

# LEGAL PERSONHOOD

## GLOSSARY

- 1. Autonomy:** the ability to engage in independent thought and decision-making.
- 2. Captivity:** a state where a living being is confined in a particular area and prevented from escaping.
- 3. Chimpanzee:** a mammal, part of the family Hominidae (the Great Apes). These animals share approximately 99% of their DNA with human beings.
- 4. Discrimination:** the differential treatment of people, without a good reason. Unacceptable reasons include treating someone differently purely because of their race, skin colour, ethnicity, gender or sexual identity.
- 5. Corporation:** one type of entity created by law which can act as a legal person. These entities can sue and be sued, own property and be held legally accountable for their actions.
- 6. Habeas Corpus:** a type of legal remedy which can be used to bring prisoners before a court to make a ruling on whether they have been lawfully imprisoned.
- 7. Law:** a rule-based system adhered to within a certain jurisdiction, in which the rules agreed to by the community are used to regulate the behaviour of community members.
- 8. Legal Obligation:** a duty which one is bound to uphold by law.
- 9. Legal Person:** an entity which is the holder of legal rights. The entity is most commonly a human being, but also may be a corporation, ship or natural entity (such as a river).
- 10. Legal Right:** a legal entitlement to something protected by law.
- 11. Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP):** an organisation established by US lawyer Steven Wise, which aims to change the legal status of certain animals (such as Great Apes, elephants, dolphins and whales) from 'property' to 'legal persons'.
- 12. Property:** a thing owned by a legal person. Things do not have legal rights. Owners have various rights with respect to the things they own – including the rights to sell and destroy.
- 13. Self-awareness:** the ability to identify a separate sense of 'self', distinct from other entities. It is the understanding of one's individual character.
- 14. Speciesism:** a form of discrimination against non-human animals by humans, stemming from the presumption that human beings are superior to all other species on earth. It involves treating non-human animals differently to human beings purely because they are not human.