

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ
СУМСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
КАФЕДРА ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНИЙ НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНИЙ ЦЕНТР**

**МАТЕРІАЛИ
VIII МІЖВУЗІВСЬКОЇ НАУКОВО-ПРАКТИЧНОЇ
КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНОГО НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНОГО ЦЕНТРУ
КАФЕДРИ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ**

“TO LIVE IN A SAFER WORLD”

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

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Democracy is the most challenging form of government both for politicians and for the people. This is the form of government, where a constitution guarantees basic personal and political rights, fair and free elections, and independent courts of law. One of the main objectives of this is to develop a clear system of rights and responsibilities of people which could regulate the relationship between the state and society.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed on December 10, 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations states in the Article 19: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media”. Man is free in his actions if it does no harm to other people.

The importance of free speech as a basic characteristic of a society cannot be overstated. The governments that neglect free speech can destroy the creative instincts of their people. Besides, the freedom of speech is the single most important political right of citizens and the basis of this right is freedom of the press. Without free speech no political action is possible and people cannot resist injustice and oppression.

According to *Freedom of the Press index*, only 14.5 percent of the world's citizens live in countries that enjoy a free press. In the rest of the world the media is in some way affected by governments. Speaking about current state of freedom of the press it is one of the central problems of the media and of democratic society on the whole. This applies to Ukraine as well, and the majority of journalists surveyed in 2012-2013 claimed the greatest pressure of censorship concerns political issues and criticism of the government by journalists. Very often modern newspapers and TV programs are full of trivial news such as celebrity gossip or numerous scandals, which are high on sensationalism but low on information.