

# **Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALE)**

*"I never give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it's hell."*

*President Harry S Truman*

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**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013** – for immediate release.

**KAALE 'surprised' by Dover Conservative MP comment regarding live animal export investigation / campaign images – described as "an insult to the town".**

On the evening of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, along with the team from Compassion In World Farming (CIWF), anti export campaigners; some who had come from far and wide to show their disgust at the trade operating from Dover harbour, attended a special vigil and image projection display organised by CIWF associated with their recent investigation into the suffering of animals exported from Dover.

You can view extra images and information at the CIWF site:

<http://action.ciwf.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=119&ea.campaign.id=23646&ea.tracking.id=05bb9ddb>

Below are a selection of the images taken by official KAALE photographer Valerie on the night. As CIWF say in their article linked above, 'the animals facing live export (from Dover) can't speak for themselves – so we're speaking up for them'.

KAALE, along with CIWF and many other members of the public; including anti export campaigners, were then somewhat annoyed and surprised regarding an article which then appeared in the 'Dover Express' (a Dover newspaper) at the end of this week; where Conservative MP for Dover and Deal, Mr. Charlie Elphicke, who we have always been informed is against the trade in live animal exports; came out and described the visuals which were beamed onto the White Cliffs and which stated -

*"Welcome to Dover, UK capital of the cruel live export trade",*

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as an “insult to the town”.

Further, the Dover MP called on the campaigners responsible to apologise for their projections !

Read the full Dover Express article here:

<http://www.dover-express.co.uk/Insult-Dover-Elphicke-blasts-campaigners/story-20053419-detail/story.html#ixzz2k9dbRu3o>

The Labour Parliamentary candidate for Dover and Deal at the next General Election, Clair Hawkins, attended the protest and afterwards shared photos of the "Welcome to Dover" projection on her Facebook page. KAALE and the other campaigners thank Clair for her full support of this issue and for her regular attendance at the KAALE monthly demonstration against the trade which are held at noon on the first Saturday of every month at the entrance to the Eastern harbour.

Mr. Dil Peeling, Campaigns Director for Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), described the event as “popular” with Dover folk on the night. Mr Peeling said: “Clearly it’s no insult to Dover or its citizens to highlight the cruel trade in the town.”

**“The live exports trade is the insult to Dover.** People were congratulating us, beeping their horns as they went past. The intention was to highlight that Dover is now the UK capital of this trade.”

KAALE fully agree with these CIWF statements from Dil, and regarding all the work on the issue of live animal exports that KAALE undertakes in and around the Dover area, would say that Dover residents would certainly not regard the visuals shown on Wednesday night as any insult to the town. **If anything is an insult to the town; it is the resumption of regular live animal exports from the harbour** by the Dutchman Mr. J. Onderwater using his ex Cold War battle tank river carrier, the ‘Joline’. The images shown were of animals which had very recently been exported from Dover and which were trailed as part of a CIWF investigation. Nothing is ‘made up’; and as Dil states, **“the live exports trade IS the insult to Dover; not the images !**

The following photos are by V. Cameron – KAALE official photographer



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*Further, both KAALE and CIWF have been behind a national campaign to get the current government to change the existing law on live animal exports from UK ports.*

*The UK government currently uses the UK Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847 as their reason why live exports cannot be stopped. They declare that it is a 'European problem' preventing the trade from being stopped. KAALE consider this statement is a 'buck passing' declaration which is incorrect.*

***As it was passed in 1847, shortly after the Battle of Waterloo; this British legislation, in the form of a UK Statutory Instrument (SI), was passed with Royal Assent after having been through both the House of Commons and the Lords at the time. This legislation is an Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom, which governs UK legislation. And so KAALE are rather perplexed when the existing UK government declares that nothing can be done to***

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**stop live exports from Dover as it is claimed to be a 'European issue' that is causing all the problems.**

**KAALE would go further and declare that by making immediate amendments NOW to this piece of UK legislation dating from the 1800's, the UK Government could move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and give ports such as Dover, the legal right to refuse a trade in live animals for slaughter.**

**This action would not impose an outright ban on live exports, it would simply give UK ports a CHOICE if they wish to have the trade in live animal exports; and so therefore it would NOT be against EU free trade laws, which we at KAALE think the government wishes to continually use as their 'EU problem' excuse for taking no action.**

**KAALE are of the opinion that the Conservative government as always, wishes to push the blame into Europe, when in fact, KAALE consider that there would be no problem with Europe should the UK government wish to amend existing UK law / legislation which was written and passed in 1847; soon after the battle of Waterloo !**

**KAALE ask; why are the current UK government not considering amending this archaic Act of 1847 to give local UK authorities the power to decide who exactly uses their ports, and for what business ?**

- and what has the EU got to do with legislation passed in 1847 by a UK parliament which is still being used ? – were we in the EU in 1847 ? – NO.**
- This Act is in fact a UK law which can be amended by a UK government; it is just that the current UK government which refuses to act with regard updating it !**

**KAALE thus request a full and detailed explanation from Mr. Elphicke on this issue; specifically what exactly the 'European problem' is; and if he cannot provide one, KAALE asks if Mr. Elphicke can write to Defra Minister George Eustice MP for a full and very detailed explanation as to why the 'problem' allegedly lies with Europe and not instead with UK government inaction.**

**We repeat, an amendment to the UK legislation of the 1847 Act by a UK government is not imposing an outright ban on live exports, it is only moving the legislation into 2013 and providing ports with a legal right to refuse the trade in live animals for slaughter if they wish; and so therefore it's not against EU free trade laws.**

**It must be remembered that now, in recent years, animals are classified as 'Sentient Beings' under EU law. This was not the case in 1847 !. UK legislation needs to get up to date with the current status of animals in EU law as detailed in the Treaty of Lisbon 2009.**

**KAALE consider that as is so often the case, the UK current Conservative government are attempting to put blame on the EU, when actually, the blame lies completely with the government of the UK for not taking any action to amend 1847 legislation which is still in place and being used to justify the live export trade. This is even though animals were reclassified in EU legislation by the Lisbon Treaty.**

**KAALE request that the UK government gets a grip and moves 'into 2013 and does not still live back in 1847'. Animal welfare classification has changed quite a lot since then – we do not bait bears and bulls any more; so why still use 1847 legislation regarding live exports ?**

**It is time for change for animals, and that time is NOW.**

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*At the end of the day, the government can act or it remain in 'Waterloo' times.*

*In May 2014 we have EU elections where UK MEP's are elected; in 2015 we will have a UK general election.*

*UK citizens, and that includes anti export campaigners, will vote; and they will vote for a political party that is taking action regarding live animal transport legislation updates.*

*Each day that passes now is a day nearer to those future elections.*

*KAALE suggest that the people are listened to if votes are required for the near future.*

*The current government and other political parties have the choice !!*



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