FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

In the United States, every citizen is granted the freedom of expression. We can express our beliefs online, through peaceful protests, or through art. Additionally, we can practice whatever religion we choose. Also, we can vote for our leader based on our own opinions and beliefs. In many other countries around the world, humans do not have these rights. I believe that everyone should have these freedoms, regardless of where they live. I know that here, I am very happy to be able to practice religion and express my beliefs actively. I am very lucky to live in a country that gives me these rights. I would hate to have this taken away from me. I want everyone to have these freedoms like me. I know that this would make the world a better place.

If everyone had freedom of expression, the world would improve. Many millions of more people would be able to express what they believe publicly, without the fear of being imprisoned, or worse, killed. People would be happier living wherever they are born, and would not have to take refuge somewhere else. Unfortunately, not every country gives their citizens this freedom.

One major example of a country where this is not the case is North Korea. North Korea is led by Kim Jong-un. Life there is very strictly controlled and citizens have little to no freedom. If someone there tries to request more from the government, state what they believe, or even try to escape to a better country, they could be beaten, or sometimes even killed. Citizens there are forced to support their leader, even if they do not. Also, they cannot practice any religion. Over 1000 people manage to escape each year. Most defectors go to South Korea to live, where life is

much more free, and overall better for its citizens. I personally think that humans should have a guaranteed right to practice whatever religion they want, without any restrictions.

If places like North Korea had freedom of expression, the government would improve as well. If the citizens could vote for who they believe would be the best leader for them, like we can do here in the US, the new leader could make life better for all of the citizens there. People would want to stay in that place, and future generations would also be happier there, which would improve lives for many, many people to come, who have not even been born yet.

Many other places around the world also have limits in their freedom of expression. For example in Saudi Arabia, citizens are required to be Muslim, and if they are not, they could be imprisoned. They can also be punished for expressing their political beliefs publicly. Also, even in the United States, homeless people, refugees, and children can't vote and share their beliefs that way. According to FreedomHouse.org, most of the countries in Asia and a majority of the countries in Africa are considered "*Not Free"*, which means that they have very limited to no political rights and civil liberties. This equates to about 70% of the world's population who live in a country with very little to no freedom of expression. If all of these countries granted their citizens this freedom, this would improve the lives of about 5.6 billion people worldwide, or more, because all of those people would be able to express their opinions openly, believe in whatever they want, and protest to improve their governments. Because of this, governments worldwide would improve. This would result in less conflict between countries, and this would greatly improve the state of the world today. If everyone gets freedom of expression sooner, the lives of more generations will be improved, and more people will get to experience a better life.

All in all, I believe that if everyone had the right to freedom of expression, the world would improve for billions of people everywhere around the world.