals**—for every sentient being, everywhere. In a world where animal exploitation remains structurally embedded in legal, economic, and political systems, their commitment is both urgent and indispensable.

**This past year marked a phase of consolidation and strategic growth for World Animal Justice.** We continued to advance our core activities, expanded our international network, and strengthened collaborations with legal experts, civil society actors, and institutional partners. A key milestone was the launch of Food Forward Europe, an initiative aimed at redirecting EU subsidies away from harmful agricultural models and towards sustainable food systems grounded in ethical, ecological, and public health principles.

The year was also marked by loss within the global animal protection movement. **We honor the memory of three influential women, whose work profoundly shaped the legal, scientific, and public foundations of animal advocacy: Paula Sparks, Jane Goodall, and Brigitte Bardot,** whose legacies continue to guide and inspire our collective efforts. World Animal Justice honors their lives, their courage, and their enduring impact on the pursuit of justice for animals.

**A central focus of WAJ's work remains the persistent gap between existing legal protections and their effective enforcement.** Insufficient implementation continues to enable widespread and systemic crimes against animal victims. Strengthening accountability mechanisms and fostering enforcement capacity are therefore core priorities of our legal and policy strategy.

**Looking ahead, the coming year will be pivotal.** We are preparing key expert reports, policy initiatives, and high-level engagements, while continuing to build alliances across jurisdictions and disciplines. With the continued support of our partners, experts, and donors, we remain committed to advancing a legal order that recognizes animals as rights-bearing beings deserving of justice and protection.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabine Brels." The signature is fluid and cursive.

**DR. SABINE BRELS**

**WAJ FOUNDER & DIRECTOR**

# ABOUT WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE

**World Animal Justice (WAJ) is a non-profit organization dedicated to legally protect animal rights and globally ban animal crimes.** Launched at the Cambridge Animal Rights Law Conference in 2023, **WAJ addresses critical legal gaps that leave billions of animals unprotected, victims of criminal abuses and harmful exploitation.**

At the core of WAJ's work is the pursuit of legally banning animal crimes, advocating for new **international frameworks recognizing and prohibiting 'crimes against animality' and 'zoocide'.**

Through its **network of 50 global legal experts and 25 partnering NGOs, WAJ is actively driving national, regional and international reforms to legally enshrine the fundamental rights of animals and advance bans of animal crimes.** WAJ's ultimate goal is to establish a new framework globally prohibiting crimes against animals, ensuring the legal protection of their fundamental rights.

**Our mission is bold and urgent: provide legal expertise in order to end systemic animal crimes,** through strategic actions and advocacy. **WAJ is actively involved in the work of major coalitions** - including the UN Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the World Federation for Animals and the Eurogroup for animals as a full member, Stop Financing Factory Farming and End it Coalition.



**WAJ envisions a world where justice is extended to all sentient non-human animals:** domestic and wild, terrestrial and aquatic, vertebrates and invertebrates. Our double mission aims to legally protect animal rights and globally ban animal crimes.

## LEGALLY PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL ANIMAL RIGHTS

- **Right to Life** – Protection from unnecessary killing.
- **Right to Freedom** – Opposition to confinement and exploitation.
- **Right to Integrity** – Protection from physical and psychological harm.
- **Right to Well-being** – Ensuring ethical treatment for all animals.

## GLOBALLY PROHIBIT CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS

**We advocate systemic change to end institutionalized cruelty**, from factory farming to wildlife trafficking, from live transports to animal experiments, from blood sports to other forms of normalized exploitation, that come in contradiction with their aforementioned fundamental rights.

Through legal advocacy, policy reform, and global partnerships,

**WAJ is leading the way for a future of legal justice for animals, where the protection of animals is not yet a legal exception for some animals, but a global priority for all sentient beings.**



# THE GLOBAL GROWTH OF THE WAJ MOVEMENT

**+50**

ANIMAL LAW EXPERTS

**20**

JOINT LETTERS AND  
POSITION PAPERS

**7**

COALITIONS JOINED

**25**

NGO PARTNERS

**38**

COUNTRIES REACHED

**2700**

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS





OUR 50+ EXPERTS



WAJ-led letter to WOAHA on  
the Spiridon II tragedy, Nov  
2025

## Exposing Crimes Against Animality & the Need for Systemic Legal Change



### UN Ocean Conference 2025: Key outcomes for marine animals

WAJ joined the World Federation  
for Animal (WFA) as a full member,  
participate in working groups, and  
Participated in the UNOC Task force  
led by WFA in Nice, 9-13 June 2025

WAJ joined the Eurogroup for  
Animals as a full member,  
contributing to Working Groups



**EUROGROUP  
FOR ANIMALS**



# OUR PARTNERS



AQUATIC  
ANIMAL  
ALLIANCE

THE  
*Alliance*  
OF NGOs ON CRIME PREVENTION  
& CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Animal Law &  
Policy Network



Fundación  
Derecho y  
Defensa Animal



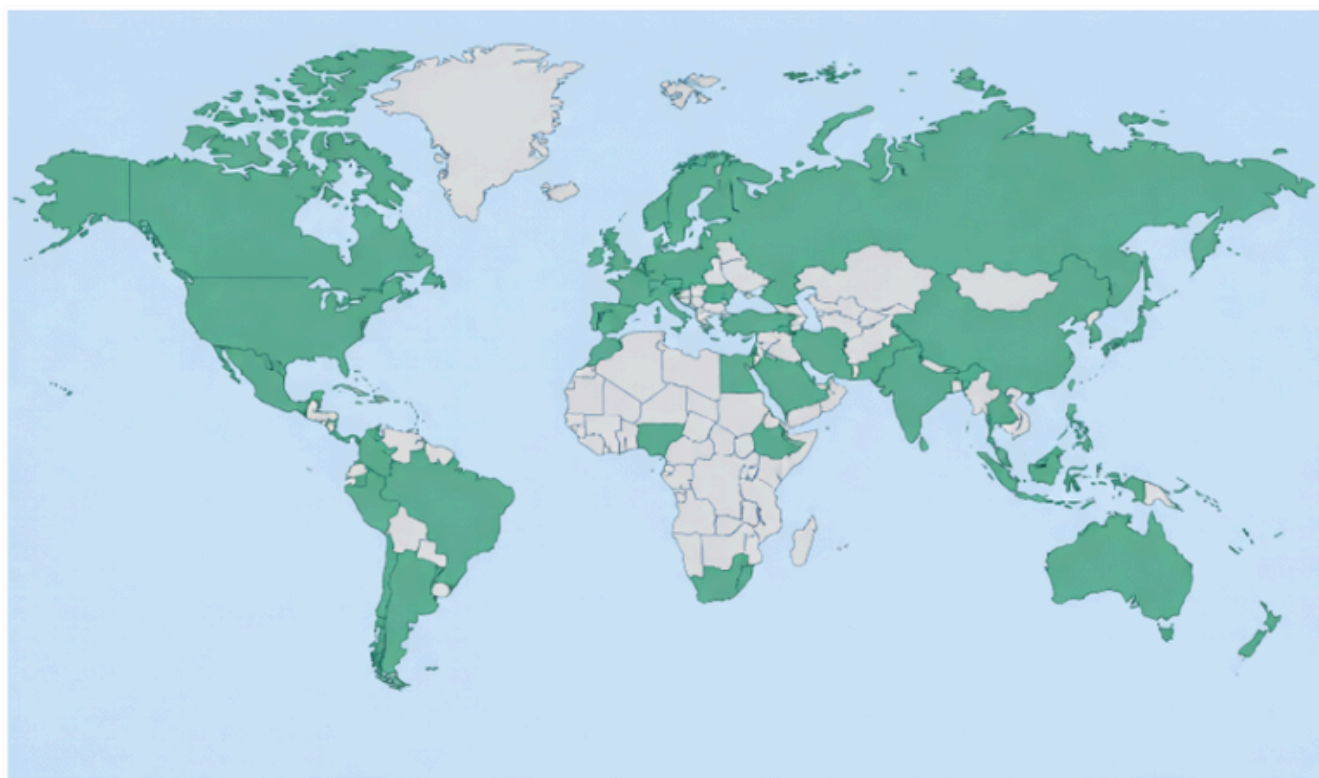
EUROGROUP  
FOR  
ANIMALS



**2700**  
LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS

**38**  
COUNTRIES REACHED

The infographic features a large teal circle containing the number '38' in white. Below the number, the text 'COUNTRIES REACHED' is written in white capital letters. The background is white with faint grey lines and a pattern of small teal dots.

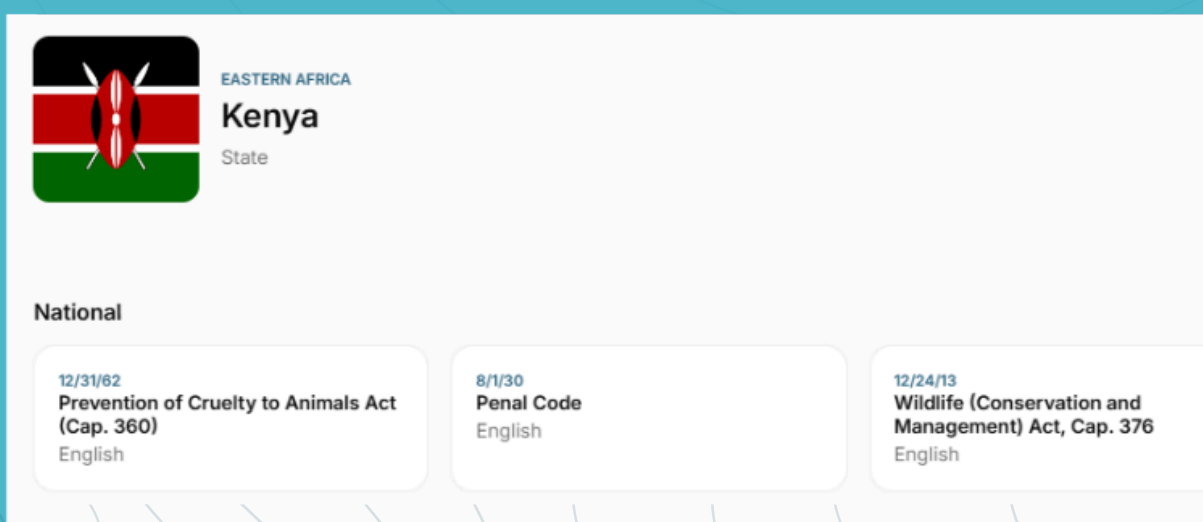
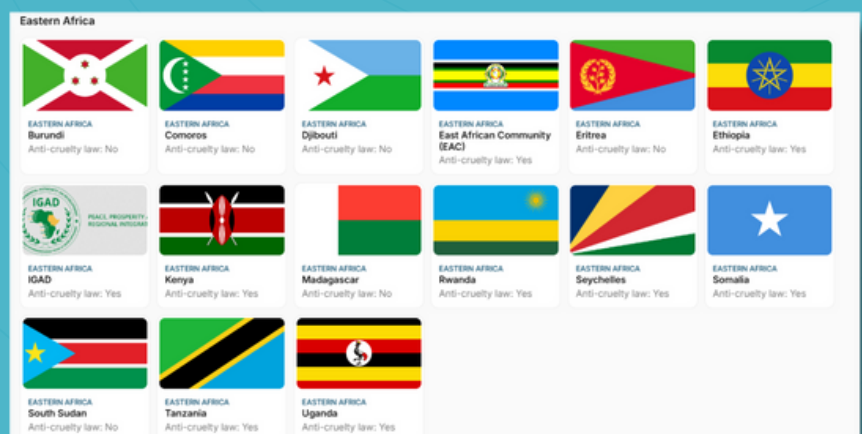
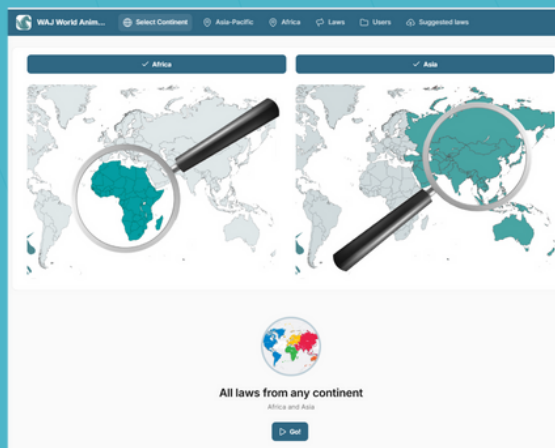


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# KEY PROJECT 2025: AFRICAN ANIMAL LAW DATABASE

The African Animal Law Database covers +130 animal anti-cruelty laws in 50 countries from 6 African regions: Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, Central Africa.

Access at: <https://waj-database.glide.page/>



# RELEASE OF THE WAJ EXPERT REPORT ON A GLOBAL BAN ON ANIMAL CRIMES

**Animal exploitation is the world's largest legal crime**, entirely overlooked by international criminal law, akin to all crimes against animality.

In a groundbreaking move to advance the global legal protection of animals, **World Animal Justice** has released a landmark advocacy report: '**Filling the Accountability Gap for Animals in International Criminal Law**.'

This pivotal report introduces the innovative concept of '**crimes against animality**' and outlines key proposals by leading WAJ experts to **address the widespread and systemic abuse of animals** through international legal reforms.

This report released on 15 January 2025 was made possible thanks to the expertise and contributions of a distinguished group of **specialists in international criminal law and animal law**: Sabine Brels (dir), Marine Lercier, Rimona Afana, Saba Pipia, Deborah Cao, Vanessa Man-Yi Wong.

[Read WAJ's Short Blog](#)

[Access the Full Report](#)





# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE WAJ ADVISORY BOARD



**Dulki Seethawaka**

LLM in Animal Law (USA),  
Senior Researcher at CELP, University  
of Colombo, Sri Lanka

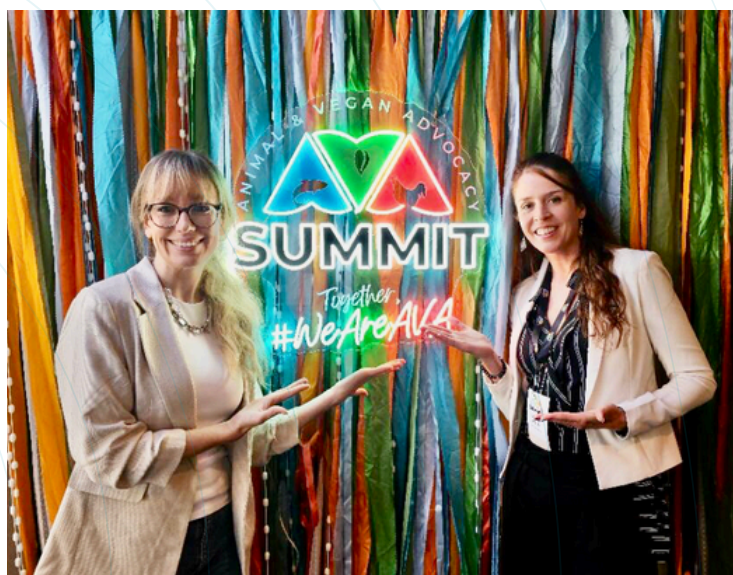


**Giulia Malerbi**

MSL Animal Law Studies, MSc Animal  
Welfare Science, Ethics and Law  
Head of Global Policy, Aquatic Life  
Institute

# WAJ REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCES

WAJ participated in the  
Animal and Vegan **Advocacy**  
**Summit in Los Angeles, USA,**  
May 2025



*Julia Reinelt, AVA chair, with Sabine Brels, WAJ  
director at AVA LA, May 2025*



*WAJ experts and friends at AVA LA, May 2025*



WAJ Partnership at **Pakistan International Animal and Environmental Law Conference**, 18-19 Jan 2025



World Animal Justice proudly partnered in the first Pakistan International Animal & Environmental Rights Conference, a landmark event advancing dialogue on animal welfare and environmental justice. The conference brought together leading experts and advocates, including WAJ expert Altamush Saeed, and featured a special acknowledgment of Justice Athar Minallah, whose historic ruling in the Kavan the elephant case affirmed animals as sentient beings with legal rights. This milestone event significantly contributed to raising public awareness and strengthening regional and global momentum for the legal protection of animals.



WAJ presence at the **Kickstarting for Good Summit in Berlin**, 2025

# WAJ MEDIA COVERAGE

Asia for Animals blog about WAJ expert report calling to ban crimes against animality in international criminal law [here](#)



LEARN

EVENTS

PROGRAMS

NEWS

Feb 25, 2025 · 4 min read

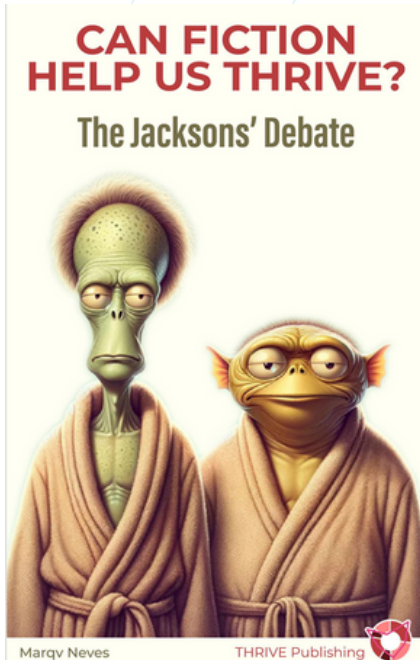
## Releasing WAJ's Landmark Report: A Call to End Crimes Against Animality

By Dr. Sabine Brels, Founding Director of [World Animal Justice](#) (WAJ), January 27, 2025





## WAJ MENTIONED IN BOOK PUBLICATION, The Jacksons' Debate, by Marcus Neves, Thrive Publishing, 2025



Foreword by Dr. Sabine Brels, Founding  
Director of World Animal Justice

*"A truly innovative fiction that deeply challenges the treatment of other animal species"*

*The Jacksons' Debate* by Marqv Neves is a thought-provoking novella that pushes the boundaries of speculative fiction to explore ethics, environmentalism, and the complexities of human-animal relationships. Through its unconventional narrative, the book invites readers to examine humanity from the perspective of an alien race, the Jacksons, whose sophisticated moral and philosophical inquiries expose the uncomfortable parallels between their debates and our own treatment of other animal species.

The story introduces the Jacksons as meticulous and ethically conscious beings grappling with humanity's potential as a dietary resource while simultaneously engaging with orcas to understand interspecies ethics. Characters like Marvin Jackson, a nutritionist, and Grag and Gurmar, philosophers and ethicists, explore humanity's physiology and societal constructs. Their experiments on human subjects, including Taylor Swift and Arthur Neves, are handled with care but lead to unforeseen

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## WAJ Mission Statement Published in the UK Journal of Animal Law March 2025



### World Animal Justice: Towards the Legal Protection of Fundamental Animal Rights and the Abolition of Crimes against Animality

By Dr Sabine BRELS, WAJ Founding Director

#### Abstract

This paper presents the mission statement of World Animal Justice (WAJ), a pioneering initiative dedicated to establishing fundamental animal rights and eradicating crimes against animality on a global scale. Building on decades of progress in animal law, WAJ envisions a transformative legal framework that moves beyond welfare to recognize animals as rights-bearing individuals, fundamentally challenging the legality of institutionalized cruelty and exploitation. Central to this vision is the recognition of 'crimes against animality'—systematic acts of harm, including mass killing, zoocide, enslavement, and inhumane treatment—as international crimes prosecutable under a new legal paradigm.

The mission statement explores WAJ's objectives, including proposing an amendment to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to include crimes against animality and zoocide. This would align with global efforts to uphold sentient beings' rights to life, freedom, and humane treatment. By addressing the immense scale of animal suffering and proposing enforceable legal mechanisms, WAJ lays the foundation for a future where animals are no longer treated as mere commodities.

This paper articulates WAJ's long-term goals and the moral imperatives driving them, rather than the strategic aspects and methodologies for achieving these objectives. Instead, the purpose of this paper is to set the mission and focus on the need for a new collective vision of a world where justice extends to all sentient beings, advocating a profound shift in

global legal and ethical norms as to end systemic animal exploitation.

#### Introduction

Despite progress in recognising animals as sentient beings, existing legal frameworks fall drastically short of protecting animals from industrial-scale exploitation and suffering. World Animal Justice (WAJ) proposes a transformative global framework that establishes crimes against animality as an international crime, akin to crimes against humanity. This legal shift is essential to protect animals' fundamental rights to life, freedom, and humane treatment, and to end practices that cause avoidable suffering. WAJ's vision advocates a paradigm shift to legally recognise animals as rights-bearing individuals and to end the widely legal animal abuses and crimes perpetrated worldwide.

#### I. The Evolution of Animal Law: Expanding Beyond Welfare

Over centuries, animal law has evolved from basic anti-cruelty measures to recognising animals as sentient beings. Milestones such as Martin's Act of 1822 and the Cruelty to Animals Act of 1835 in England marked early advances. Today, bodies such as the European Union and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) set welfare standards to reduce suffering in farming, transport, and slaughter. However, these laws are often limited by an anthropocentric basis, which prioritizes human interests and permits institutionalized cruelty on a massive scale.

WAJ advocates for a non-anthropocentric legal framework that moves beyond welfare to recognize animals as rights-bearing individuals.

20 UK Journal of Animal Law | Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2025

# SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE FOOD FORWARD EUROPE INITIATIVE

Initiated under WAJ's umbrella, **Food Forward Europe** was successfully launched in November 2025 as a result of the **Kickstarting for Good (K4G)** incubator program in Berlin. **Warm thanks to Proveg international & K4G for their generous support.** This project also benefited from the **in-kind support of Violet Studios**, with the support of Vegan Hacktivists for Food Forward Europe's website.



<https://www.foodforwardeurope.org/>

**Food Forward Europe (FFE) directory: Dr Sabine Brels, FFE director and K4G graduate, with Alessandro Ricciuti, FFE Head of EU Strategy**



**Celebrating Food Forward Europe successful launch with K4G cohort in Nov 2025**



**FOOD FORWARD**  
EUROPE

*Legal Action for Sustainable Subsidies*

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
SUPPORT**



**KICKSTARTING  
FOR GOOD**





# LATEST WAJ WEBINARS



**WAJ EXPERT WEBINAR**

**NATIONAL ANTI-CRUELTY LAWS  
FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE**

**CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS  
A SRI LANKAN PERSPECTIVE**

**25 APRIL 2025**

<https://worldanimaljustice.org>

**WATCH THE REPLAY**

**WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE**

Speaker  
**DULKI SEETHAWAKA**  
WAJ Expert

Watch the replay [online](#)



**WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE**

**LESSONS LEARNED BY ANIMAL LAWYERS  
AND NGO LEADERS AROUND THE WORLD**

**OCTOBER 4**

**WATCH NOW !**

**HOST**

**SABINE BRELS**  
FRANCE

**ALTAMUSH SAEED**  
PAKISTAN

**SABINA BRAVO**  
CHILE

**JIM KARANI**  
KENYA

**OLGA CHEVGANIUK**  
UKRAINE

**FIOLITA BERANDHINI**  
INDONESIA

**EARC**

**UAnimals**

**ANIMALS DON'T SPEAK HUMAN**

**LAPA**

Watch the replay [online](#)





**WORLD  
ANIMAL  
JUSTICE**

## **12 Tips to Build Resilience & Scale Impact**

*Key Guidance from Animal Lawyers  
and NGO Leaders Around the World*

### **■ Build Resilience**

1. Embrace the long view
2. Lead with authenticity
3. Build collective strength
4. Protect yourself and your people
5. Adapt to your context
6. Keep learning and inspiring

### **■ Scale Impact**

7. Use the laws that already exist
8. Litigate for leverage
9. Shape reforms that fit the moment
10. Turn visibility into power
11. Strengthen coalitions
12. Diversify your support

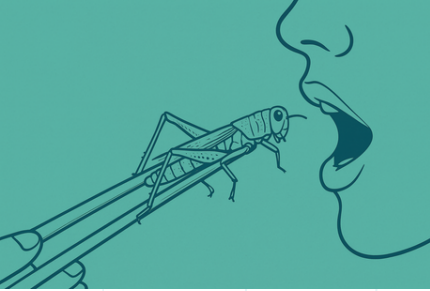


**“We are all drops – but together, we are ocean. -**

**Outcomes from WAJ Webinar, 4 oct 2025 [Here](#)**

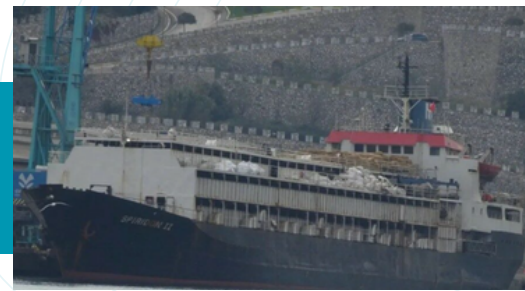
**Read more [online](#)**

# LATEST WAJ BLOG PUBLICATIONS



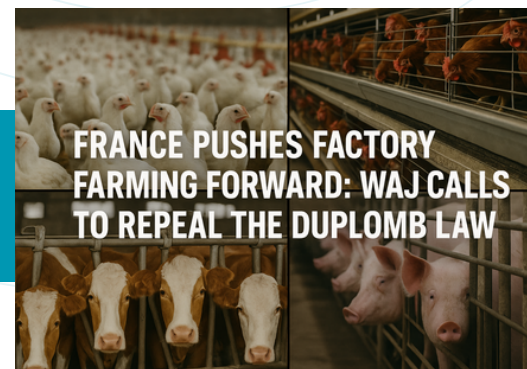
[Insect Sentience: Towards Their Inclusion in EU Animal Welfare Law?](#)

[SPIRIDON II: The Ship of Horror Exposing Crimes Against Animality & The Need for Systemic Change](#)



[Protecting the Rights of Children and Animals: Addressing Structural Violence Through International Law](#)

[Duplomb Law: France Legalizes the Intensification of Factory Farming](#)



[How Emerging Animal Rights Are Reshaping Global Animal Law? Key Insights from Saskia Stucki](#)

[Animal Welfare and Protection Laws in Kenya](#)

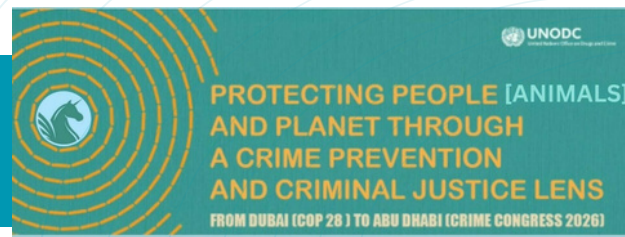






## Anti-Cruelty Laws Database in Africa – Project Launch!

## Crime Convergence: Integrating Animal Crimes into Global Crime Prevention



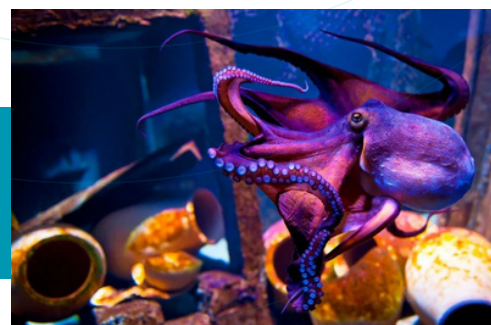
## The European Declaration of Animal Rights: Which Potential Implications?

## Lawyers for Animals Association in Poland: Leading Legislative Change for Animal Protection



## Defund Factory Farming: A Global Priority

## Justice for Aquatic Invertebrates: Ending Cruel Practices Through Legal Reforms





# LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 – BUILDING THE FUTURE OF WORLD ANIMAL JUSTICE TOGETHER

**This new year will be pivotal for World Animal Justice as we deepen our efforts to ensure that crimes against animals are no longer ignored, but addressed within global justice and policy frameworks.** This next phase of our work is only possible thanks to the trust, commitment, and solidarity of our experts, partners, donors, and growing international community.

**In 2026, WAJ will develop and publish key expert reports, strengthen legal analysis, and support high-level advocacy and strategic engagements.** This support enables us to continue transforming legal expertise into concrete action—amplifying the voices of animals within international legal and institutional arenas and reinforcing accountability where it is urgently needed.

**In 2026, WAJ will also participate in the 15th United Nations Crime Congress in Abu Dhabi,** ensuring that animal crimes—and their links to organized and transnational crime—are meaningfully addressed within global crime prevention discussions.

In preparation, we will publish an expert report highlighting animals as invisible victims of crime convergence and convene a high-level expert webinar on this issue, alongside other international webinars developed with WAJ experts and NGO partners.

**In parallel, the Food Forward Europe initiative will be developed in 2026.** The support secured will allow us to strengthen EU-level advocacy and partnerships, advance legal and policy work to redirect harmful livestock subsidies, and promote sustainable, plant-rich food systems aligned with ethical, ecological, and public health objectives. Together, we are addressing the structural drivers of animal exploitation and supporting a transition toward food systems that benefit animals, people, and the planet.

**This work is not carried out in isolation.** Every report published, every legal and policy dialogue advanced, and every legal barrier challenged is the result of collective effort. Our donors, partners, colleagues, and supporters are not observers of this journey—they are an integral part of it.

Together, we are shaping a future where animals are legally recognized as rights-bearing beings, where justice extends beyond species boundaries, and where legal systems evolve to reflect compassion, accountability, and responsibility.

**The momentum is real, and with your continued support, World Animal Justice will keep pushing the boundaries of what is legally possible—for animals, and for all.**

# GET INVOLVED

## • SUPPORT WAJ WORK

WAJ is a fully volunteer-run NGO facing increasing functioning costs.

**We warmly thank our first donors** helping to cover WAJ's first costs in our first couple of years. Your support is essential to our mission for animals.

**Every donation can drive meaningful support to continue our mission!**

**Support WAJ work to combat animal crimes worldwide [HERE](#)**

## • VOLUNTEER

**If you are interested in gaining valuable experience with World Animal Justice, consider volunteering** in communications, social media, fundraising, research, or general operations. To apply, please send us your CV and cover letter.

## CONTACT INFORMATION



**[contact@worldanimaljustice.org](mailto:contact@worldanimaljustice.org)**



**[www.worldanimaljustice.org](http://www.worldanimaljustice.org)**



**[@WorldAnimalJustice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/WorldAnimalJustice)**



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