

Dear Comisión de Cultura del Congreso de los Diputados:

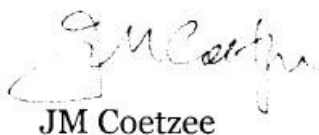
I am disappointed to learn that you are considering new steps to protect bullfighting as what is being called a cultural pastime.

Bullfighting is an archaic form of entertainment. It is a violent, bloody spectacle – a throwback to a time when people took no heed of the feelings of animals and the bull was an object of torment for boys who wanted to impress their fellows.

Bullfighting has had a long history in Spain, but times and sensibilities have now changed. Today, we see clearly that it is not fair to pit a skilled, practised, sword-wielding matador against an unwilling, confused, maimed, psychologically tormented and physically debilitated animal.

Tormenting and butchering bulls for entertainment belongs in the Dark Ages – not in 21<sup>st</sup> century Spain. I urge you to reject the initiative to protect bullfighting as a cultural activity. Cruelty is not part of our culture.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of JM Coetzee in black ink, appearing as a stylized cursive script.

JM Coetzee