

I disagree with what you say
but I shall defend your right
to say

Outline

I- Introduction: The right to dissent is one of the fundamental rights of a country's citizens. However, it cannot be exercised at the cost of others' freedom of speech. Hence, one must be open to the objections raised by the fellow masses to ensure a peaceful survival.

II- Importance of right to say despite disagreements:

a. Scientific advancements - against the ancient ideas of established scientific work

b. Adoption of dialectic method by philosophers to find the truth

c. Strengthening democracy - academic freedom catalysed revolutions against monarchy

d. Achievement of suffrage rights by feminists - against the established norms of patriarchy

e. Encouragement of peaceful coexistence, content neutrality by states despite threat of attracting hostility

f. Breakthrough in climate action owes to environmentalists and sacrificing national interests of major powers

III - Negative impacts of freedom of speech:

- a. Hate speech under the guise of free speech
- b. Incitement against minorities
- c. Issue of slander

IV - Challenges in the way of right to say:

- a. Imposition of gag order - to remain silent on a particular issue - on general public
- b. State's strict legislation against freedom of speech
- c. Absence of freedom of assembly

V - Efforts done to promote right to say:

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

VI - Ways forward to protect right to say:

- a. Role of media - propagate freedom of thought and expression
- b. Role of civil society to foster tolerance
- c. Protection under the umbrella of state's constitution
- d. Ensuring state level checks and balances mechanism

VII - Conclusion