

### ***Explore: Can we live without laws?***

This question is one that, like many, has no one simple answer. On the one hand, laws can be seen to oppress people and stop them choosing their own futures, whereas on the other hand they can be seen to protect people and maintain order.

Firstly, it is important to note that laws are not purely defined as legislation passed by a government, laws also include ways which we set out a basis for certain elements of the universe to allow us to better understand the world we live in, such as the laws of physics or the laws of nature. However, one thing which all laws do have in common is that they are a human construct, and it can be argued that no laws truly exist, which can be backed up as if you look far enough in the universe then even the laws of physics to break down. In short, laws are used to set out a standard which all humans must follow, whether it be to explain phenomena or something as “simple” as making all citizens pay taxes so that the government can fund the running of a nation.

Taking this into consideration, it is my belief that humans could not live without any laws, as a species we have a desire to discover and explain. For example, mathematics is a set of laws which we use to calculate the mass of an object or add together the number of apples we have, we all agree that  $1+1=2$ , but what if it didn't? Without laws what is stopping  $1+1$  from equalling 3? The moment we remove all laws the entire system we have based our scientific discoveries and explanations on collapses, I think that laws are what have allowed humanity to progress and develop technologies the old world never could have imagined, they may be human concepts that don't truly exist but nevertheless they have allowed us to create buildings which go beyond the clouds, robots which can be flown hundreds of millions of kilometres to another planet and then be controlled right from Earth. So, whether they are real or not, right now they work.

Moving away from the more philosophical side of the question and towards a more direct interpretation, I think that living without laws in terms of government legislation would be possible, but I don't think that it would allow us to have developed the society we live in now. While laws stop us from stealing and committing murder, they have also made us develop a set of morals, our ideas of what is right and wrong are based around the laws that we abide by. It wasn't too long ago that homosexuality was heavily looked down upon and was illegal in the United Kingdom up until 1967, it was seen as morally wrong because of the laws set in place by both Her Majesty's government as well as other laws such as those in religious texts. In the present day, homosexuality is not seen as immoral by most in the Western world, and because of changes in thinking it is now actually seen as immoral to not support it. Morals are an established set of laws; they may change over time, but they are what allows a society to develop and, in my opinion, become more advanced.

However, if we were to remove the government legislation and rely solely on forcing people only to do what they believe is right and wrong, then that would not stop theft or murder. Morals are highly subjective, they are based around present thinking but also the laws that people of both the new and old worlds have established, if we remove those laws then one person who has never known laws may think that it is moral to kill someone who looked at

them weirdly, while someone else who lived in our society where murder was illegal would think that it is highly immoral. Morals are based off what a person is taught and what they have experienced.

Living with laws has allowed humanity to maintain order, instead of being forced to focus on our own survival we are now able to depend on the government to do it for us, allowing us to be able to trust people and come together to make these amazing discoveries about the world and the universe without our first thought being that they might kill you for food. I think that order is very important in a developed species, while not everyone has to have a certain place, making everyone abide by a certain set of laws ensures we can develop a stable and successful society where everyone feels safe and we can all focus on creating a better world or even just a better life, one way or another.

Overall, I do not think that we could live without laws. While it would be possible to live without government legislation, there would be nothing to say someone can't hurt you, but also nothing to say you can't be enslaved. In regard to laws in general, we have based our entire scientific thinking and society around laws, to completely abolish them would just hinder the progress of humanity if not completely setting it back hundreds of years. So, while some may wish for complete freedom and the ability to choose their own destiny, to decide that a toilet is in fact an apple and that  $1+1$  really does equal 3, such a scenario is far from practical and living with laws is a much better option for the future of the species.