

## DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE

*Kill two birds with one stone*

*Catch the bull by the horns*

*Beat a dead horse*

*Be a guinea pig*

*The straw that broke the camel's back*

Expressions like these perpetuate cruelty to animals, degrades them, and places us in a position of supremacy.

### **News of the world**

*A '**herd**' of minors rapes a 14-year-old girl in Mallorca*

It is an upward trend to name the perpetrators of sexual abuse and rape as a **herd**, which the dictionary defines as a group of certain animals of the same species. Another example of how despicable human actions are perceived, transferring the notion that nonhuman animals (*a pack of wolves or deer*) personify evil and depravity.

*Parents who kill their children: **animals***

It is the title chosen by a journalist from *La Vanguardia* to report the terrible news of the atrocious murder of the two girls in Tenerife at the hands of their father.

Being an "**animal**" contrasts with the meaning of "**human**", an adjective which means *kind* and *sympathetic*.

**Animals** embody irrationality and vices, **humans** on the other hand embody perfection and virtue.

Words are important, ideas are modeled with them and principles are defended. Words are essential to understand reality. The words that we use reflect our way of seeing the world and shape our minds, and as our perception of social justice evolves, our language evolves.

Language determines the development of thought and it is unacceptable in our society to use racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory language against people with disabilities. If we assume that language shapes and defines us, **macho** expressions or jokes bring an image of women as "second-rate" citizens. These expressions would be considered discriminatory because they reflect someone inferior.

The moral consideration of others, of the different, has to increase as we evolve. We go first from the family to the tribe, to the clan, then to the nation, hopefully finally to all of humanity. **Does it reach the other animals today?**

If we want to be fair to the other species, **shouldn't we make an effort to stop using these expressions?**

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