

Some people think mask mandates, requiring masks in public, are unjust. I'm going to present an argument against this claim using the analogy with laws against public nudity:

(P1) If mask mandates are unjust, then public nudity laws are unjust.

(P2) Public nudity laws aren't unjust.

(P3) So, mask mandates aren't unjust.

The idea behind premise 1 is this: Government enforced rules that restrict people's freedom, whether they be laws or mandates, require a good enough justification in order to be just.

Both mask mandates and public nudity laws restrict people's freedom in similar ways, and with similar justifications: considerations of public health and/or decency.

And the public health reasons behind mask mandates—namely, limiting the spread of a highly transmittable, dangerous disease—are at least as good as the public health and/or decency reasons behind public nudity laws.

So, if the justification for mask mandates isn't good enough, then neither is the justification for public nudity laws.

But, as premise 2 assumes, the justification for public nudity laws, at least in some form, *is* good enough. So, neither public nudity laws nor mask mandates are unjust.

Now certain mask mandates or public nudity laws might be unjust, but they're not unjust in principle.