

Contemporary Issues in

ISLAMIC COMMUNICATION

Editor

Mohd Yusof Hussain



IIUM Press

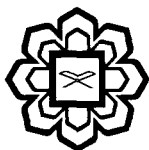
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Western Journalism Ethics: Are They Suitable for Muslim Journalists?

SAODAH WOK

Introduction

It has been the practice of many journalists to abide to the law and ethics of the nation where they practice. Some Muslim journalists have to follow the law and ethics that are practiced by journalists in the West. This is the result of colonisation that had taken place earlier before their respective countries gained independence. As such, this chapter looks into the law and ethics of selected developed countries that might have impacted on the journalism practices in Muslim countries. Such countries include Great Britain, United States of America, Australia, France, and Canada. At the end of the chapter, the Islamic ethics in journalism and its implications on Muslim countries will be discussed accordingly.

Journalism Ethics

Journalism ethics and tradition have been guided by the journalism principles and guidelines such as telling the truth, reporting objectively and avoid conflicts of interest between the journalist and the public. However, certain issues raised pertaining to journalistic practices can be discussed accordingly. Such issues are the need for objectivity, dealing with errors and corrections, privacy, reporter-source relationship, freebies, deception, compassion, and the challenge of the watchdog role of the journalist themselves.

The news reported can be objectively written and to avoid mistakes, it can be corrected by getting more sources of information and to check and counter check with peers. There should be no bias in the reporting of the news. In order to attain that, journalists must exclude their feelings or opinions from the story with the notion of having a neutral stand. The best