# Concerns raised over PETA's educational materials in UK schools



A recent report has raised significant concerns regarding the educational materials provided by the animal rights organisation PETA in UK schools. The dossier, titled "Saving Kids From PETA," accuses the non-profit of distributing what it describes as "misleading propaganda" to children as young as five, with the intention of indoctrinating them towards a vegan lifestyle.

The report portrays PETA, well-known for receiving substantial financial support through donations, as having developed instructional materials that are unbalanced and potentially harmful. Critics assert that these educational resources contain emotionally charged messages that lack factual accuracy, under the guise of teaching about animal welfare and rights.

Brian Monteith, a Member of the Scottish Parliament and adviser to PETA Watch—which is responsible for the report—strongly condemned the educational content. He characterised it as "propaganda" that may cause "stress and anxiety" among young children. For instance, one lesson plan focusing on agriculture portrays poultry farming solely in negative terms, stating that animals like chickens, ducks, and pigs are "kept inside sheds with little room to move, no fresh air, and nothing to do." Such statements, critics argue, omit alternative perspectives on animal husbandry.

Additionally, the educational materials include claims that "chickens form friendships" without providing supporting evidence or acknowledgement of differing viewpoints on animal behaviour. Another classroom activity, labelled ‘Zoos: Prison or Paradise’, encourages students to debate provocative assertions, such as: “Animals in zoos are like people in prison, except the animals have done nothing wrong,” and “When there are too many animals in a zoo, they are killed or sent to circuses or other zoos abroad. These zoos may be very bad.”

Monteith contended that the activities present misinformation as if it were factual. He remarked, “It’s presented as if it's some sort of balanced educational exercise, when no sooner do you open the material and you're confronted with a view of a cow lying down in a field with the words ‘help save animals’.” He noted that these approaches seemingly advocate for veganism rather than fostering an understanding of animal welfare issues more broadly.

The issue has sparked debate about the appropriateness and impact of such educational resources in schools, particularly those targeting very young students. While advocates for animal rights may argue for the significance of raising awareness about animal welfare, concerns remain over the potential for one-sided perspectives to influence young minds without providing a comprehensive view of the issues at hand.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/peta-misleading-extremist-views-children-school-bridget-philipson-ban> - This article corroborates concerns that PETA's educational materials are misleading and contain emotionally charged messages lacking factual accuracy, which critics believe are unsuitable for schools.
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People_for_the_Ethical_Treatment_of_Animals> - This Wikipedia page documents PETA's history of controversial campaigns and its animal rights advocacy, including tactics that have been criticized as extreme or misleading.
3. <https://www.peta.org.uk/issues/animals-not-experiment-on/education-training/> - This PETA UK webpage discusses their advocacy against animal dissection in schools, promoting humane alternatives, which mirrors some of the educational messaging critiqued in the report.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is noted as the source of the original report highlighting concerns over PETA's educational materials in schools.
5. <https://www.humaneeducation.org.uk/animal-welfare-and-education/> - This website may provide context on how animal welfare is taught in schools, potentially highlighting the importance of balanced perspectives.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare> - This UK government webpage covers general animal welfare guidelines, which could be used to assess the accuracy of claims made in PETA's educational materials regarding animal treatment in farming and zoos.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2040592/peta-pushing-extremist-propaganda-schools> - Please view link - unable to able to access data