

To whom it may concern,

I am in favour of updating the current Hate Speech legislation.

Freedom of expression is crucial but as with all our freedoms, freedom of expression is not absolute. Our personal liberty and freedom does not allow us to actively assault someone. Same should go for hate speech, if said speech actively encourages persons or groups to take physical action against a group or a single person because of their race, religion, sexual orientation then that in itself should be limited.

Any hate speech that actively rallies a group of people to target someone or act violently towards someone be it physical or threats. We have a high level of racism in the country as per the recent UN HR agency reports and as noted by Emily Logan yet only as little as 5 prosecutions since 1989 act.

Lastly updating the Hate Speech legislation is only a first step. To have a fully functional and cooperative society we need open and transparent dialogue across all spectrums, from those who agree and those who don't. I hope the updating of this legislation will go in tandem with discussion groups and a proper anti racism national action plan.

Best
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