



His Holiness Pope Francis  
The Vatican

17 February 2025

Your Holiness,

Greetings from PETA. We wish you a swift and full recovery. We hope that this blanket, decorated with the image of a bull rescued from the cruelty of bullfighting, helps you stay warm and aids with healing.

Now, more than ever, the world needs your wisdom, guidance, and compassionate presence. In that spirit of compassion, we urge you to use your influential voice to denounce the cruel and violent spectacle of bullfighting—a torturous execution that involves repeatedly goading and stabbing a bull until he is weakened and dying. St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals, reminded us: *“Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission to be of service to them wherever they require it.”*

Bullfights, often held on holy days or in honour of Christian saints, stand in stark contrast to the mercy and kindness that Jesus preached. It’s imperative that the Catholic Church take a brave stand, reaffirming that the true faith is rooted in love, not cruelty. We urge you to stand up for God’s creatures – you are their only hope.

Respectfully,

Mimi Bekhechi  
Vice President, UK & Europe

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