

Civil Rights and Denial of Service



Fighting for gay civil rights laws back in the 1970s, I had trepidations. Did it work both ways? If this passes and I own a store and some bigot who wishes me dead comes in, does it mean I have to serve them? It was one of those questions that led to my doubts about the left.

I realized that the fight for civil rights was everything—the bill's passage, an anti-climax, even a setback. Martin Luther King was one of the greatest inspirations for African Americans. The passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act was one of the worst. It derailed the movement, led to factions and violence, and created the opportunity for abuse. The goal was liberation, but liberation does not come from a law. It comes from a movement, and a law stops a movement dead in its tracks.

In the gay movement (now the LBGTQ+ movement), there was the same problem, but worse. So-called “moderate” leaders wanted to push civil rights bills through back-room lobbying without the visibility that liberal politicians found embarrassing at the time. They wanted the setback without the movement. It was the worst possible outcome.

I want the right to discriminate. That is what freedom is about. It is what life is all about. We discriminate who our friends are, who our lovers are, and who we live with. Not allowing discrimination against our employees is an anti-productive tyranny.

That said, the playing field under [debt-based capitalism](#) is anything but level. The “old boys’ network” would never hire people in certain groups for certain positions regardless of their qualifications. Debt-based capitalism allows the choice between tyranny and gross inequality. Sometimes, it does not even allow the choice.

In [land-based capitalism](#), the playing field is leveled by the [Earth Dividend](#). Any person or group can get an education, grab some land, start a business, raise capital, and not starve in the process.

The right to property is an [objective right](#). It gives the merchant the right to refuse service to any person. It provides the landlord with the right to refuse tenancy to any person. It gives the employer the right to refuse to hire any person.

There is the optional [subjective right](#) to be free from discrimination on such attributes as race, ethnicity, creed, orientation, disability, or gender. It might be tempting for a dominion to pass such legislation, particularly in public accommodations. That is up to the dominion.

Such a law would be incredible after a generation or two of land-based capitalism. "You mean that once merchants refused to serve people because they had brown eyes, not blue?" "Something like that."

Denial of Service

The right to discriminate under land-based capitalism becomes a tool in any fight for justice.

Merchants can collude to deny service to a bigot, a polluter, or some other very obnoxious member of the community. Contracts of collusion are not enforceable, but people are encouraged to collude of their own free will.

In a society where the playing field is level, denial of service will more likely be used as a tool for justice rather than a vehicle for blanket discrimination.