



Tools for Democracy

Get Informed

Take Action

Use the Toolbox

SEARCH:

GO

Freedom:

The following statement has been signed by over 150 organizations:

In Defense of Freedom:

1. On September 11, 2001 thousands of people lost their lives in a brutal assault on the American people and the American form of government. We mourn the loss of these innocent lives and insist that those who perpetrated these acts be held accountable.
2. This tragedy requires all Americans to examine carefully the steps our country may now take to reduce the risk of future terrorist attacks.
3. We need to consider proposals calmly and deliberately with a determination not to erode the liberties and freedoms that are at the core of the American way of life.
4. We need to ensure that actions by our government uphold the principles of a democratic society, accountable government and international law, and that all decisions are taken in a manner consistent with the Constitution.
5. We can, as we have in the past, in times of war and of peace, reconcile the requirements of security with the demands of liberty.
6. We should resist the temptation to enact proposals in the mistaken belief that anything that may be called anti-terrorist will necessarily provide greater security.
7. We should resist efforts to target people because of their race, religion, ethnic background or appearance, including immigrants in general, Arab Americans and Muslims.
8. We affirm the right of peaceful dissent, protected by the First Amendment, now, when it is most at risk.
9. We should applaud our political leaders in the days ahead who have the courage to say

Organizations

[In Defense of Freedom Coalition](#)

[American Civil Liberties Union](#)

[Electronic Privacy Information Center](#)

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that our freedoms should not be limited.

10. We must have faith in our democratic system and our Constitution, and in our ability to protect at the same time both the freedom and the security of all Americans.

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Freedom:

Ad Creep and Commercialism

Ads are everywhere, and they are occupying increasing amounts of public space. The logical extension of the current pattern of advertising expansion is a world where no space remains unbranded. Corporations' messages will be omnipresent in this world, leaving no room for open, free, public space. We must stop this colonization of the mental environment. [Commercial Alert](#) has done significant work on the issue of ad creep and commercialism:

"Americans feel assaulted by ads. There are ads in schools, airport lounges, doctors offices, movie theaters, hospitals, gas stations, elevators, convenience stores, on the Internet, on fruit, on ATM's, on garbage cans and countless other places. There are ads on beach sand and restroom walls.

'I don't know if anything is sacred anymore,' Mike Swanson, who directs ad placement for the ad agency Carmichael Lynch, told the Associated Press.

This assault intensifies virtually every day. With ad budgets skyrocketing, advertising techniques inevitably become more invasive and coercive. Advertisers are engaged in a relentless battle to claim every waking moment, and what one executive called, with chilling candor, 'mind share.'"

- Commercial Alert [\[source\]](#)

For more information on this and other issues, visit [Commercial Alert](#) on the Internet.

Organizations

[Commercial Alert](#) - "protecting children and communities from commercialism"

[Adbusters Media Foundation](#) - "a global network of artists, activists, writers, pranksters, students, educators and entrepreneurs who want to advance the new social activist movement of the information age"

[Center for Commercial-Free Public Education](#) - "a national non-profit organization that addresses the issue of commercialism in our public schools"

[Center for Media Education \(CME\)](#) - "a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a quality electronic media culture for children and youth, their families and the community"

[INFACT](#) - "a national grassroots corporate watchdog organization"

Resources

[Commercial Alert - Ad Creep](#)

[Center for Commercial-Free Public Education - Commercialism in the Schools](#)

[Infact - Tobacco Marketing to Young People](#)

Action / Campaigns

[Adbusters - Campaigns](#)

[Center for Commercial-Free Public Education - Take Action!](#)

Freedom:

Reproductive Rights

The [Center for Reproductive Law and Policy](#) explains why a woman should have the right to choose and what governments should do to ensure this right:

"At the core of reproductive rights is the principle that a woman has the right to decide whether and when to have a child. When faced with an unwanted pregnancy, only she can decide whether she will carry the pregnancy to term. Governments are bound to respect this basic human right by ensuring that women have access to the full range of quality reproductive health services, including abortion. Not only should governments remove legal barriers to abortion services, they should ensure that safe and high-quality abortion services are accessible to all women."

- Center for Reproductive Law and Policy
[\[source\]](#)

For more information on this and other issues, visit the [CRLP](#) on the Internet.

Organizations

[National Organization of Women \(NOW\)](#)

[National Abortion Rights Action League \(NARAL\)](#)

[National Abortion Federation \(NAF\)](#)
- the professional association of abortion providers in the United States and Canada

[Center for Reproductive Law and Policy \(CRLP\)](#)

Resources

[NOW - Abortion Rights/Reproductive Issues](#)
- includes NOW actions and actions you can take

[NAF - Abortion Fact Sheets](#)

[CRLP - Abortion](#)
- articles, factsheets, books and reports

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Freedom:

Sexual Orientation

The [International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission \(IGLHRC\)](#) provides a brief account of how people's rights are violated on the basis of sexual orientation:

"Every day, in countries throughout the world, the fundamental human rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and people with HIV and AIDS are violated. These abuses include: murder; incarceration; forced psychiatric "treatment"; torture; arbitrary arrest and detention; denial of the freedoms of association, press, and movement; denial of the right to seek refuge/asylum; immigration restrictions; forced marriage; the revocation of parental rights; and numerous other forms of discrimination."

- International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission [\[source\]](#)

For more information on this and other issues, visit [IGLHRC](#) on the Internet.

Organizations

[Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons \(PFLAG\)](#)

[International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission \(IGLHRC\)](#)

[Soulforce](#)

[Human Rights Campaign \(HRC\)](#)
- "working for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equal rights"

[Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation \(GLAAD\)](#)

Resources

[American Civil Liberties Union - Gay and Lesbian Rights](#)

[HRC - Links](#)

Action / Campaigns

[PFLAG - Take Action](#)

[HRC - Take Action](#)

[IGLHRC - Action Alerts](#)