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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **DEFRA's proposed response to FAWC report 2003 The Welfare of Animals at Slaughter or Killing – Part 1: Red Meat Animals**

The government has published (and invited comments) on its proposed response to the Farm Animal Welfare Council's report entitled: **"The Welfare of Animals at Slaughter or Killing – Part 1: Red Meat Animals."** Animal Welfare Minister, Mr. Ben Bradshaw stated: "We will not ban the production of halal or kosher meat."

We welcome the government's resolve to reject Farm Animal Welfare Council's (FAWC) recommendation to repeal the current legislation that allows religious slaughter to be undertaken without stunning on grounds that to do so will '*not be consistent with the provision of the Human Rights Act 1998*'.

Sound principles of animal welfare and safety of human health are other important reasons for which the above recommendation should be rejected.

FAWC's recommendation that "*bleeding should be carried out by severing both carotid arteries*" to hasten death falls within the requirement of the humane process of religious slaughter. We support this recommendation and urge the Government to accept it.

Religious slaughter encompasses a wide range of animal welfare principles that include the way animals are reared, grazed, fed and kept before slaughter, the way they are treated during the process of slaughter as well as the precise method of slaughter. These principles are as relevant today as they were when prescribed over 1400 years ago. We welcome the adoption of many of these principles in FAWC's recommendations and will be pleased to offer support in our response to the consultation process.

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