

# SA teacher tells UN Conference that Humane Education is vital for Sustainable Development and Community Upliftment



A Cape Town school teacher presented the concept of Humane Education to a United Nations Forum on Sustainable Development in New York on September 7, 2006.

Invited to speak as part of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) delegation to the UN Conference on Millennium Development Goals, **Vivienne Rutgers** (above) spoke on why the development of empathy in learners

was vital for human security and sustainable development.

As a teacher at Forest Heights Primary School in Eerste River, Rutgers became interested in Humane Education after seeing a display stand by the **Humane Education Trust** at Cape Town's YES Programme in 2003.

She subsequently became a consultant, in her spare time, to the **Humane Education Trust** in its endeavours to align humane education with the Learning Areas and Learning Outcomes of the National Curriculum.

Recently, she was transferred, as subject adviser, to the WCED's Education Management and Development Centre in Kuils River.

"I am totally convinced," she says,

"that the inculcation of ethics and values in society has fallen on the shoulders of educators, like myself, and it is something we dare not shrug off.

"I do not believe that we can solve violence in our society with high fences and razor wire. If we are to fight violence effectively and uplift our

communities for a sustainable future, we will have to reach into the hearts of learners and develop that vital quality called 'empathy'.

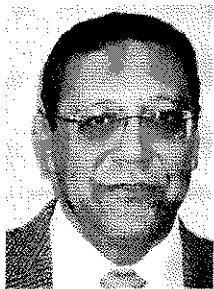
"That is why the traditional 3 Rs must become the 4 Rs — Reading, 'Riting, 'Rithmetic and RESPECT for all life."

Rutgers was also asked to speak on Humane Education at WSPA's world conference in London in June.

Reading, 'Riting,  
'Rithmetic and  
Respect for all life

## Ambitious New Project to Scientifically assess Humane Education's Impact

Under the guidance of **Mr Melvyn Caroline** (below), Director in the Western Cape Education Department's East Metropole, South Africa is set to become the first country in the world to assess scientifically the impact of Humane Education on learner behaviour.



The pilot project is a partnership between the **Humane Education Trust**,

the **Western Cape Education Department**, the **Department of Anthropology and Sociology** at the **University of the Western Cape**, the **Department of Psychology**

at the **University of Cape Town**, and the teachers, parents, community leaders and learners of the **East Metropole**. Already, **Sharyn Spicer** (right), a doctoral student at the University of the Western Cape, is studying the impact of violence on learner behaviour, in collaboration with the University of Missouri in the USA. The other side of this coin will be the impact of humane education on learner behaviour.



Data resulting from this project will begin to become available in December 2007.

Animal Voice is published by  
**The Humane Education Trust**

Public Benefit Organisation  
Registration No: 18/11/13/4237  
Charitable Trust  
Registration No: IT450/2001  
Non-Profit Organisation  
No: 039-611-NPO

**P O Box 825  
Somerset West 7129  
South Africa**

**[www.animal-voice.org](http://www.animal-voice.org)  
[avoice@yebo.co.za](mailto:avoice@yebo.co.za)**

Tel/fax:  
**+27 21 852 8160**

Editor:  
**Louise van der Merwe**  
SA Representative  
for  
Compassion in World Farming

**Part of the Humane Education Trust's role in this ground-breaking project will be to provide our Humane Education resources for the learners. Please help, as generously as you can. See donation form enclosed.**