

FREEDOM OF SPEECH



Freedom of Speech

- In order to clarify the arguments surrounding free speech, we will be talking about where it originates from, how it differs around the world, and what some of its limitations are.



Definiton of freedom speech:

- Freedom of speech is a part of freedom of expression, which means that individuals have the right to express themselves in whatever way they wish.



- It's about the legal right to express or seek out ideas and opinions freely without fear of censorship or legal action.



Is Freedom of Speech a human right?

- The Universal declaration of Human Rights was created in 1948 by representatives of 50 states from the United Nations.
- They were created in response to the Second World War, as a way of trying to prevent such a wide-scale conflict from ever happening again.



- Article 18 states that **everyone has the freedom to believe whatever they want, and practice their beliefs** (including religion), article 18A states that **everyone has the right to express their opinions freely, in whichever way they want.**



Does FOS mean you can say anything?

- The short answer is no. The longer answer is that the specific law will depend on the country you're in, but generally, there will always be exceptions to the rule.



- For example, in the UK's article 10, the law states that public authorities can restrict the right to free speech if:



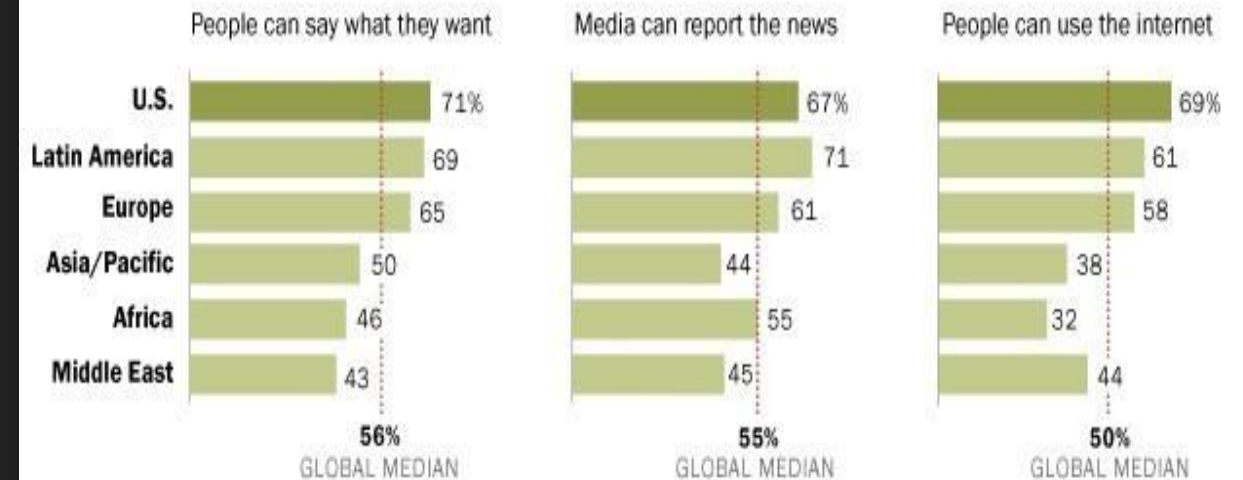
Freedom Of Speech around the world:

In this study, the researchers surveyed respondents from 38 different countries about their attitudes towards freedom of expression.

While the U.S. surprisingly came out as the most supportive of free speech, other countries with a high level of support included Mexico, Canada and Australia.

Americans especially supportive of free speech, press freedom and internet freedom

Regional median saying it is very important that __ without state/govt censorship in our country



Note: Global median of 38 countries. Russia and Ukraine not included in Europe median.

Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes Survey.

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- Some examples of countries with low levels of support for freedom of expression included Jordan, Pakistan, and Ukraine.



Note: Support for free expression is measured using an eight-item index ranging from 0-8, with 8 representing the most supportive of free expression. Respondents were coded as 0 or 1 for each of the eight questions, where 1 indicates support for allowing free speech or press in a particular situation and 0 indicates support for government restrictions on free expression in some circumstances. Of the questions included in the index, five questions ask about free speech and three questions ask about free press. The mean score for each country is used in this analysis.

Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes Survey.

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Why Freedom Of Speech is important?

The biggest reason is that freedom is supreme in a democracy. If we cannot speak freely, it often means that our rights are being restricted in some way.



- Critical discussion and constructive criticism would not exist without people being able to express opposing beliefs.
- In this way, disagreements can be extremely productive.



Limitations of Freedom of Speech

'Advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion' is always prohibited.

However, it is also worth mentioning that freedom of speech and expression has limitations depending on the specific context you're in.



Freedom of Speech vs Hate Speech

Hate speech can be defined as speech that is abusive and threatening towards a certain group of people, generally based on race, gender, sexuality, religion, or disability.



Some might ask, since people are allowed to speak their minds and voice all opinions, why can't they simply express their dislike for certain things?



Conclusion:

Being able to question society is a positive feature of democracy, and we believe that developing curiosity is an essential part of the human learning experience.





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Thank You!