HDIM.NGO/0164/18/EN 13 September 2018

Working session 3: Freedom of the Media Set My People Free Intervention Free Freedom of the Media



The News Week magazine had an interesting cover at the end of the cold war in 1992 a map showing; East Europe coming apart and Western Europe coming together

The fear I had then was Will Western Europe become the Eastern Europe of the future?

Is it happening today? What are the warning signs for that? Losing freedom of media and freedom of expression.

The strength of Western Europe is Freedom of Expression. This is what made it what it is. You are responsible to protect the future of Europe so that it does not become like Eastern Europe before the fall of the iron curtain.

Dangerous warning signs

Accepting only one narrative, enforcing it by giving it immunity from debate and critical thinking takes away freedom of Expression

A) Censoring Social media

We see warning signs by the way the state wants to control the social media to keep one narrative.

There is no reason or excuse to take away freedom of speech and expression from the individual.

Freedom of the social media is to protect the individual and the whistle-blower from the tyranny of the state.

What is more dangerous - the main stream media or my FB page when it is bias?

Why do mainstream media have the freedom and not I? Why are they not censored In spite of all the bazaar things they publish?

We are adults and expected to make right judgements. We do not need to have quardians.

Social media keeps the main stream media accountable.

B) There should be no issues, ideologies or belief systems immune to debate and critical thinking

Today we are using hate speech, Islamophobia and political correctness to stop that. Truth should not be afraid of being challenged, criticised or scrutinised.

We should not use hate speech as an excuse. Who is going to define hate speech? We should listen to the warning of Dr. Jordan Petersson about the importance of freedom of expression.

But sadly today we have at least three no-go issues or narratives, where there is no freedom in the media to debate these narratives.

We are using Islamophobia to immune Islam from any critical thinking and scrutiny and applying islamic blasphemy laws to silence any decent.

We have to realize that islam is not a race.

But we need to know that it is a belief system, which you should be able to join or leave. An ideology can be good or bad.

We should not use this terminology to choke freedom of expression.

We should not use this word to make the individual vulnerable under it's oppression.

Gender neutrality We understand by common sense, history and biology that there are female and male. There is a father and a mother. We are going against all this destroying the community and the society by destroying the nucleus, which is the family. We are becoming all comrades.

Abortion

Clear species extermination of humans.

In Sweden during hunting season you are not allowed to kill an animal if it is pregnant to save the life of the descendant. You protect the eggs of birds.

Mothers mourn when they lose their baby during pregnancy or child-birth.

Climate change...and so on

Conclusion and Recommendations:

We should not immune narratives from debates and critical thinking.

We should not censor social media.

We should not alienate people because of their opinion, thought, conscience and belief. We need to have the public space open for debate, criticism and analytic thinking and we need to win people through logic, facts and common-sense not through censoring, terrifying or bulling them.

Kamal Fahmi International Executive director www.freedom2worship.org