



What does IKC stand for

IKC is an initiative focused on recognising animal sentience and reducing animal suffering by developing solutions that do not ignore people's right to choices, farmers' rights to livelihood, the country's focus to sustain economic growth, and the future generations' right to a greener planet. It is about also acknowledging that animals have rights too and that it is important to respect them.

IKC is pro-animals: IKC believes that the **core issue is animal sentience and the right of animals to a life of dignity**. In the industrial age, animals are being treated as a commodity without any regard to their ability to feel pain and pleasure – this is leading to animals being subjected to the same processes as inanimate inputs like iron, steel or chemicals. To reduce costs and maximize yield, which is the natural & acceptable mode of driving efficiency, they are subject to progressively higher levels of confinement in smaller spaces and mutilation, leading to invisible cruelty at scale.

This is not the fault of any individual – the system has evolved to be like this due to a lack of awareness and/or acceptance of the fact of animal sentience.

This core issue transcends religion, dietary practices & preferences, domicile, and caste. IKC believes that it is crucial for our society to engage with the core issue of animal sentience, the invisible cruelty that the system has evolved to impose, and the need to gradually move to alternative technologies. It is equally crucial to avoid a polarising debate about dietary practices of individuals as it can distract us from the core issue.

IKC is pro-choice. We respect that individuals have the right to make choices that impact their lives. It is well-accepted that the freedom of choice is not absolute - we accept some restrictions to our choices where these could harm our fellow human beings e.g. respecting traffic lights. It is our view that we should be willing to accept some restrictions to our right to choice if it harms other sentient beings. However, this needs to be voluntary and driven by behaviour change led by awareness, and by nudging mechanisms incorporated into the state & private policies.

IKC is pro-health. We believe in evidence-based and science-based decisions and choices. There is evidence that generally plant-based diets are healthier, and it is possible to get adequate & diverse nutrition from plant-based sources. As a country, we need to address protein deficiency for the poor by developing sustainable and affordable plant-based protein sources.

IKC is pro-sustainability. It is well established that animal agriculture is one of the key drives of GHG emissions and uses disproportionate amount of natural resources. We believe that a gradual transition towards a plant-based food system will help us leave a healthier planet for our future generations. We also believe that mindful consumption of resources will minimise waste, lighten our ecological footprint, and protect the planet that sustains all life.

IKC is pro-growth. We believe that it is crucial to drive economic growth to eradicate poverty and to protect livelihoods. We believe that animal welfare should become a consideration and should be integrated into the national development agenda – this is not inconsistent with the growth agenda. Currently, animals are ignored and this is perpetuating and accentuating invisible cruelty. Instead, we should develop and integrate animal welfare standards into the public and private policy, and work on a just transition of farmer livelihoods to alternative farming vocations that enhance their incomes e.g. cage-free egg farms.

IKC is pro-solutions. As a society, we need to focus on the solutions which include:

- development and integration of welfare standards in the agri-industrial supply chains, and



- a gradual and guided transition to plant-based nutrition driven by voluntary behaviour change by individuals led by awareness building & nudging mechanisms in public and private policy.

We believe the above approach is entirely consistent with the gospel of Karuna and Ahimsa which was propounded in India and has provided guidance in times of stress or confusion to our country. Accepting and acting on this issue of animal sentience will strengthen the moral fabric of our society.