



FREE TO SPEAK

A Documentary Series
with Nadine Strossen

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FreeToSpeakSeries.com

ERIE, PA (DATE) — **Free To Speak**, a three-part public television series from Free To Choose® Media, underscores how free speech is necessary for human survival by presenting stories that are thought-provoking, ironic, and often heartbreaking.

Host Nadine Strossen, former president of the ACLU, is joined by free speech experts, critics, and defenders to examine the power and controversy of speech historically and today.

“Free speech is currently embattled, all across the U.S., the world, and across the political spectrum,” says Strossen. “For many people who have the good fortune to live in societies where free speech is relatively secure, it’s too easy to take its benefits for granted and also to underestimate the dangers of censorship. **Free To Speak** should remind everyone of these important truths.”

Free To Speak consists of three one-hour programs: **Thought Police**, **The One True Faith**, and **The Speech We Hate**.

Thought Police examines the long history of governments suppressing speech—with clear echoes of George Orwell’s warning of a world without free speech. The program explores personal stories from Hong Kong, North Korea, and Peru, whose governments tried to suppress free speech. One instance resulted in a monumental—and avoidable—human tragedy.

The One True Faith looks at the once-sacrilegious beliefs of Galileo and shows the uproar caused by the Scopes Monkey Trial. The program also examines the work of Nobel Laureate Barry Marshall, who challenged the “settled science” about the cause of stomach ulcers and explores the cartoons published by Charlie Hebdo that led to a horrifying massacre.

The Speech We Hate features a Kenyan filmmaker whose love story of two women garnered a nationwide ban. Viewers also meet a Turkish political artist who was censored for his provocative work in the U.S., a hip-hop historian who recalls the arrest

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of members of 2 Live Crew for obscenity, and a group of students who, in 1982, took a lawsuit over banned books in his school all the way to the Supreme Court.

“Free To Speak is more than just a television series—it is a project for our times,” says Rob Chatfield, President & CEO of Free To Choose Media. “We created a series that would challenge viewers to question their own beliefs by juxtaposing stories and adding an international perspective that transcends the left/right cultural divide in our country. This project was greatly influenced by the late author P.J. O’Rourke, who noted, ‘Speech underpinned the whole creation of human society. And it must have been FREE SPEECH because a million years ago when we were just learning to speak, what other kind of speech could there have been?’”

The three-part series features world-renowned experts, scientists, and public figures, including:

- Steven Pinker, Cognitive Psychologist
- Judy Gold, Comedian
- Ira Glasser, Past Executive Director of the ACLU
- Yeonmi Park, Activist & North Korean Refugee
- Matt Ridley, Author
- Hon. Elizabeth Holmes Norton, Congresswoman (DC)
- Jonathan Rauch, Author & Journalist
- Alice Dreger, Author & Historian
- Flemming Rose, Journalist
- Michelle Duster, Professor & Great-Granddaughter of Ida B. Wells
- Dr. Barry Marshall, Microbiologist & Nobel Laureate
- Geoffrey Stone, Law Professor
- and more...

Free To Speak is a production of Free To Choose Media. Elan Bentov and Kip Perry are co-directors. Kip Perry is producer and Elan Bentov is writer. Thomas Skinner and Robert Chatfield are executive producers.

Major funding is provided by the John Templeton Foundation, DKT Liberty Project, Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, Searle Freedom Trust, and Arthur N. Rupe Foundation.

Free To Speak is available for broadcast on public television stations nationwide beginning October 1, 2023.

A number of community engagement events are being planned across the U.S. in conjunction with the documentary.

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About Nadine Strossen

Nadine Strossen, host of the three-part public television documentary, *Free To Speak*, is the John Marshall Harlan II Professor of Law Emerita at New York Law School, past President of the American Civil Liberties Union (1991-2008), and a Senior Fellow with the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE). She is a leading expert and frequent speaker/media commentator on constitutional law and civil liberties.

The *National Law Journal* has named Strossen one of America's "100 Most Influential Lawyers," and several other publications have named her one of the country's most influential women. Her many honorary degrees and awards include the National Coalition Against Censorship's Judy Blume Lifetime Achievement Award for Free Speech (which will be presented in November 2023) and the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award (2017).

Strossen's 2018 book, *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship*, has earned praise from ideologically diverse experts, including progressive Harvard University Professor Cornel West and conservative Princeton University Professor Robert George.

About Free To Choose Media

Free To Choose Media produces award-winning documentaries and series for public television, offering diverse voices, powerful stories, and a fresh perspective on a range of important global and national issues. For more than 35 years, Free To Choose production teams have traveled the world to explore topics and issues that stimulate thought and cultivate conversations. For more information, visit the website at FreeToChooseMedia.org.

About American Public Television

American Public Television (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and more than one-third of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performances, dramas, how-to programs, classic movies, children's series and news and current affairs programs. *Midsomer Murders*, *America's Test Kitchen*, *AfroPoP*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Pacific Heartbeat*, *Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Television*, *The Indian Doctor*, *Legacy List with Matt Paxton*, *Lidia's Kitchen*, *Kevin Belton's New Orleans Kitchen*, *Simply Ming*, *The Best of the Joy of Painting* with Bob Ross, *Front & Center*, James Patterson's *Kid Stew*, and *NHK Newslines* are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create[®]TV — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle

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FREE TO SPEAK

A Documentary Series
with Nadine Strossen

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