



Office of the Leader
of the House of Commons

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Tel: 020 7276 1005
Fax: 020 7276 1006
leader@commonsleader.x.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Natascha,

2 Our Ref:
February 2015

e-Petition

I am writing to draw to your attention the e-Petition

Title – End non-stun slaughter to promote animal welfare

Petition Description:

"We call for an end to slaughter without pre-stunning for all animals. EU and UK law requires all animals to be pre-stunned before slaughter to render them insensible to pain until death supervenes. But non-stun slaughter is permitted for certain communities. We support BVA, RSPCA, HSA, FAWC and FVE who conclude that scientific evidence shows that non-stun slaughter allows animals to perceive pain and compromises welfare. We must differentiate between religious and non-stun slaughter. Our concern does not relate to religious belief but to the animal welfare compromise of non-stun slaughter. We note:

- over 80% of UK Halal slaughter is pre-stunned

- hindquarters of animals killed by (non-stun) Shechita can enter the market unlabelled

While non-stun slaughter is permitted we call for clearer slaughter method labelling and post-cut stunning to improve welfare. Non-stun slaughter affects millions of animals. We support a good life and a humane death for all animals"

As you are aware this e-petition has now passed the threshold of 100 000 signatures, which makes it eligible for consideration for debate. I hope that the Backbench Business Committee will now consider the suitability of the issue for debate.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

The Rt. Hon William Hague MP
First Secretary of State and
Leader of the House of Commons

Natascha Engel MP
Chair, Backbench Business Committee