

this advertisement for a profit-driven entity (projected from 'private property' into your public space) has been covered in protest against the all-pervasive presence of for-profit advertising in the public space/media of our purportedly democratic societies worldwide.

here is some number of reasons (list far from complete) why the advertising of profit-driven entities should be abolished from public space and media in all truly democratic societies (all 'separate' points heavily interrelated):

-- at best (ignoring the real detrimental effects of advertising), advertising is a multi-billion dollar global waste industry – the funds wasted on advertising could, and should, be put to much better use.

-- accepting the real detrimental effects of advertising (psychological effects, effects to our media, to our politics, to the meaning of our public spaces, etc.), advertising is ultimately a community expenditure on the corruption of democratic structures/processes (media operations, formation of public political agenda, the language of politics, etc.) and individual democratic faculties (critical thought, enlightened understanding, formation of personal agenda, etc.)

-- the power and influence of the for-profit 'business' sector is the largest impediment to the power of existing national democracies and the development of the international democracy necessary to address global inequality from its root causes – allowing the for-profit sector to fund and run the majority of our mainstream media (the public square of modern democracy) is nothing less than insane.

-- the advertising of for-profit organisations has crept up (over the last century) to this position of predominance in the public sphere without any citizen of any democracy being asked if they would consent to such a situation – we have grown up with, and become used to, something ridiculous and destructive, which if we step back from and properly analyse, we should see for what it is and then dispose of, for the benefit of everything.

-- advertising and the commercial media system it funds (which forms the overwhelming majority of our mainstream media) encourages a mindless, uncaring, materialism that would ultimately degrade our values, our feelings of responsibility, our quality as global citizens, the behaviour of our nation-states and the ecology of our planet.

-- we should all be spared the wasteful and destructive attempted influence of advertising, but it is particularly important that children (yet to gain the cognitive abilities necessary to defend themselves) be completely protected from such a negative influence – even advertising ostensibly aimed at adults plays a huge role in forming ideas of what sort of person one should aim to be in adulthood, we shouldn't allow our children to be exposed to the attempted moulding of advertising produced by entities that care only for profit and nothing for the well-being of humanity.

-- the dominance of corporate advertising in our public space/media/lives leaves the destructive psychological impression that only wealthy, profit-crazed organisations and beautiful, famous sell-outs (heartless and/or stupid) have any power, value or right to participate in public life – for effective democracy we must all be constantly aware that we share equal power (or at least should), and that our insightful awareness of human political reality and subsequent actions are of great importance.

-- advertising is annoying and fundamentally insulting – to put up with it is to passively accept multiple daily insults (which is humiliating).

-- democratic systems (systems critical to the proper functioning of a democracy, like our government of elected representatives or our justice system) can not be run for profit or through 'private' funding without unacceptable conflicts of interest – our media is another of these democratic systems and advertising, as a fundamentally corrupting influence, certainly can have no place within it.

-- if we abolish for-profit advertising in public space/media and thereby bring an end to for-profit (commercial) media by cutting its line of funding, we expose the need we have for a broad and principled democratic public media system, and bring the realisation of such a thing closer.

-- the things that are presently 'funded by advertising' are funded with money that has been fleeced from the community (profit = systemic theft from the community by persons or entities already in possession of surplus funds = usury) – by reclaiming these funds we can distribute them on the basis of public good, not private profit – we can still have everything advertising now cynically claims to fund, but it can be better.

-- real information about products and services can be made freely available on request to people who actually require it, there is no need for the incessant and indiscriminate intrusion of advertising (which usually contains more bullshit than it does information) into every facet of our lives.

for more information on the meaning, past and future of this protest, please visit globalliberalmediaplease.net