

## On Liberty

There are 3 *domains of liberty* of which society has only an indirect interest:

1. Liberty of Conscience - free to express thought, feeling, opinion, and sentiment on all subjects.
2. Liberty of Tastes and Pursuits - free to frame the plan of our life to suit our own character, without restraint from our fellow man as long as what we do doesn't harm them, even if it is foolish, perverse, or wrong.
3. Liberty to join with others - free to unite for any purpose not involving harm to others, the parties being of full age, and having united without being forced or deceived.

No society in which these liberties are not, on the whole, respected, is free, whatever may be its form of government;

...the sole end for which mankind are warranted, individually or collectively, in interfering with the liberty of action of any of their number, is self-protection. .. The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant. He cannot rightfully be compelled to do or forbear because it will be better for him to do so, because it will make him happier, because, in the opinions of others, to do so would be wise, or even right. These are good reasons for remonstrating with him, or reasoning with him, or persuading him, or entreating him, but not for compelling him, or visiting him with any evil in case he do otherwise.

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)