

## Do we have enough freedom?

To answer this question I first had to ask myself the question, What is freedom? Political revolution? Putting a metal stud through your tongue? Standing on a box in the park and saying what you think? Backpacking around the world? Not being persecuted or tortured? Holding a passport and the right to vote? Spiritual enlightenment? Escaping grinding poverty? Dying your hair blue? Freedom from what?

The oxford dictionary tells us that it is personal liberty, non-slavery, right to do, power to self determination But what are these but words. When I sat down to Study this subject, I was actually stunned by the complexity of the subject at hand. And I came up with more questions How can I write a speech in a few hundred word to define weather we have enough of something I have trouble defining? One person can tell me their view of freedom another can tell me another.

Well I then realised instead of looking at every ones beliefs, I must find my own. I began to define how the word can behave if a friend locked herself in a room with lots of music she would be free to listen to that music all day long but she could not go anywhere.

So I think the definition must be to do whatever we want when we want. So that we are free to do anything. Yet most people think of themselves as free in this country. Yet we have rules stopping us from doing anything we want. To avoid chaos or that is at least what we are made to believe. So by my definition any rules are removing ones freedom. Is that correct? So I came up with another definition of freedom.

A person is free if they can do what they want within reason. Yet within a few minutes I found this to be inadequate. So my final decision was that The truth is that freedom means different things to different people. For the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo it meant an end to Serbian rule. For Marxists it means an end to economic

exploitation when the workers own the means of production. For black people living in countries where power is held by the whites, it means equal rights and opportunities, regardless of colour. For many Children it simply means an end to parental tyranny.

So after I worked that out I was better equipped to deal with the question at hand. In this county we have many rules to prevent many things. The first rules the human race wrote down were the ten commandments, these basic rules allowed societies to be run and still today our laws are based on them. Since those times we have added and manipulated rules so that they are not one or two lines but possibly thousands of lines in a paper. This covers supposedly every possibility.

Lawyers still find loopholes. We spend millions of pounds every year paying professionals to find ways around these laws. So I ask myself what is the point make the rules simple and straight to the point lawyers wont be able to do this anymore. I think it is not really the basic laws we live on the that are the problem but the case laws. If somebody got hurt and manages to get money through court, for damages it means the law Is changed. So in the future so it is far easier to get the money in similar cases for others. How can this be a good thing?

Due to our law system people can get off most things if they have a good enough lawyer. For example a woman who had undoubtedly killed her husband. She blamed it on a temporary hormone imbalance. Due to the fact that she was pregnant and got off. That to me is a Grosse miscarriage of justice. In the current law system its acceptable.

The new name for what is happening today is spin, a lawyer will put a certain spin on it to make it not seam so bad. Yet it is the same crime. It horrifies me to think the British justice system is fooled by this. A person can walk free after killing someone. Yet a person who stole a handbag gets 18 months. I cannot stand here and take a moral high ground but surely it is possible to see the clear injustice.

Sadly due to this system teachers have to be ever more careful. Many forms have to be filled out just to go

on a trip for an afternoon. It almost seems not worth it. And so inevitably we will end up with teachers not wanting the work and so less and less is done in schools. Every one in a position of responsibility has to document every thing he does and make no mistakes or he or she could find themselves up in court. I have to ask you and myself whether that is right.

On the other side of the argument. We are told that need these forms and red tape, to prevent accidents and misconduct, but at what cost will we continue on this path. Until we have to ring up and tell the government we are going to the toilet. Many believe that we need the system in place of suing people for compensation. But people sue their employers for accidents in the work place. The thing that worries me most about that statement is the fact that it was an accident. Not on purpose. If that is considered acceptable soon you will find that if someone bumps into a pole of a market on a street and they tip their cup of coffee on themselves because they were not looking where they were going. The stall holder will owe the person thousands in compensation.

How long can we go on living like this. I think we need to put an end to this American style, I will sue you if you touch me attitude. And people should take more responsibility for their actions.

Our freedom is being eaten away day by day  
lets stop it now.