

Collaborative Discussion 2 – Summary Post – Michael Geiger

When analyzing normative and practical liberty in the context of Collaborative Discussion 2, it was found that the terms and factors that contribute to strengthening and limiting liberty are multidimensional. In this way, the action levels of normative and practical liberty can be related to those of individuals, legal and political authorities, national and international authorities.

While the socio-economic context of individuals provides the effective framework for practical liberty, legal, political, and national authorities influence practical as well as normative liberty. International authorities and regulations in particular define normative liberty.

An example of this is human rights with Article 11, freedom of expression and information (Official Journal of the European Union, 2007). While this right strengthens people's normative freedom, it is apparently limited by other laws such as the Communication Decency Act, Section 230, as this gives advertisers measures to remove content that is labelled "obscene, vulgar, lascivious, filthy, overly violent, harassing , or otherwise objectionable" shall be awarded (Brett, 2021). However, it must be noted that the contents listed in the Communication Decency Act, Section 230 may affect the liberty and mental health of other people.

This leads to the need to appropriately limit normative liberty in order to guarantee practical liberty for people. However, it should always be noted that such reasoning can be used by states to censor or exert political influence (Paul, 2022). A critical examination of laws and regulations should therefore always be carried out in order to protect practical as well as normative liberty.

References:

Brett, M. (2021) The Limits of Free Speech in Social Media. *Constitutional Law*. Available from: <https://accessiblelaw.untdallas.edu/limits-free-speech-social-media> [Accessed 04 October 2022].

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Paul, B. (2022) Internet Censorship 2022: A Global Map of Internet Restrictions. *Internet Studies*. Available from: <https://www.comparitech.com/blog/vpn-privacy/internet-censorship-map/> [Accessed 04 October 2022].