

## **Multi-Layered Speech & Criminal Issues**

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The idea that some people are considered “less,” and therefore are more “justified” in committing more crimes, is a form of devaluing and dehumanization. It also keeps society trapped in a cycle of forgiving some of the worst crimes against humanity simply because of “protected class” dynamics, which are often ideology-based rather than applied equally across activism spheres that “hold the fort” in these domains. Furthermore, the normalization of using “protected class” status to excuse atrocities is deeply concerning.

Another pattern is that free speech is afforded to some groups but not others, often based on ideology and reinforced within activist spheres. These are common denominators in many of the human rights abuses we are increasingly witnessing today. For example, there is a significant amount of anti-Jewish hate speech occurring today, while at the same time there have also been successful anti-defamation lawsuits brought by Jewish individuals and organizations. As a result, multiple layered extremes are occurring simultaneously, free speech is becoming hate speech, in others, free speech is being suppressed; people are being harmed; and many feel they are not being fully heard, nor are certain threats being properly mitigated. Examples of alarming and very real forms of modern warfare include fraud, doxxing, identity theft, looting, arson, gun violence, human trafficking, and other criminal activity.

I would like to see stronger protections for ethnic Americans and spiritual Americans, as I believe that establishing clearer boundaries would make many of these experiences easier to understand and navigate. I also believe the First Amendment could potentially be strengthened through carefully considered measures similar to Cold War-era protections until genocidal hate speech and escalating threats subside.

At the same time, I believe we are moving along a frightening trajectory in which political opposition is increasingly suppressed, sometimes to the point of intimidation, violence, or assault intended to silence dissent. Furthermore, when threats accumulate within particular groups or networks, they should absolutely be examined seriously. For example, authorities recognize that many cartels have Honduran and Mexican origins, and understanding these realities, including who may support such organizations, is important for public safety and law enforcement discussions.

There are therefore multiple themes occurring simultaneously. I have created a list of recommendations that I believe may help make our lives easier moving forward. It is important to me that the American people, including races and groups that are currently experiencing heightened targeting, remain protected. At the same time, I believe there should be stronger intervention against those committing crimes, especially when criminal behavior is excused on the basis of race. Not only is that itself a form of racism, but it also risks normalizing and excusing atrocities based on race, which is clearly a dangerous trajectory.