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# Open letter: The British Government must take global leadership with a 'total ban' on the ivory trade

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A huge stock of ivory was burned in Kenya earlier this year CREDIT: BEN CURTIS/AP

30 OCTOBER 2016 • 10:00PM

**N**early 100 leading conservationists, campaigners and politicians have called in this open letter to the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, and Environment Secretary, Andrew Leadsom, for the Government to take action against the illegal ivory trade



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We, the undersigned elephant biologists, wildlife conservationists, international wildlife trade experts, Members of Parliament, concerned representatives of the media and the public, call on you and the Government to take the following further and immediate measures to enhance the protection and survival of wild elephants, building on the modest steps that you have taken to date.

- Close all remaining legal loopholes that facilitate the laundering of illegal ivory as ‘antique’ (pre-1947) and pre-Convention (pre-1975), by introducing a total ban on domestic ivory trade. Evidence broadcast tonight by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall on the BBC (Saving Africa’s Elephants: Hugh and The Ivory War.), confirms that illegal ivory is being sold using the current exemptions, and that even recently-revised legislation is simply inadequate and does not prevent activities which continue to feed both domestic, European and global ivory markets.
- Provide additional resources, with funding from the Department for International Development, to bring enhanced security to human communities that live alongside wild elephants and whose livelihoods are threatened by poaching, wildlife-related civil unrest, and by human/wildlife conflict.
- Increase our efforts to disrupt the supply routes used by criminal syndicates which ship ivory and other wildlife products from source countries to overseas markets, in line with the work of the Transport Task Force established following the London Summit on Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2014.
- Support demand reduction strategies in destination countries to help ensure that all their citizens are aware of the lethal consequences of buying ivory which fuels the poaching of 30,000 elephants a year.

The Government’s 2015 Manifesto commitment, to “continue to lead the world in



stopping the poaching that kills thousands of elephants each year” and “press for a total ban on ivory sales” could not be clearer.

Now is the time to take further resolute action and, working with international partners, non-government organisations, and reflecting the overwhelming wishes of the British people, it is time to turn that promise into reality.



Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall presents *Saving Africa's Elephants* CREDIT: BBC/KEO

Notwithstanding the British Delegation’s declared decision to vote with the EU block at the Johannesburg CITES meeting on all issues, including those relevant to elephants, the views of many of us in Britain in favour of a stronger position on elephant-related issues were neither adequately represented nor delivered.

In the past, the Government has been an international leader on this issue. Indeed it was under Mrs Thatcher’s administration in 1989 that the United Kingdom led efforts that resulted in a global ivory trade ban.

It is time for the Government to take a global leadership position once more and help secure a long-term future for wild elephants and their natural habitats, while at the same time supporting local communities who live alongside these extraordinary and irreplaceable creatures.





The Duke of Cambridge is the Royal Patron of the Tusk Trust CREDIT: CHRIS JACKSON /GETTY

We hope that the United Kingdom's position with regard to our future elephant conservation strategy will be made abundantly clear at the forthcoming Illegal Wildlife Trade meeting to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the 17-19<sup>th</sup> November, and that the measures we have set out in this Open Letter will be enacted as a matter of the utmost priority.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Lord Hague of Richmond

Rt Hon. Owen Paterson, MP, Conservative - North Shropshire

Virginia McKenna OBE, Co-Founder, Born Free Foundation

Adam M Roberts, CEO Born Free USA

Allan Thornton, EIA US

Alexander Rhodes, Stop Ivory

Angela Rayner MP, Labour - Ashton under Lyne

Ann Michels, Species Survival Network

Anne Kent Taylor, Conservationist and Founder A.K Taylor Int'l/Anne K. Taylor Fund

Angela Sheldrick, Chief Executive Officer, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb, Green Party

Baroness Young of Hornsey, Crossbench Peer

Bryan Adams

Caroline Lucas MP, Green Party Co-leader

Carter and Olivia Ries, Co-Founders, One More Generation

Catherine Doyle, M.S., Director of Science, Research and Advocacy PAWS

Cathy Liss, President, Animal Welfare Institute

Charlie Mayhew MBE, Tusk Trust

Chris Draper C Biol MRSB, Associate Director – Animal Welfare and Care, Born Free Foundation

Dale Jamieson, Professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy, New York University

Dr Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE, Founder, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

Damien Aspinall, Aspinall Foundation

Daniela Freyer, Co-Founder Pro Wildlife

David B. Casselman Esq., Co-Founder of the Cambodia Wildlife Sanctuary

David Hancocks, Former Director (Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, Washington) and Melbourne Zoo and Werribee Open Range Zoos, Victoria, Australia

David Shepherd CBE, Founder and President, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

David Wynne-Morgan, President, Bell Pottinger Financial and Corporate/Trustee, Born Free Foundation

Donnamarie O'Connell, Senior Policy and Programme Advisor (Africa), RSPCA

Prof. Jonathan Baillie, Zoological Society of London

Dr. Keith Lindsay, Amboseli Trust for Elephants, Kenya

Dr. Rob Atkinson, Zoologist

Dr. Ros Clubb, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Dr. Rosalind Reeve, Senior Adviser, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

Dr. Alejandro Nadal, Centre for Economic Studies

Dr. Joyce H. Poole, Co-Founder and Scientific Director, ElephantVoices

Dr. Lori Marino, Executive Director, The Kimmela Center forAnimal Advocacy

Dr. Paula Kahumbu O.G.W, CEO Wildlife Direct

Ed Stewart, President and Co-Founder, Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)

Elizabeth Emanuel, Fashion Designer

Georgina Lamb, Fundraising, Events and Policy Manager, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

Prof. Graeme Young, Trustee, Born Free Foundation

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Journalist and Presenter

Ian Redmond OBE, Ambassador for the UN Convention on Migratory Species

James Lewis MRICS, Presenter, Auctioneer and Valuer

Jenny Seagrove, Trustee, Born Free Foundation

Jeremy Cooper, CEO, RSPCA UK

Jill Robinson MBE, Dr. med vet, Founder and CEO Animals Asia Foundation

Joanna Lumley, Founder Member, Born Free Foundation

John Cleese, Writer/Actor/Comedian

Dr. John Knight, Veterinarian, Zoo and Wildlife Management Consultant

John Stephenson, CEO, Stop Ivory

John W. Grandy, PhD, Executive Director, The Pegasus Foundation

Johnny Rodrigues, The Chairman of Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force

Julie Sherman, Executive Director, Wildlife Impact

Julie Woodyer, Zoocheck Canada

Kerry McCarthy MP, Labour - Bristol East

Dr. Kate Evans, Founder & Director, Elephants for Africa

Lisa F. Kane, JD, Attorney

Liz Bonnin, Wild Animal Biologist and Presenter

Lord Judd MP, Labour Peer

Lord Stoddart of Swindon, Independent Labour Peer

Marc Bekoff, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Professor emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Marcelle Meredith, Executive Director of the National Council of SPCAs in South Africa

Maria Mossman, Founder - Action for Elephants

Martin Clunes OBE, Patron, Born Free Foundation

Mary Rice, EIA International

Michael Drake, Trustee, Born Free Foundation

Michael Kennedy, Director, Humane Society International (Australia)

Michael Reyner, Chairman, Born Free Foundation

Mr. Petter K. Granli, Co-Founder, President and CEO, ElephantVoices

Nick Knowles

Nicky Campbell OBE, Broadcaster and Wildlife Campaigner

Ofir Drori, The EAGLE Network and LAGA - The Last Great Ape Organization

Paul Monaghan MP, SNP - Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

Paula Sparks, Barrister and Chairperson, Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare

Peter Stroud, Independent Zoological Consultant



Philip Mansbridge, Director UK, International Fund for Animal Welfare

Prof. Phyllis Lee, Director of Science, Amboseli Trust for

Elephants and Prof. of Psychology (University of Stirling)

Prashant Khetan, Chairman, Born Free USA

Prof. Andrew Knight, Professor of Animal Welfare and Ethics, & Director, Centre for Animal Welfare, University of Winchester

Prof. Claudio Sillero, University of Oxford

Prof. Vincent Nijman, Professor in Anthropology, Oxford Brookes University

Rob Hepworth, Ex-Head, UK CITES Management Authority; former Executive Secretary, UN Convention on Migratory Species

Ms Rula Lenska

Ruth Powys, CEO, Elephant Family

Sally Case, CEO, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

Dr. Sandra Altherr, Co-founder, ProWildlife

Sarah Uhlemann, International Program Director,

Stanley Johnson, Co-Chairman, Environmentalists for Europe

Stephen Wells, Executive Director, Animal Legal Defence Fund

Steven M. Wise, Esq, Founder and President, the Nonhuman Rights Project

Sue Olsen, Chairman, Olsen Animal Trust

Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D., Humane Society International

The Revd. Professor Andrew Linzey, Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

Timothy Oloo HSC, Kenya Country Manager, Born Free Foundation

Will Travers, Co-Founder, CEO and President, Born Free Foundation

Dr. Winnie Kiiru, CHD-ConservationKenya



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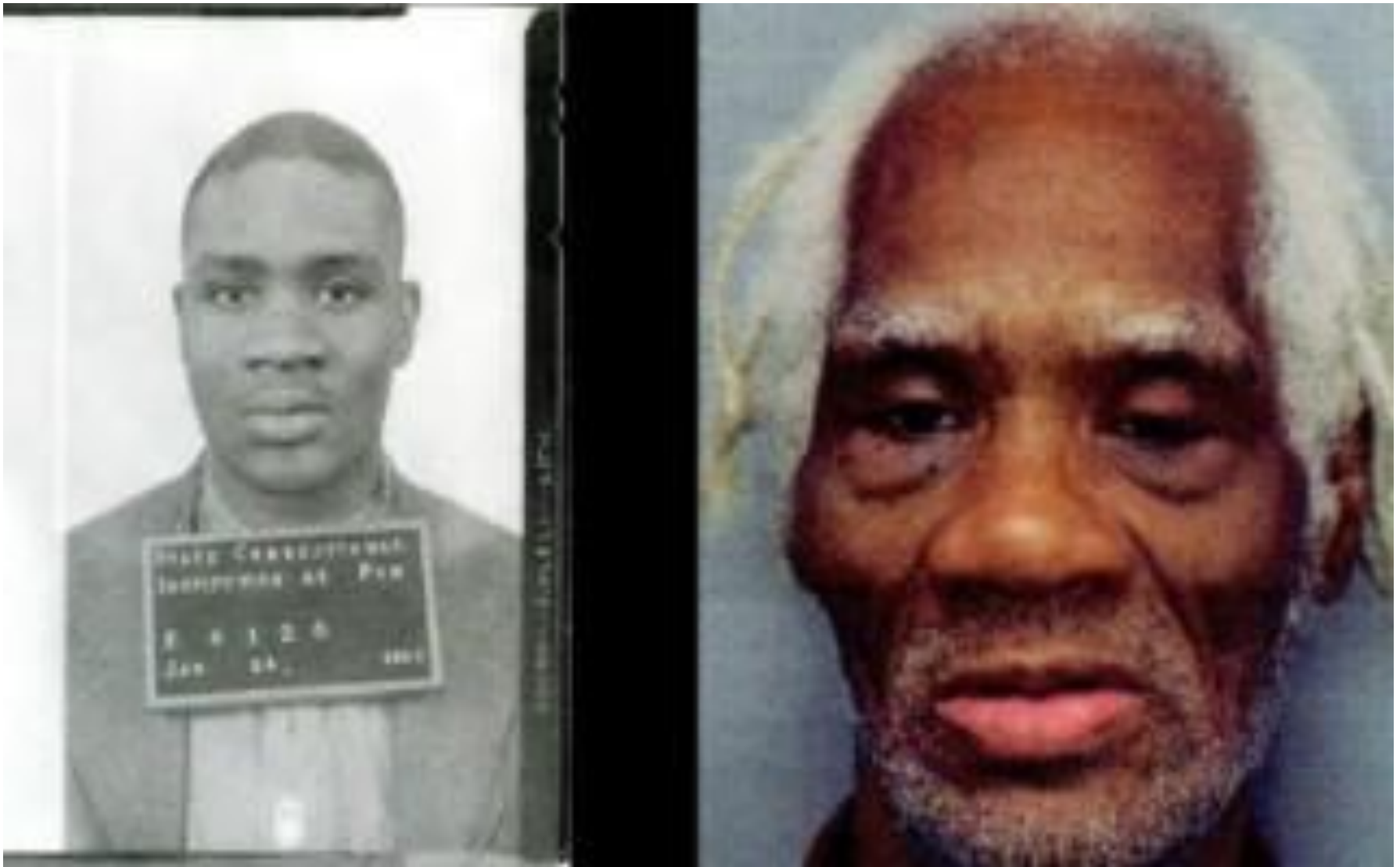






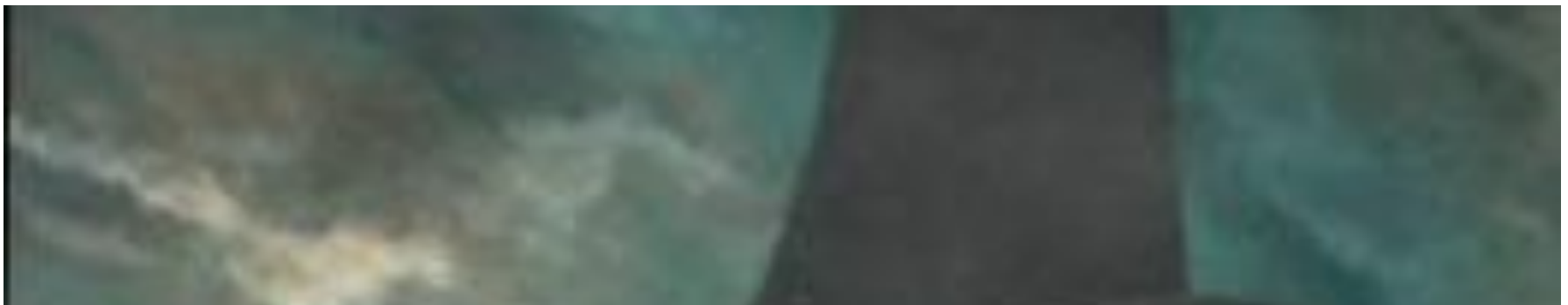
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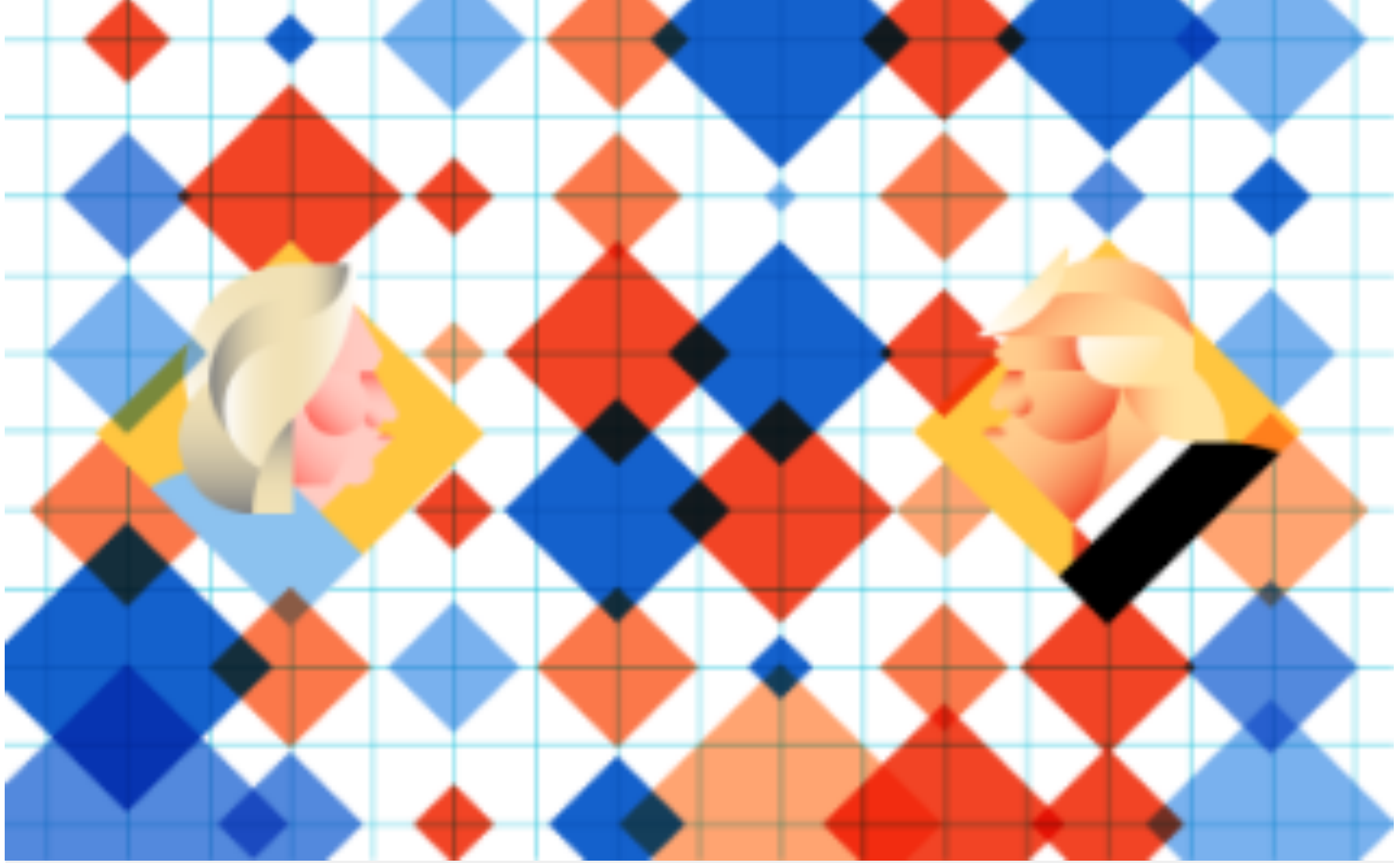
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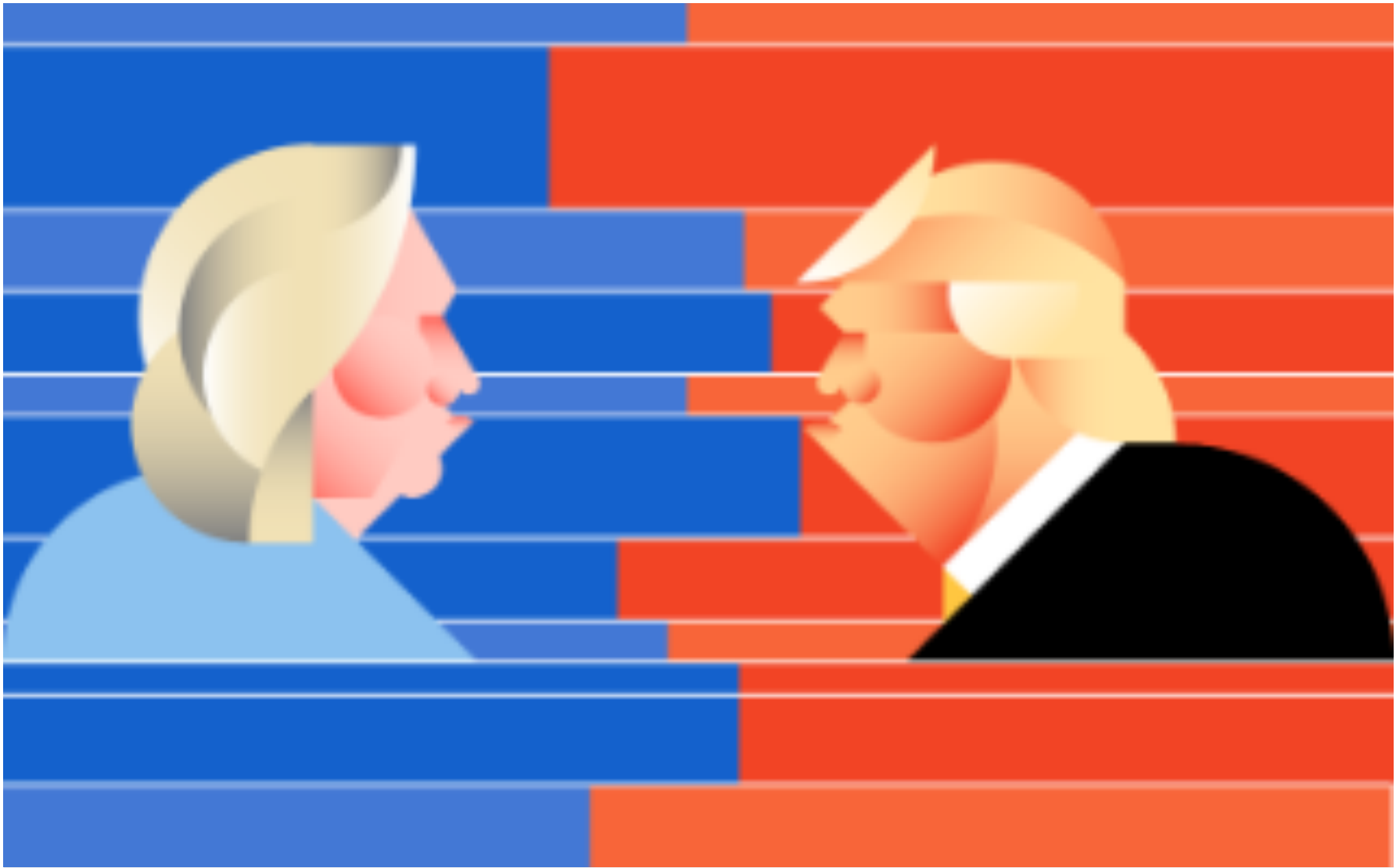
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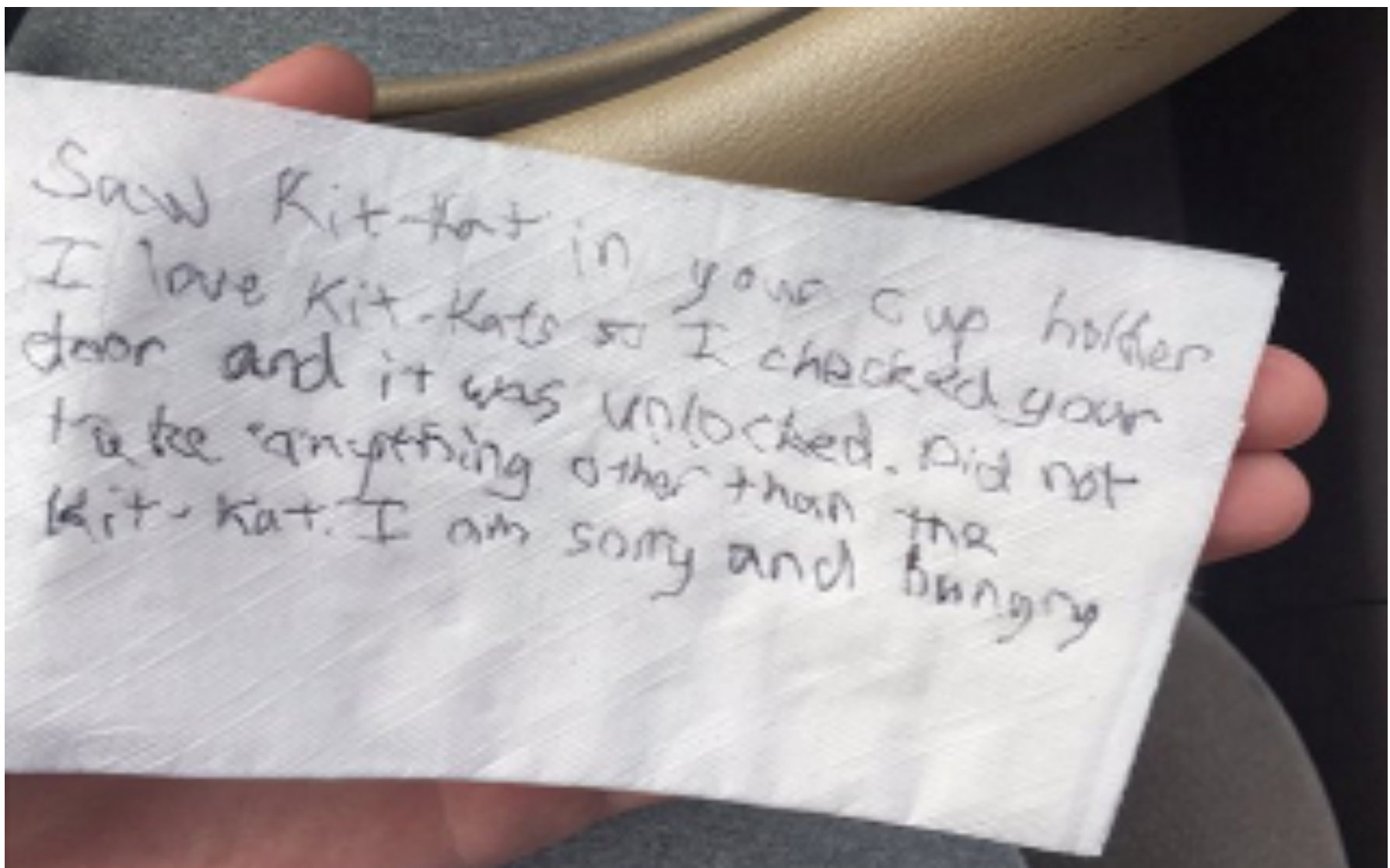
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