

7 September 2023

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# The Centrist stands up for free speech with Stop Co-Governance

September 4, 2023 by [NZ News Essentials](#) — 1 Comment

## In brief

- Defaming Julian Batchelor is an unlawful attempt to undermine his message, which he has the right to discuss.
- The Centrist wants to reduce the many obstacles in NZ to making informed decisions when voting.
- The Centrist is supporting Julian’s defamation suit and will support others.
- You can help by just signing up to our free newsletter.

## Why have we chosen to support Julian Batchelor’s defamation suit?

Julian Batchelor of [Stop Co-Governance](#) says things you may not agree with. The right of others to say lawful things you don’t agree with is the cornerstone of free speech. Defaming that person interferes with their rights and we think NZ is the worse for it. In our view, Batchelor has a very arguable case that he has been defamed by TVNZ and Sanjana Hattotuwa of the Disinformation Project.

[They’ve called Batchelor horrible things.](#) Hattotuwa said Batchelor “incites hate” and “instigates harm offline”. Also, “This is racist rhetoric.”

We don’t think those things are true. Instead, we think responding to the mission of co-governance, which is the attempt to reduce the democratic rights of most in NZ, is a fundamental issue worthy of discussion. Attacking Batchelor is the proverbial shooting the messenger, so that their message doesn’t get through or is discredited.

We think the media should both discuss Batchelor’s message and also allow opponents to use their lawful free speech to counter his argument. We see a distinct absence of that, on many contentious issues, in the NZ mainstream media. Co-governance is just one example.

It seems like the MSM media feels they know best for the NZ citizens. We have a much less paternal filter. To us, their approach puts way too much power in their hands, including the very large incentive for the government to keep them happy. It also perpetuates and is maybe at least part of the reason for NZ’s reputation of having an uninformed electorate.



*The Centrist is backing Julian Batchelor’s defamation suit against The Disinformation Project and TVNZ.*

## The Centrist was founded, in part, to fight for freedom

We are in this game to not only disseminate the news and views you need to hear to stay informed, but also to back people like Julian.

The fight against a Government and media (often one and the same in NZ) that unlawfully limits freedom is part of our mission.

We’re emulating organisations that exist in many countries, like the [Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedom](#) in Canada or the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) in the USA.

The events of recent years, including the [heightened emphasis](#) by the [NZ government](#) on “comms”, make this effort very timely.

A media covering all sides is the best way to keep the Government responsive to the people.

## Here’s how you can help...

The Centrist wants you on our team (we don’t want your money).

Help us grow our reach. Please sign up for our free email and forward to your friends. The positive feedback really does help us, and our newsletter will help you stay informed.

Filed Under: [Society](#), [Other](#), [Tinihanga](#)

Tagged With: [co-governance](#), [disinformation](#), [numbers and experts](#), [politics](#), [racism](#), [wokism](#)

## Comments

 Sharron Wilson says  
September 7, 2023 at 15:40

My extended family has Moari and I am totally against governance.

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