

YAHOO

## Who Makes The Rules Anyway?

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- 1 Forget Mask-Free Monday, Melanie McDonagh says. Melanie was really looking forward to a ritual bonfire for her mask, until Sadiq Khan, London's Mayor, extinguished her plans, if not her bonfire - and before it was even lit.
- 2 The measures being insisted on by the Mayor go beyond what anyone else is advocating including the government. We ask - why is this - and could a 50yr old study of what happens when some people are given power over others explain it?
- 3 Khan is not the only mayor to impose his own determined measures to inflict upon the population. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Manchester, is another. He insists that everyone continues to wear masks on public transport, justifying his edict by saying, that some people are clinically vulnerable. To make them feel safe, everyone therefore has to be masked. Sadiq Khan uses the same rationale, adding that transport workers are heroes who deserve to be protected. It kind of implies that non-transport workers are somehow less deserving - but anyway.
- 4 Melanie dares to ask: is it acceptable to prioritise the alleged wellbeing of the minority?
- 5 This question makes certain assumptions, of course: that there exists, a transmissible disease and that people covering their faces - with anything, even pieces of cloth - actually does anything to prevent transmission of pathogens. Plentiful evidence exists that both these assumptions are unjustified and disproved by science - albeit different science. However, that is not the subject of this article.
- 6 For Melanie to even ask the question she does, takes courage and we applaud that. We add to this story by asking a further question.
- 7 Why do Mayors, councils, police, school teaching staff, healthcare managers, retail bosses - and all sorts of other people - not only implement and enforce national rules handed down by the contracted national administrators [the CNA], but somehow see it as their duty to add to those rules - with rules of their own?
- 8 Many towns are now infested with council-generated signs telling people where to walk, what side to walk, what they should do, and what they should not do. Some councils closed public toilets early in the pandemic, without consideration for the consequences for the so-called essential workers, such as delivery drivers and emergency healthcare staff. They taped over all seating, with no thought for people who might like to take exercise but needed to rest

on the way. They also roped off swings - so children could not play. And they did all this, thinking it was OK.

9 Early in 2020, police officers began to exert an extreme and previously almost unseen level of control over members of the public. Suddenly, instead of the police being too busy to investigate crimes, officers had time in abundance. Police officers descended in great numbers on beaches, natural beauty spots and other places where people might actually dare to go - even alone or in same household couples. The police even took it upon themselves to order people back into their homes from their own front gardens. Not only did the police enforce rules, they actually invented them. The question is why? How is it that these people think it is OK to act in this way?

10 As for schools, there are horrific accounts of how students have been treated. Teaching staff have shouted and yelled at students, while headteachers have set their own rules for what staff and students are allowed to do in school. It's even gone further than that: at least one school has barred a student from attendance simply because the student - in their own time - went on a demonstration for liberty. How dare they do that in their own time? How dare teachers behave like prison officers?

11 Could the explanation be, simply - because they feel they can?  
Let's consider this...

12 Per Wikipedia - The [Stanford prison experiment](#) was a social psychology experiment influenced by the Milgram experiment that attempted to investigate the psychological effects of perceived power, focusing on the struggle between prisoners and prison officers. It was conducted at Stanford University on the days of August 14-20, 1971, by a research group of college students led by psychology professor Philip Zimbardo. Do watch the film trailer which demonstrates how people are overtaken with their gifted new power to control.

13 Prison Officers in the Stanford Prison Experiment, were given certain rules to follow. But the prison officers were allowed to make up their own rules in addition. This feature, eventually made the experiment famous for its study of human behaviour when groups are allowed to exercise control over others.

14 The experiment had to be terminated early, due to the unnecessary and extreme use of power - mental and physical - which the prison officers inflicted on their charges.

15 Exactly 50yrs on, are we not seeing the very same traits of behaviour being acted out upon the population by these apparent authority groups?

Source: Tetbury Connect: [Magazine](#)

[LINK](#): I was looking forward to burning my mask on Monday

[LINK](#): Stanford Prison Experiment



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