

Bahrain Newspapers Code of Ethics

On the initiative of the Ministry of Information Affairs and Shura and Representative Council, and in light of what is demanded by the coming phase for media cooperation and solidarity to uphold the interest of the country and citizens, the Editors-in-Chief of the local Bahraini newspapers have agreed to adopt the following honourable charter:

To work on consolidating the bonds of affection and national unity between segments of society, and the preservation of national security and stability in order to serve the national interest, and to avoid any orientation which would incite discrimination or defamation or sedition and division among segments of society under any circumstances.

To not support any incitement on any sect or group of people, nor to show contempt towards them, nor to incite a breach in the public order, nor to spread the spirit of discord in society, nor undermine the national unity in any way.

To work to ensure the credibility and freedom of responsible media and not to be prejudicial to Islamic beliefs or national interests or cultural values and customs.

To work on judging the credibility and validity of all information and facts, news and topics that will be published, and the preservation of the identity and unity of all groups.

To commit not to let the media be a tool to stir discord or sectarianism nor let it infringe on the privacy of others or outraging the modesty of the society.

To not broadcast rumours and unconfirmed information as fact, and to not publish damaging accusations that deliberately harm others.

To not prejudice the interests of Islamic, Arab and friendly states, in accordance with international treaty obligations.

To be careful in the use of vocabulary, terminology and images which excite controversy or compromise public beliefs, feelings and morals.

To ensure the accuracy, objectivity and factuality and professionalism in the drafting, editing and processing of information, materials, images and media and avoidance of publishing things causing defamation, discrimination, and religious, ethnic or social intolerance.

To avoid publishing and promoting sectarian doctrinal terms and classifications, and the articles which carry sectarian messages and instil distrust between segments of society and incite sectarian strife and discord.

The commitment of all media organisations, professionals and journalists to assume responsibility by applying the principles of ethical and professional values of media freedom and to take responsibility for offending religious beliefs or moral values or defamation or discrimination against individuals or groups in society.

Signed:

Mr. Anwar Moh'd Abdul Rahman, Editor-in-Chief of Akhbar Al-Khaleej

Mr. Isa al-Shayaji, Editor-in-Chief of Al Ayam

Dr. Mansoor al-Jamri, Editor-in-Chief of Al Wasat

Mr. Yousif al-Binkhalil, Editor-in-Chief of Al Watan

Mr. Mu'nis al-Mardi, Editor-in-Chief of Al Bilad

Mr. Abdulmun'm al-Meer, Editor-in-Chief of Al Naba'a

This charter was signed on 2 December 2015 in the presence of His Excellency Isa bin Abdul Rahman Al Hamadi, Minister of Information Affairs and Shura and Representative Council Affairs.