



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
2 December 2014

Rotherham MP Pledges Support to Campaign for Slaughterhouse CCTV

Rotherham MP Sarah Champion has pledged her support to the campaign for mandatory CCTV inside UK slaughterhouses. The campaign – which is now supported by more than 160 MPs – was launched after a three-year investigation by Animal Aid revealed widespread breaches of welfare laws. Slaughterhouse workers were filmed: kicking, punching and beating animals; burning them with cigarettes; picking them up by their fleeces and throwing them into stunning pens; and dragging them by their ears. Animal Aid also recorded animals being improperly stunned and coming round again, and suffering painful electrocution instead of being stunned.

Sarah, who has served Rotherham since 2012, signed a parliamentary motion calling for mandatory CCTV to monitor working practices inside UK slaughterhouses and reiterated her support by agreeing to be photographed with a campaign banner.

Sarah said: “I’m proud to support the campaign for mandatory CCTV inside UK slaughterhouses. Investigations by Animal Aid found welfare breaches are commonplace and often very serious. There is no place for such behaviour and I believe that independently monitored cameras could help end such abuse.”

Kate Fowler, Head of Campaigns with Animal Aid said: “There is no excuse for the savagery we filmed inside some slaughterhouses, and yet it went on right under the noses of vets stationed there to monitor welfare. Clearly, we need a more robust regulatory system, and CCTV can play an important part in deterring and detecting welfare breaches. We are very grateful for the support of Sarah and her compassionate colleagues.”

In a 2014 YouGov poll commissioned by Animal Aid, 76 per cent of British adults support CCTV being made mandatory in all UK slaughterhouses (with independent monitoring of the footage). When taking into consideration only those who expressed a view, that figure rose to 87 per cent.

A petition on the government’s Number 10 website has already attracted more than 45,000 signatures. It can be found at: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/64997>

Notes to Editors

- For more information or to arrange an interview with Animal Aid, contact Kate Fowler on 01732 364546 (put of hours 07751 990082)
- For full campaign background, along with a list of MPs who support the campaign, visit www.SlaughterhouseCCTV.org.uk

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