

Interview with Kelly Ryan of Vegans Take London



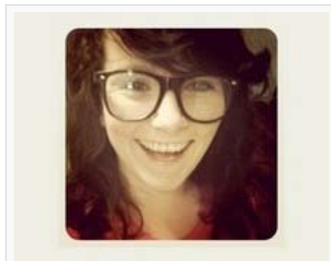
Corey Wrenn, Roanoke Vegan Examiner
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Kelly Ryan of Vegans Take London
Credits: Kelly Ryan

In celebration of [World Vegan Month](#), I will be hosting a collection of interviews with vegan abolitionists from across the globe. I'm excited to have this opportunity to showcase vegan activists and give a face to our beautiful movement. Be sure to check back for regular installments throughout the month of November.

Today's featured vegan abolitionist is Interview with Kelly of Oxford, England, contributor to [Vegans Take London](#).

Kelly, please tell us about yourself. How did you become vegan? What type of activism do you participate in?

I've been vegan for 2.5 years and have never looked back. Realising what I had been investing in as a consumer of animal products has driven me to become a passionate advocate for veganism and the abolition of all animal use. My activism is simple, and focuses on engaging people from my day to day life in discussions about veganism and animal use in the hope that I can make them question their inconsistencies.

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What do you think should be the focus of the non-human animal rights movement?

Simple and thoughtful vegan education is the key. [Big campaigns](#) are not always necessary and are counter-productive if the focus is on reform or a single issue, rather than the basic right of animals not to be property. Speciesism isn't a word that most people will have heard before, so bringing that word and it's definition to people can help them to re-evaluate their inconsistent lifestyles.

What are some of the biggest obstacles to reaching our goals?

New-welfarism and huge charitable organisations peddling [welfare reforms](#) are the obvious bad guys but there are also more subtle ways in which speciesism seeps into our culture. The media, including advertising, presents a huge obstacle in redefining the rights of animals and in recognising our speciesism. Television shows that reveal ways in which other animals are kept, used and killed serve to make people feel more comfortable about their own consumption and adverts that I'm seeing on television, particularly in relation to bovine creatures are awful. One in particular advertises beef gravy and in it the bull jumps out of the gravy boat and does a song and dance to 'I like the way you moo', celebrating how delicious he is. If you change the context to relate to a human, rather than a bovine creature the utter absurdity of the campaign is revealed. [This, and many other adverts, ridicule the unhappy life and death of other animals for our pleasure and make this ridicule part of normal culture.](#)

How is your activism impacted by where you live?

Regionally I am aware that a lot of welfare campaigns are taking place and as the only abolitionist I know in the Oxford, UK area I'd have a rather mammoth task in trying to tackle it! Having lived in this area for only 9 months I have struggled with the country lifestyle here, which includes many people keeping horses and the annual game fair at which some animals are revered and others are eaten (go figure). Moving here has definitely opened my eyes as to how much work there is to do.

What else informs your activism?

As the only abolitionist vegan I know locally, I lot of my time is spent researching abolitionism, reading articles, lurking in online groups and educating myself. I write for [Vegans Take London](#), which attempts to give a snarky, upbeat take on vegan issues.

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- [The Abolitionist Approach](#)
- [Vegan Freak: Being Vegan in a Non-Vegan World](#)
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By **Corey Wrenn**
Roanoke Vegan Examiner

Corey Wrenn is a doctoral candidate in sociology currently researching the vegan movement. She is an abolitionist vegan and is adviser to a...

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