

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I would like to discuss the topic of internet censorship in democratic societies, highlighting both its pros and cons.

On the pro side, internet censorship can help protect citizens from harmful and illegal content. For instance, it can limit access to violent or extremist material that could incite hatred or terrorism.

Additionally, censorship can safeguard vulnerable groups, especially children, from inappropriate content such as pornography or excessive violence. It may also help curb the spread of fake news and misinformation, ensuring that citizens receive accurate information.

However, there are significant cons to consider. Internet censorship can infringe on the fundamental right to free speech, a cornerstone of democratic societies. It risks the misuse of power by authorities to suppress dissenting voices and control public opinion. Moreover, it can lead to a slippery slope where more and more content is unjustly restricted, potentially stifling creativity, innovation, and open discussion.

In conclusion, while internet censorship can offer certain protections, it poses considerable risks to freedom and democracy. Balancing these pros and cons is crucial as we navigate the digital age. Thank you.