

## **TQO CENSORSHIP IN GLOBAL MEDIA - BREIFING**

Welcome to PHSMUN DiTech!

Resolutions for the topics (especially those that interest you!) are appreciated and should be submitted by any delegate hoping to be in the running for a prize - a digital and paper copy is preferable.

Position papers (max:100 words) can be submitted if you like but aren't mandatory by any means.

Both resolutions and any position papers can be submitted to either [cosmological.constant1052@gmail.com](mailto:cosmological.constant1052@gmail.com) or [gw13radkowskialex@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw13radkowskialex@glow.sch.uk).

Resolutions will be chosen on the day based on a combination of signatures gained after lobbying and which we feel will lead to the most engaging debate.

Notes for writing resolutions:

- It doesn't need to be perfect/ as long as possible – the best resolutions offer a strong starting point with interesting things to build upon during the debate.
- Focus on writing strong operative clauses – preamble makes you sound good, but is mostly decorative at the end of the day.
- We can't stop you using AI, but we do discourage it – writing a resolution can be one of the most fun and creative parts of debating, as well as a good way to gain a thorough understanding of your topic even if your resolution isn't chosen. Also, when you don't know what your own resolution is talking about, it's very obvious 😊
- Look at the Rules and Info page on the website for more information and support on writing and reading resolutions, as well as other things.
- Don't be afraid to email us any time you have questions about the topics or process – it's what we're here for!

We hope to see you here soon :)

- Chairs (Cara and Alex)



## What is Censorship in Media?

The term “Digital Media Censorship” refers to the suppression or restriction of specific information due to it being considered harmful or equivalent by a regulatory body across various social media platforms and the internet.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental human right, protected by international law in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating that everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media.

However, having true unfiltered freedom of speech in the digital world can be detrimental due to the rapid spread of misinformation, hate speech, cyber bullying, radicalisation etc potentially resulting in real-world harm. For this reason, throughout the internet platforms and regulatory bodies have various methods of controlling and censoring their information.

## How does This Affect International Politics?

A problem arises due to the lack of consistency and clarity around media censorship on internet’s various platforms and across various nations. Because freedom of speech in the media varies by nation; different approaches and issues relating to hate speech, obscenity, and defamation laws can lead to significant differences in citizens’ ability to express oneself or access information freely.

Additionally, censorship isn’t always done for the right reasons – if the government is controlling what is considered to be “harmful media”, what’s to stop a corrupt official from simply restricting any opinions they don’t like?

This has serious consequences for global citizens, who now have no real way of vetting whether the information they are being fed is accurate, and whether it is representative of the whole picture. It can make it much easier to cover up scandals, wars and injustice that are happening behind the scenes, and even expressions of dissatisfaction in a country’s current leadership.

## What is happening right now?

Donald trump passed an executive order on day one supposedly restoring free speech absolutism – however, in order to comply with his new regulations, both Meta and X have been forced to dismantle their fact-checking processes – a move which has far reaching implications for global internet safety.

Additionally, censorship is far from gone in the US, with Donald Trump handpicking which outlets can cover the white house and suing media outlets who say things he doesn’t like.

In many parts of Eastern Europe and in Central Asia, media freedom is rapidly declining amid growing censorship and repression of independent voices. Governments are

increasingly utilising unlawful surveillance and misusing legislation to restrict free expression and criminalise dissent. (For more details on specific countries, see links.)

#### Things to consider:

- What sort of information does your nation censor digitally/in general?
- What counts as an infringement on free speech? Is there a/ what is the difference between free speech and hate speech?
- What are the dangers of absolute free speech? How do these weigh against the dangers of censorship?
- To what extent is it ethical for the UN to get involved in how individual nations decide to police digital expression?
- In this increasingly globalised world, what impact do free speech laws in one country have on citizens of other countries and tensions in the world as a whole?

#### Useful links:

- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1162856>
- <https://rsf.org/en/usa-trump-s-vision-free-speech-comes-expense-press-freedom>
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2025/05/what-is-the-state-of-global-press-freedom-in-2025/>