

Freedom of speech has gone in the USA

Published: January 13, 2026, 7:35 am

The [Guardian posted this](#) yesterday, but amongst everything else that happened I missed it:

Donald Trump threatened on Tuesday to halt all federal funding for any college or school that allows “illegal protests” and vowed to imprison “agitators”, in a social media statement that prompted alarm from free expression advocates.

“All Federal Funding will STOP for any College, School, or University that allows illegal protests,” the US president wrote on Truth Social.

“Agitators will be imprisoned/or permanently sent back to the country from which they came. American students will be permanently expelled or, depending on on [sic] the crime, arrested. NO MASKS! Thank you for your attention to this matter.”

Let's be clear what this means.

First, because Trump has not defined what an illegal protest is, all protests are potentially subject to this order.

Second, free speech has gone as a result, although it is protected by the US Constitution.

Third, that means habeas corpus has effectively been suspended.

The obvious target is those protesting about Gaza and Palestine. No doubt climate will be included soon, if it is not already.

This is fascism at work. Have no doubt about it.

So, how long is it before the UK follows?