

NEVER DOCILE

The Gain-of-Function Free Speech Fanzine

ENGLISH VERSION

JUL-2026

#01

UNDER 16 AND SAFE...

...OR HOW
PROTECTION IS
THE EXCUSE FOR
CONTROL



HIT BOLT
FREE SPEECH MFKER
EST. 2K25



Security vs control

The UK's New Mandatory Age Verification Plan for Minors

STARMER PUSHES FOR TIGHTER CONTROL OVER MINORS' ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA.

The government prioritizes digital protection but completely overlooks the safety of the streets and neighborhoods.

When protection becomes control

History shows that few words are more effective at expanding state power than security and protection. Almost any measure can be justified if it promises to keep someone safe. The more uncomfortable question is: what are we willing to give up in return?

The United Kingdom is considering banning social media access for anyone under the age of sixteen through mandatory age verification systems. The stated goal is to protect young people from the harmful effects of online platforms. A legitimate objective. But every form of protection comes at a cost, and in this case that cost may be the gradual normalization of greater control over citizens' digital identities.

Each new layer of verification makes anonymity the exception and identification the rule. What is presented today as a measure for minors could tomorrow become the infrastructure used to regulate other aspects of everyday life. History also teaches us that mechanisms created for one specific purpose rarely remain confined to it.

Privacy then ceases to be understood as a fundamental right and gradually becomes a revocable privilege. Step by step, we grow accustomed to identifying ourselves in order to access services, express our opinions, or simply take part in public conversation. These changes seldom arrive overnight; they emerge through small concessions that, taken individually, appear perfectly reasonable.

"What is presented today as a measure for minors could tomorrow become the infrastructure used to regulate other aspects of everyday life"

This is not an argument against protecting children, nor a denial of the genuine risks that exist online. It is a reminder that a free society depends on preserving a careful balance between security and liberty. Once the pursuit of protection begins to outweigh the value of privacy, it is worth asking whether we are still raising free citizens—or merely becoming users who are increasingly easy to monitor.

IN SPAIN, THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A SIMILAR LAW THAT WOULD RAISE THE MINIMUM AGE FOR ACCESSING SOCIAL MEDIA, STRENGTHEN AGE VERIFICATION, AND IMPOSE GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES ON PLATFORMS REGARDING MINORS.



Old enough to vote... Too young to think?

The system's paradox

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT IS MOVING TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO SIXTEEN

Is there a connection between restricting minors' access to social media and giving sixteen-year-olds the vote?

If sixteen-year-olds are considered mature enough to choose who governs the country, they are presumed capable of evaluating political ideas, weighing competing arguments, and making informed decisions about the future of society. If that is true, why should the same individuals be considered too vulnerable to decide where they get their information?

A democratic society depends on citizens who can think critically, question authority, and compare different viewpoints. Restricting access to information while expanding political responsibility appears, at the very least, to raise an important question about the consistency of that principle.

Perhaps there is no connection between these two policies. Perhaps they are simply independent attempts to address different issues. But when a government simultaneously seeks to shape the information environment of future voters while granting them the right to vote, it is reasonable to ask whether protection is the only objective—or whether influence also becomes part of the equation.

IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH
TO CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT,
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH
TO CHOOSE YOUR SOURCES.





**THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO REGULATE
THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION OF THE
VERY PEOPLE IT WILL LATER ASK TO VOTE.**

The mood of a nation

Britain is experiencing one of the most polarized periods in its recent history.

FOR MANY PEOPLE, BRITAIN NO LONGER FEELS LIKE A COUNTRY WHERE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT FEAR OF SOCIAL OR LEGAL CONSEQUENCES.

Debates surrounding immigration, gender identity, religion, national identity and public security have become increasingly confrontational.

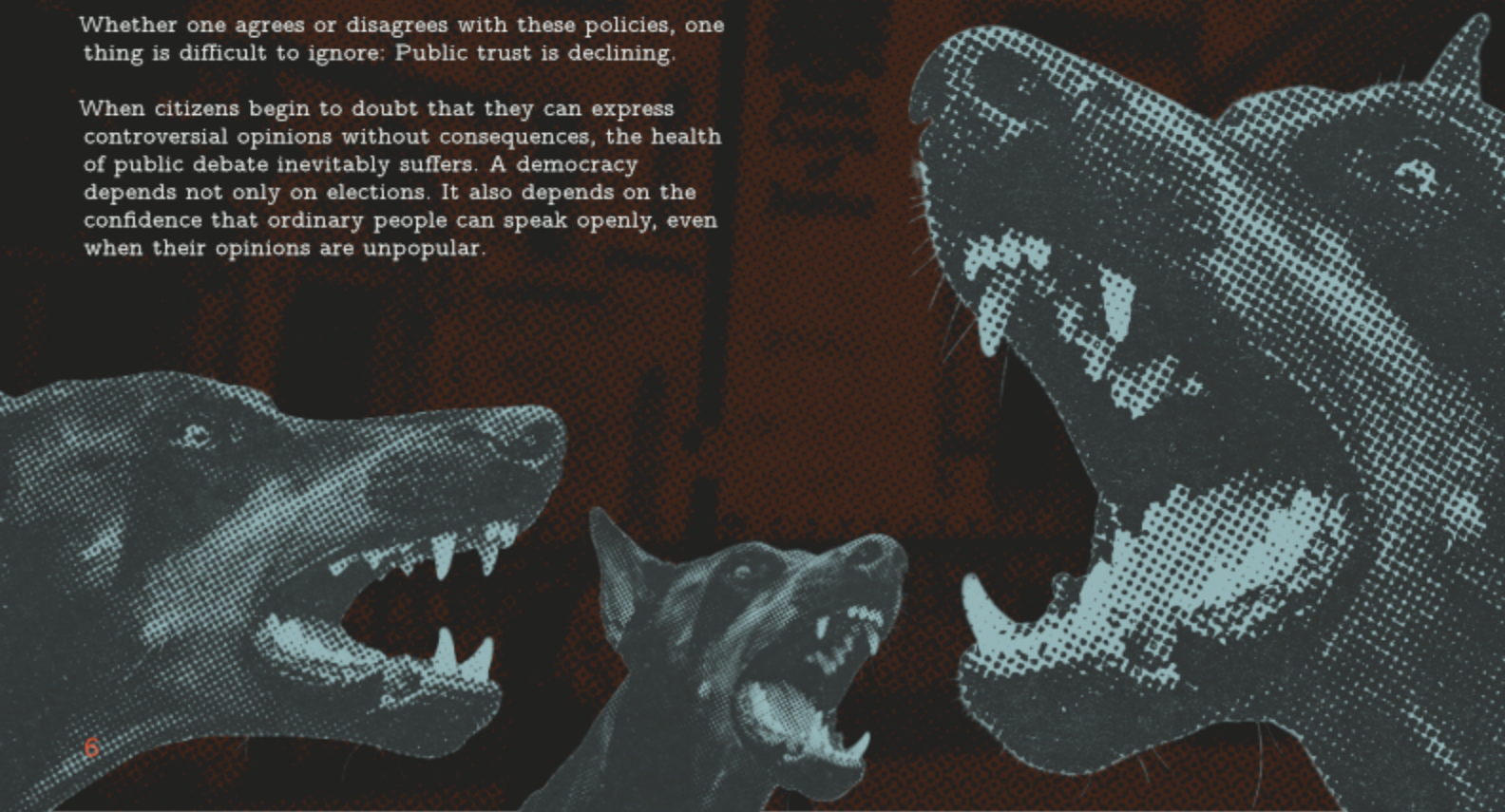
The New Rules of Public Debate

The British government has introduced new online safety measures, platforms have expanded content moderation, and police have investigated or prosecuted some forms of online communication under existing legislation.

Supporters argue these measures are necessary to protect vulnerable groups and maintain public order. Critics respond that the boundaries between unlawful conduct, offensive speech and legitimate political opinion have become increasingly difficult to distinguish.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with these policies, one thing is difficult to ignore: Public trust is declining.

When citizens begin to doubt that they can express controversial opinions without consequences, the health of public debate inevitably suffers. A democracy depends not only on elections. It also depends on the confidence that ordinary people can speak openly, even when their opinions are unpopular.



The power to define

Who decides what hate is?

Every society has a responsibility to confront genuine threats: incitement to violence, terrorism, harassment and criminal intimidation deserve legal consequences. But beyond these clear cases lies a far more difficult question. Where does criticism end and hatred begin? Who draws that line?

Every law depends on definitions. Every definition depends on interpretation. And every interpretation ultimately depends on the people entrusted with applying it. That is why the greatest danger to freedom is not always censorship itself. Sometimes it is the concentration of the power to define.

If governments, regulators or digital platforms become the final arbiters of which opinions are acceptable, freedom of expression no longer depends on the words we speak. It depends on who is listening.

A society that cannot clearly distinguish between disagreement and hatred risks allowing subjective interpretation to replace objective law.

History teaches us that rights are strongest when their limits are clear. When those limits become increasingly flexible, every citizen is left wondering whether tomorrow's opinion may become tomorrow's offence.

Freedom disappears when definitions become subjective.



Redefining the future

Today, new technologies, new laws and new forms of regulation are reshaping the relationship between citizens and the State. Every generation faces its own debate about where freedom ends and security begins.

The challenge is not to reject protection, but to ensure that it never comes at the expense of the very freedoms it claims to defend.

Rights have always evolved. They were not written once and for all. They are redefined by every generation willing to defend them.

Perhaps that is Britain's next challenge—not to abandon its historic role as a pioneer of free speech, but to prove once again that a modern democracy can protect its citizens without asking them to surrender their independence of thought.

Because democracy is strongest when power serves individual liberty, not when individual liberty serves power. The future of free speech will not be decided by governments alone. It will be decided by citizens who refuse to stop asking questions.

Speakers corner

From riot to right

**1866: HOW PUBLIC PRESSURE WON
A FUNDAMENTAL UNIVERSAL RIGHT**

The Birthplace of Free Speech

Located on the northeastern edge of Hyde Park in London, Speakers' Corner has become one of the world's most enduring symbols of free expression. More than just a physical location, it represents the belief that every individual has the right to speak publicly, challenge authority, and exchange ideas without prior permission.

Its origins can be traced back to the eighteenth century, when public executions at Tyburn Gallows allowed condemned prisoners to deliver a final speech before their sentence was carried out. These last words—sometimes confessions, sometimes acts of defiance—planted the first seeds of a tradition in which public speech became an act of courage and resistance.

The modern history of Speakers' Corner began in 1866, when members of the Reform League gathered in Hyde Park to demand voting rights for the working class. After the government attempted to suppress the demonstration, violent clashes erupted and continued for three days. Rather than silencing public debate, the unrest strengthened demands for freedom of assembly and expression.

A year later, another demonstration of more than 150,000 people placed even greater pressure on the government. These events eventually led to the Parks Regulation Act of 1872, which formally recognised the right to hold public speeches in Hyde Park, establishing Speakers' Corner as a permanent forum for open debate.

Throughout the twentieth century, the site became a stage for political activists, philosophers and social reformers. Figures such as Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, George Orwell, William Morris and Marcus Garvey all used the space to present ideas that challenged the status quo. Their presence transformed Speakers' Corner into a living laboratory of political thought and intellectual dissent.



ER DOCILE



The concept soon spread beyond Britain. Similar public speaking spaces were established in cities such as Sydney, Toronto, Singapore and Amsterdam, proving that the idea of open public debate could inspire societies across the world.

More than 150 years later, Speakers' Corner remains active every Sunday morning. Believers, atheists, activists, comedians and curious passers-by continue to gather, argue and question one another face to face. In an age dominated by digital communication and algorithm-driven conversations, it reminds us that freedom of expression is not only a legal principle—it is also a social practice.

Speakers' Corner stands as a reminder that every fundamental right begins with ordinary people willing to speak, listen and defend the freedom to disagree.



1196-1783 THE LAST WORDS

LONG BEFORE FREE SPEECH WAS PROTECTED BY LAW, IT SURVIVED IN THE MOST UNLIKELY PLACE: BENEATH THE GALLOWS.

AT TYBURN, THOSE CONDEMNED TO DIE WERE ALLOWED ONE FINAL ADDRESS TO THE CROWD. THEIR LAST WORDS BECAME ACTS OF DEFIANCE, TRUTH AND RESISTANCE, PLANTING THE FIRST SEEDS OF BRITAIN'S TRADITION OF PUBLIC SPEECH.

WATCH IT, READ IT, THINK IT, AND PASS IT ON



Video/YouTube

@TLDRnews

Does the U.K. Have a Free Speech Problem?

"In this video, we're going to try our best to figure out whether the UK does actually have a free speech problem, and argue that - wherever you stand on the issue - it's hard to deny that the current legislative framework could do with a rework."



Video/YouTube

@ImpACTIntforHumanRights

UK Free Speech Crisis 2026: Two-Tier Policing, Online Arrests & Censorship Surge Explained

"Is free speech under threat in the UK? A recent university debate covered by Mersey News Live on February 11, 2026, has reignited national concern over rising censorship, selective law enforcement, and what critics call "two-tier policing."



Video/YouTube

@OsloFF

Pavel Durov / Communication Technology and the Struggle for Freedom

"At the Oslo Freedom Forum, Pavel Durov shares how Telegram emerged from a commitment to free expression and why defending digital freedom is central to protecting human rights today."



Book

Intellectual Freedom Blog

Free Speech: A History From Socrates to Social Media by Jacob Mchangama

"The book may be eye-opening for many readers because it not only reveals that "free speech" as an explicit idea has been popular (or notorious) for much longer than one might think..."



Video/YouTube

@techprivacy9272

Not a Social Media Ban. It's a Mass ID Scheme

"The UK is moving closer to an Australia-style social media ban for under-16s. But the real issue is not just whether children should be protected online. Almost everyone..."





HIT BOLT



FREE SPEECH MFKER

EST. 2K25

HIT BOLT

FREE SPEECH MFKER

EST. 2K25

«ONE OF THE MOST
DANGEROUS TRENDS OF
OUR TIME IS MAKING TRUTH
SOCIALY UNACCEPTABLE,
OR EVEN ILLEGAL,
AS WITH LAWS AGAINST
“HATE SPEECH.”»

THOMAS SOWELL

Economist and Author

