

FREE SPEECH

Free speech is necessary for public participation in all matters of public interest, in particular to discuss and evaluate existing and proposed legislation, but also to promote individual interests. However, like every other right, that of free speech comes together with a duty: in this case, that of telling the truth. Censorship won't do to achieve this goal because it is the very denial of free speech, and because it presupposes that the censor is the owner of the truth. There are only two fair and effective ways of preventing that free speech be used to deceive the public. One is to exercise the very same right in counterattacking. The other is to resort to the courts to punish cases of slander and malicious falsehood, from the propagation of racism to the advertising of alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

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