



Publication: Daily Star (online)  
Date: 07.01.19



# ‘Radical Islam has won’ Backlash after Halal and Kosher meat banned in Belgium

A BAN on halal and kosher meat has sparked a furious backlash from religious groups.

Share Tweet 147 SHARES

By Rachel O'Donoghue / Published 7th January 2019



BANNED: Halal and kosher meat have been banned in Belgium (Pic: GETTY)

The traditional Islamic and Jewish ways of slaughtering animals has been outlawed in Belgium the European country – despite fierce opposition from religious groups.

EU regulations state livestock must be stunned before being killed so they cannot feel pain.

However, Halal and Kosher methods do not involve stunning, with religious laws dictating the animals are alive when their necks are cut.

But the change has sparked a furious response from religious leaders.



SALE: Halal and kosher meat can be sold in the UK but not produced here (Pic: GETTY)

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, the president of the Conference of European Rabbis, even claimed the ban is proof “radical Islam has won.”

He said: “We are in the midst of an attack on the freedom of religion.

“The European capital has, with its laws and lack of tolerance for minorities, proven that radical Islam has won.

“We managed to block many [similar pieces] of legislation in other countries in Europe and attempts to pass bills in the European Parliament and initiatives in the EU’s agencies.”

Muslim and Jewish leaders are now challenging the change to the law in Belgium’s Constitutional Court, saying it violates their religious freedom.

But animal rights groups have said religion is not above the law, with Ann De Greef, director of Global Action in the Interest of Animals, criticising those who “want to keep living in the Middle Ages”.

She said: “They want to keep living in the Middle Ages and continue to slaughter without stunning – as the technique didn’t yet exist back then – without having to answer to the law.

“Well, I’m sorry, in Belgium the law is above religion and that will stay like that.”

Halal and Kosher meat production is not allowed in the UK, although it can be imported from abroad.

<https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/751946/belgium-ban-halal-kosher-meat-backlash-religious-groups>

