



A N J E L I C A H U S T O N

Shri K.J. Alphons
Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism
Room No. 301
Transport Bhavan
Parliament Street
New Delhi 110 001

Dear Minister,

As much as I was enchanted by India when we filmed *The Darjeeling Limited* there, I am haunted now by the image of a mother elephant and her calf—fleeing, screaming, from a mob hurling fiery tar balls at them in West Bengal. I am writing to express my solidarity with all compassionate Indian citizens, whose concern I share at the longstanding plight of elephants in this otherwise beautiful country.

I appeal to you on behalf of caring citizens around the world to ban the use of elephants for rides, move rescued elephants to sanctuaries, and empower those in the hideous elephant-abuse business to take up more upstanding professions.

Most Indians—like the person who took the photograph of the panicking mother elephant and her calf—care about elephants, India's own national heritage animal, and many worship elephants as representatives of Lord Ganesha. So it pains me that these widespread sentiments are ignored by some in their efforts to attract tourists, causing elephants to be enslaved, chained, beaten into submission, forced to give rides, treated as living begging bowls, and deprived of all that's natural and important to them.

Today, thanks to the internet and videos captured by caring people, including my friends at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the global public is increasingly standing against spectacles that cause elephants to suffer.

May I please hear from you?

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anjelica', written in a cursive style.

Anjelica Huston