



FREEDOM TO SMOKE

The Smokers' Freedom Society (SFS) was founded to protect and promote responsible freedom to smoke. It is not associated with any extremist movement acting for or against smoking, but it provides solid support for all defenders of freedom of choice with regard to smoking. The reasons for this are as follows:

because prejudices against smoking are spreading at an alarming rate;

because bans against smoking are increasing, possibly leading to intolerance and fanaticism;

because so-called preventive measures (laws, bylaws, high taxes, etc.) are based on health and socio-economic reasons which often lack validity and impartiality;

because smokers, while respecting the bans, are subjected to annoyance and are considered as anti-social and irresponsible people;

because freedom and safety are complementary values - one cannot be eliminated in the name of the other, particularly when the concern for safety depends on prejudices and the results of doubtful and questionable studies.

The SFS intends to bring together supporters, both smokers and nonsmokers, and

provide the most reliable information possible on all questions regarding smoking;

make specific approaches to the authorities regarding tax, legal and other matters;

act as a spokesman for defenders of the freedom of choice to smoke.



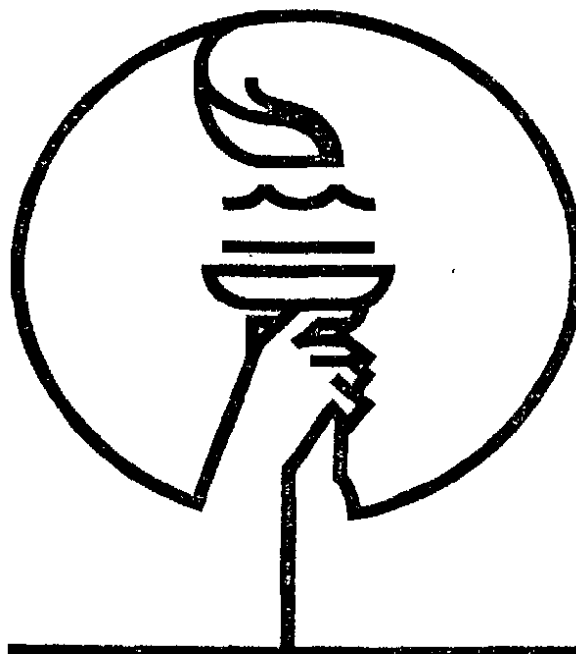
A PLEA FOR MORE COURTESY...

What is the responsible freedom to smoke?

It means to smoke with **courtesy**. It means combining **good manners** with an **appreciation of pleasure**. It also means acknowledging the possible consequences of smoking on **oneself**, on **others** and on the **quality of life**.

The responsible smoker exercises his/her right and freedom to smoke - alone or in company - bearing in mind those present as well as the ventilation of an enclosed environment. The responsible smoker does not offend, annoy or cause others discomfort. He or she acts in both a free and responsible manner.

Used advisedly, tobacco can stimulate, relax and inspire... It then becomes a pleasure which only an intolerant society would seek to eliminate.



A PLEA FOR LESS PREJUDICE

Prejudices against smoking permeate opinion to such an extent that it is seen as a socially destructive and devastating action.

The SFS invites scientific researchers, the media, governments, smokers, nonsmokers and anti-smokers to carefully and critically examine every argument which tends to discredit smoking.

Often unfounded accusations

Several famous smokers have continuously used tobacco, and death has spared them until their eighties or nineties - Winston Churchill estimated that he had smoked 22 km of cigars, and he survived to the age of 91. The SFS considers it vital that information be disseminated with impartiality. Too many results of incomplete or unverified studies have molded public opinion, distorting the facts.

Passive smoking as a war horse

Two studies in particular are at the origin of the prejudices concerning passive smoking, those of Drs. Hirayama and Trichopoulos, respectively. These studies have been roundly criticized by eminent physicians. Recent and reliable medical studies indicate, however, that the effects on nonsmokers of inhaling tobacco smoke vary from negligible to very weak...

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