



SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

The Future is Cage-Free: *Hens don't have a voice but, we do!*

05 May 2026

Who is SAFCEI?

SAFCEI is a multi-faith organisation committed to increase awareness, understanding, and action on eco-justice, sustainable living and climate change. We work with African Traditional Healers, Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Quaker, and a wide range of Christian denominations.

We emphasise the spiritual and moral imperative to care for Earth and the community of life. We call for ethical leadership and speak out on issues of eco-justice, encouraging citizen action.

SAFCEI has a long history of mobilising faith-based and civil society networks to demand public accountability and food sovereignty. Established in 2005, SAFCEI has transitioned from general environmental advocacy to a focused rights-based approach that centers the "right to food" as an issue of both social and climate justice.

About SAFCEI

In line with SAFCEI's faith approach, how humans relate to fellow sentient beings, we believe that egg laying hens should be treated with compassion and kindness. Campaigns to stop businesses from caging hens also creates an opportunity to educate faith communities on animal welfare.



SAFCEI & Open Wing Alliance

Initiated by The Humane League, the Open Wing Alliance brings 100+ member organizations together to create a unified front in our goal to end the abuse of chickens worldwide. We share campaign strategies, tactics, and resources around the world in the march toward our shared objective.

Our first step toward achieving this ambitious goal is eliminating battery cages from our world, and we're working towards achieving that vision, one cage-free policy at a time.

In cases where the cage-free campaign is essentially complete in certain countries, OWA has started creating resources and giving grants to support campaigns that improve the lives of chickens raised for meat.



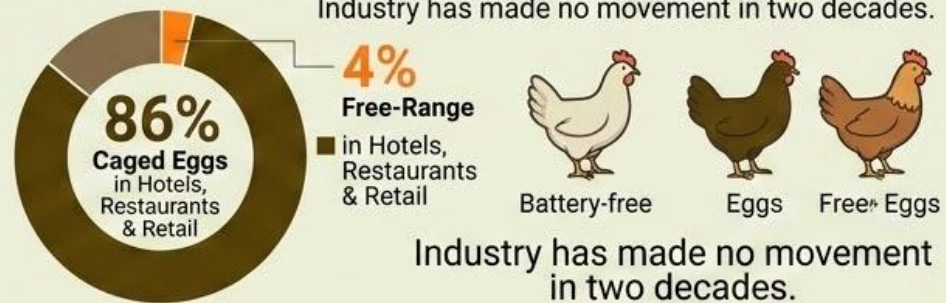
Why do we do this cont'd..

The Problem: Cramped Confinement



95% of SA Layer Hens Confined. 
Only 1% Cage-Free. 

Market Stagnation & Opportunity Gap

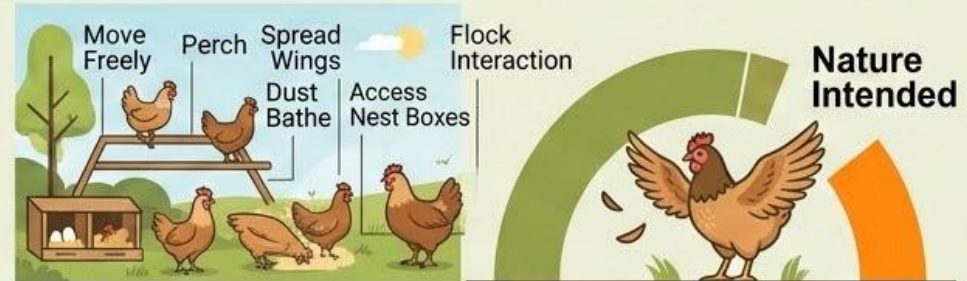


Human Health & Consumer Safety

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Higher-Quality Eggs  | Protect Consumers  Protect soxriem | Reduce Health Risks  Salmonella Avian Flu |
|---|--|--|

Protect consumers from Salmonella and Zoonotic Diseases.

The Cage-Free Vision: Nature Intended



Ensure a healthier life free from a cramped cage.

No Faith in False Solutions

How do we do this?

Cage-Free Eggs Commitments

- What are cage-free commitments, how are they achieved and why are they important?
- Global north trends, and where the global south and Africa is?
- Local commitments and their impact.
- Context focused corporate engagement targeted at impactful food companies.

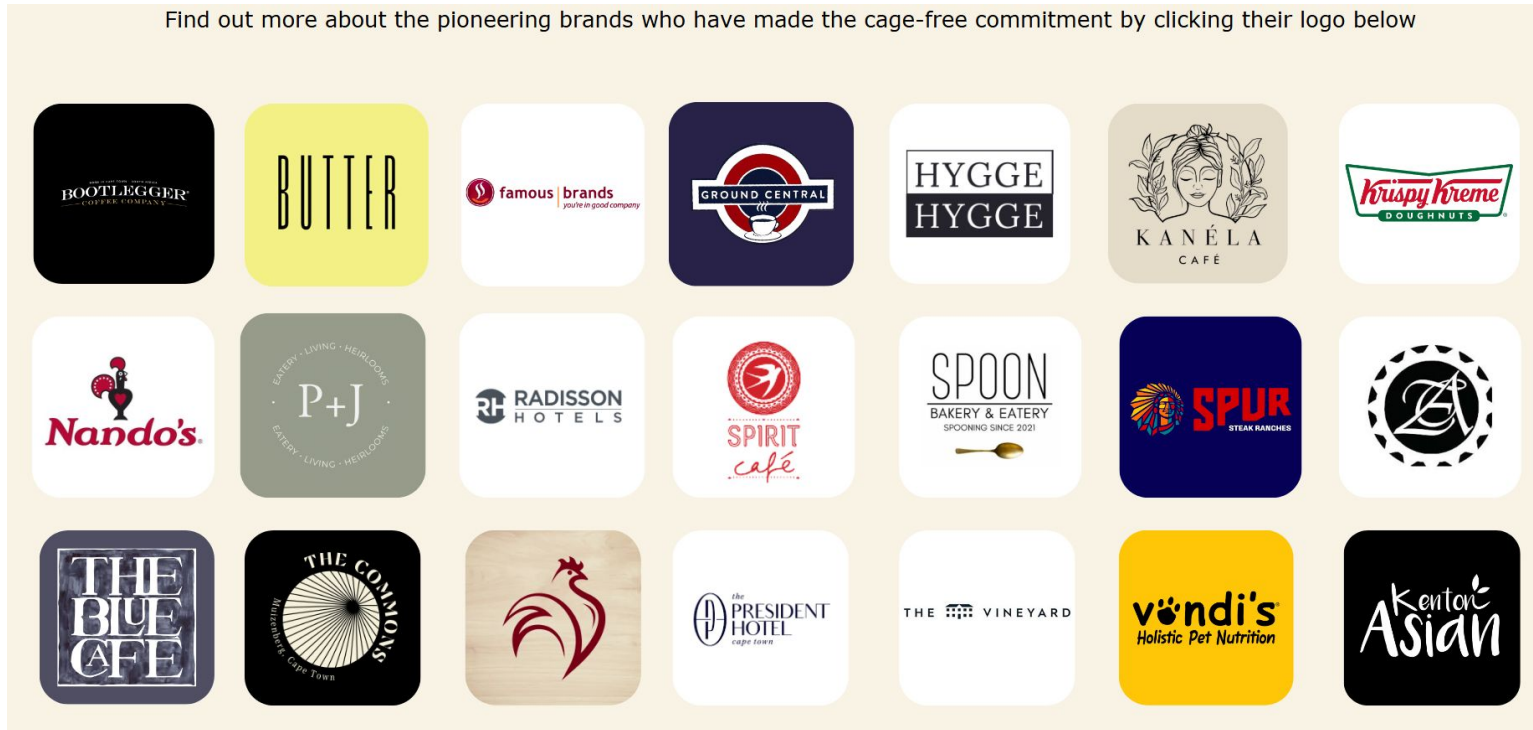
Notable campaign wins so far



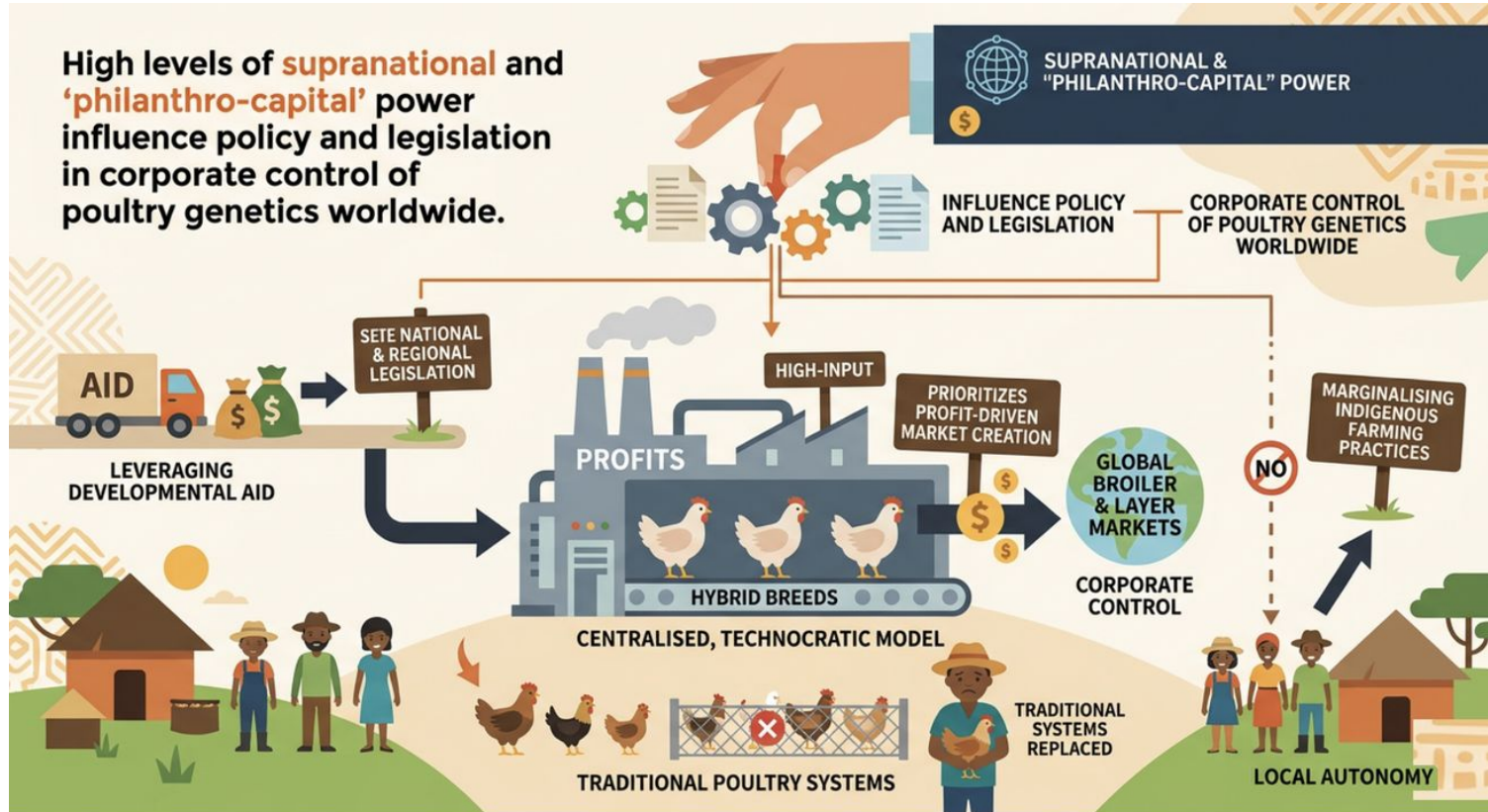
Campaign Updates

Cage-Free South Africa Campaign:

Find out more about the pioneering brands who have made the cage-free commitment by clicking their logo below



High levels of supranational and “philanthro-capital” power influence policy and legislation in corporate control of poultry genetics worldwide.



Increased corporate concentration in food systems diminishes individual and community agency—the ability to make choices and have a voice—through three primary mechanisms:

Market Power:

Large firms can exploit their dominance to generate excessive profits by raising prices for consumers while lowering wages and opportunities for workers.

Material Influence:

These companies dictate the physical realities of the food system, including production technologies, working conditions, and the level of processing in foods, which restricts the options available to the public.

Political Power:

Corporations use lobbying and indirect influence to shape food policies, effectively sidelining democratic participation and public interest in governance.

We have exposed industry, we still can

'Eggposure' Campaign:



Faith leaders involvement

- As a person of faith (or none) you can make a difference: Join SAFCEI's efforts to stop this abuse of Chickens
- Join the EarthKeepers network and help us protect the environment.
- There will be further campaigns this year to take part in – looking forward to having you participate with us!

Better for people, better for planet, and better for hens.

THANK YOU

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