# Hate speech on Al Jazeera Arabic

## -Through the analysis of the evidence of avoiding discrimination and hate speech-

**Djadaoun Zina[*], Ghodhban Ghalia.**

[1] Laboratory of Historical Studies and Research on Heritage and Civilisation, Abbas Laghrour University – Khenchela –(Algeria), djadoaun.zina@univ-khenchela.dz

[2] Abbas Laghrour University – Khenchela –(Algeria), ghalia.ghodbane@yahoo.com

Submissiondate : 31/01/2025 Acceptance date: 04/03/2025 Published date : 30/04/2025

## Résumé:

Grâce à cette étude, nous avons découvert comment faire face à la discrimination et au discours de haine à travers une lecture analytique du Guide pour éviter la discrimination et le discours de haine publié par l'Institut des médias Al Jazeera, et nous avons également appris ce que l'on entend par discrimination et discours de haine, la différence entre eux et la déclaration de leurs images, et cela en identifiant les étapes de base que le journaliste doit suivre lorsqu'il écrit les nouvelles avant et après publication, et parmi les résultats les plus importants auxquels nous sommes parvenus:

La discrimination est l'exclusion d'une personne ou d'un groupe de personnes et l'imposition de fardeaux sur la base de la religion, de la race, de la couleur, de l'ascendance ou de l'origine nationale ou ethnique, tandis que le discours de haine est toute expression qui suggère que la discrimination et provoque la haine entre les individus, et l'étude a également révélé que le discours de haine est différent de la discrimination, le premier exige une intention préméditée de haïr un groupe spécifique, Contrairement aux discours discriminatoires qui peuvent apparaître dans les articles de presse sans l'intention du journaliste, et la discrimination a été combattue Le discours de haine en publiant un guide pour éviter la discrimination et le discours de haine, qui est considéré comme un guide pour les journalistes, leur montre les étapes les plus importantes et les normes professionnelles qui garantissent l'objectivité journalistique.

**Mots-clés**: Discours de haine, chaîne arabe Al Jazeera, discrimination raciale, analyse.

[*]Djadaoun Zina

## Abstract:

Through this study, we found out how to confront discrimination and hate speech through an analytical reading of the Guide to Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech issued by Al Jazeera Media Institute, and we also learned about what is meant by discrimination and hate speech, the difference between them and the statement of their images, and this is by identifying the basic steps that the journalist must follow when writing the news before and after publication, and among the most important results we reached:

Discrimination is the exclusion of a person or group of people and imposing burdens on them based on religion, race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin, while hate speech is any expression that suggests that discrimination and provokes hatred between individuals, and the study also found that hate speech is different from discrimination, the first requires a premeditated intention to hate a specific group, unlike discriminatory speech that can appear in press stories without the journalist's intention, and discrimination has been confronted Hate speech by issuing a guide to avoid discrimination and hate speech, which is considered a guide for journalists, shows them the most important steps and professional standards that guarantee journalistic objectivity.


**Keywords:** Hate speech, Al Jazeera Arabic channel, racial discrimination, analysis.

## 1- **INTRODUCTION**:

Recently, hate speech and discrimination have become widespread because of many reasons: the phenomenon of refugees, and the crisis resulted from the apparition of extremism, spread all around the world, in addition the apparition of Islamophobia.

Moreover we notice the role of the social media in increasing the intensity of hate and discrimination speech, also the traditional media are not excluded.

It is no secret to anyone that it harms the individual and society, but rather that it harms the state and its economy.

Therefore, many efforts arose at the national and international levels from several official and unofficial foundations to confront hate speech and discrimination. Especially in the field of media, and perhaps the most important of these efforts is the issuance of a guide to avoiding discrimination and hate speech, which was issued by the Al Jazeera Media Institute.

## 2- **Problematic**

This scientific paper, titled "Hate speech through the analysis of the avoidance of discrimination and hate speech guide of Al Jazeera Media Institute", highlights on efforts to reduce and confront the phenomenon of hate speech.

These efforts are represented in focusing on this guide issued by Al Jazeera Media Institute, which was devoted to spotlighting the most important steps that the journalist should pay attention to while editing the news story.

In this study, the content of this guide will be analyzed, by answering the following main question:

What is the role of the guide "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech" in confronting hate speech issued by Al Jazeera Media Institute?

## 3- Objectives and importance of the study:

This scientific study, which came entitled **Hate speech on Al Jazeera Arabic-Through the analysis of the evidence of avoiding discrimination and hate speech-**, aims to answer the question posed in the previous problem, which came to find out the most prominent of what came out of the "**Guide to Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech"** issued by the Al Jazeera Media Institute, through an analytical reading of this guide, and the aim is to know the most prominent points and principles that it came to address and confront discrimination and hate speech in the media in general, especially in Al Jazeera Arabic Channel, which is a roadmap that helps the journalist to isolate His personal beliefs and principles about his news story and his press coverage in many topics and fields.

Hence, the importance of this study, which is evident through the subject itself, especially as we are in the age of technology and the world of openness of the skies that allowed and encouraged the spread of hate speech and discrimination, so it is necessary to emphasize the laws and professional ethics to limit the spread of this speech that led to the spread of terrorism of all kinds.

## 4- Study Approach:

Research methods are defined as: the actual method that researchers use to solve their research problems, and there is no doubt that such methods and approaches differ according to the general problems and goals they aim to achieve (Shukry & Muhammad, 1972, p. 117).

It is also defined as: "the method followed by the researcher to study a problem, or in other words, it refers to the method of organized thinking and how the researcher reaches his goals" (El-Jawhary, 1988, p. 25).

In view of the nature of this study, which belongs to the descriptive studies, which forced us to follow the survey method, as it is known as the method of scientific investigation and is used by examining evidence, experiments and documents that make up its natural condition, such as collecting data and information that achieve the desired scientific purpose (Marsli, 2003, p. 286).

## 5- Fields of study:

**Time Domain**:

This study extended from the beginning of September 2023 to the forest of the beginning of November of the same year

**Spatial domain**:

This study was not related to a spatial domain Maeen because it relies on the analysis of the "Guide to Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech" in Al-Jazeera Al-Arabiya, based on the descriptive approach during the year 2023.

## 6- Define study concepts:

**hate speech:**

Hate is usually shaped, fueled and directed by certain individuals or groups against other individuals and groups different from the prevailing majority in ethnicity, language or religion, often for political reasons, and hate messages can find fertile ground with broader social, economic or political problems. or divisions in society (Al-Khasawneh & Sahel, 2021, p. 303).

## 7- Guide "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech"

It is a guide issued in December 2019 by the Al-Jazeera Media Institute in both Arabic and English languages. It highlights professional practices and legal limits for producing

objective materials that help journalists avoid discrimination or incitement to hatred in their journalistic stories, as it provides a number of tools that contribute to the production of objective material. Far from the bias that leads to discrimination and hate speech, the journalist Muhammad Khamaysa is the main author of the guide (Aljazeera, 2022).

## The theoretical framework of the study

## First: The concept of hate speech and discrimination in the media:

This term is a compound of two terms, and to clarify the complex meaning, it is necessary to go through the definition of the two terms, to obtain defining its intent and clarifying its meaning.

## Definition of speech in language:

The sermon is like the message that has a beginning and à last, and the sermon is the source of the orator. It is on one face, which is that it is a name for the speech that the orator speaks, so the place of the source is placed. Speech, and some of the commentators said about the Almighty's saying: "And We gave him wisdom and a decisiveness of speech" / (Surah Sad: Verse 20) Separation of speech is to rule by evidence or oath, and it was said: It means to separate between truth and falsehood, and to distinguish between judgment and against it (Daou, 2021, p. 133).

## Definition of hatein language:

Al-Kaf, Al-Ra, and Al-Haa are one true origin, indicating the opposite of contentment and love. It is said: I hate something by hate, and hate is the name.

And it is said: hate: hardship, and hate: when you are entrusted with something and do it against your will.

And it is said of hate, hatred, stink: intensity in war, and it is said to the sword that lasts in taxes with unpleasantness, and it is said that hatred is a severe-headed camel, as if it hates to be submissive.

Hatred is a source of something being hated, so it is hated if it does not want it and does not please it, and it is originally attributed to hate.

Although the term hate speech may seems as a sociological term that is not suitable for addressing a specific legal issue,However, international jurisprudence and practice unanimously agree that hate speech is the theoretical prelude to serious crimes such as genocide and various forms of violence. In this regard, Professor William Chabas says: "The road to genocide in Rwanda was paved with hate speech" (Qasimi, 2021, p. 153).

The concept of "hate speech" has not settled on a unified concept or name at the international and national levels, and even at the jurisprudential level. It has been called different names such as advocacy of hatred, incitement to hatred, and other names that have the same meaning.

## Definition of Discrimination:

The International Convention on the Judiciary defines all forms of discrimination according to Article 1 as: "**any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, origin, religion, sex, belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, language, opinion, nationality or Social class, nationality, property, birth, color, or any other reason that impairs or prevents equality with human rights and fundamental freedoms, whether in the political, economic, social, cultural, or any important field of life** (Sabah, 2016, p. 4).

As for the guide on "**Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech**," it states that discrimination is the legal term used in international conventions and covenants to define any case in which an exception, restriction, or discrimination is made to a person or group on the basis of race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin, which leads to Reducing the human rights of these people, or restricting their recognition,In the journalistic context, this can be done by framing people or groups in a negative light based on their identity, with the aim of spreading hatred towards them, or inciting them. Discrimination in journalistic stories may not always be deliberate, but the journalist must have a high commitment to professional standards in Preparing it for the press material, in order to avoid discrimination or incitement to hatred (Guide "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech", Al Jazeera Media Institute, 2019).

## Discrimination elements:

In order for us to recognize that this act is discrimination, three elements must be present:

## Presence of discriminatory acts such as exclusion, preference or prohibition.

That exclusion or discrimination was against an individual or a group due to the presence of personal characteristics such as origin, color, race, gender, religion, language, etc.

Such discriminatory treatment may result in depriving the victims of one of their basic rights and freedoms (Hurdo Center, 2016, p 06)

## The difference between discrimination and hate speech according to the "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech" guide:

In the "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech" guide, it was stated that the term hate speech appeared in the media for the first time in the United States in 1989 to include problems related to harmful racist speech, which was protected by US law under the protection of freedom of expression.

Despite the different definitions of hate speech, as we mentioned earlier, for speech to be considered hate speech, it must be deliberate and directed for the purpose of spreading,

promoting, or even justifying hatred towards an ethnic or national group, or any form of hatred based on intolerance.

The Council of Europe has proposed defining hate speech as: “all forms of expression that disseminate, incite, encourage or justify ethnic, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including intolerance expressed in terms of nationalism and pride Ethnic discrimination and hostility to minorities, immigrants and people of immigrant origin.

According to the "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech" guide, hate speech differs from discriminatory speech. The first requires an intention to hate towards a specific group, unlike discriminatory speech that can appear in journalistic stories without the journalist or media organization realizing it, for several reasons such as lack of experience. In the professional standards that guarantee journalistic objectivity or the journalist's lack of understanding of the context of the story he is working on, the guide resorted to use the two terms together to avoid any confusion.

## Discrimination and hate speech in the media according to the guide "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech":

The journalistic material involves negative discrimination and hate speech due to the journalist's bias towards one side of the story at the expense of another, with a desire to portray the other side in a negative light.

Prejudice is defined as: “a tendency or prejudice against a person or group in an unfair manner, or a focus or interest in a specific topic or angle.”

## Forms of bias in the media:

bias in Media can take three main forms:

Distortion Bias: News that seeks to distort the truth.

Content Bias: When the voice of a political current or a particular social or religious trend appears in the news at the expense of other currents and trends.

Decision-Making Bias: Editors' motives and convictions that drive them to take a certain position on the story and produce biased content.

When we talk about bias, it should be noted that the journalist's bias towards one party at the expense of another while preparing his journalistic story, in a way that violates objectivity, represents - definitely - a violation of the professional standards of journalism, but that does not necessarily mean that this journalist has fallen into the trap of discrimination or discourse hatred

As for discrimination, a journalist falls into it if his journalistic story includes directing, directly or indirectly, to exclusion, restriction or discrimination in human rights towards a person or group, because of their ethnic identity, color, gender, language, religion, sect,

opinion, or based on Any other discriminatory basis. This includes promoting the superiority of one group over another because of its ethnic identity or color, or inciting violence against a person or group for the same reasons.

As for hate speech, the journalist would have practiced it if, in his journalistic story, he framed people or groups, based on their identity, and distorted them in a negative way, with the intention of spreading hatred towards them or inciting against them, or justifying that.

Not only does the journalist committing hate speech include hate speech in his story, but we also look at the general context in which the journalistic material came, the extent to which there is a hostile atmosphere that leads to making hate speech lead to violence, and the impact that such speech can have on that group.

## Reasons for bias:

Several reasons for the journalist's bias in his news story are mentioned in the guide “Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech":

## Bias to influence public policy:

The media outlet's practice of bias in coverage gives it a role in influencing the political decision within a country positively or negatively.

## Government legislation and pressure from politicians:

The media is forced to practice a certain bias in covering specific issues to serve the agenda of the government or politicians, more so in non-democratic countries, and a government may seek, through the media, to promote hate speech against a group, with the aim of preparing public opinion to take action against it.

## Preference of the readers for the media institution:

Serving the public and taking into account the positions of public opinion forces journalists, in their coverage of some issues, to take sides with one party at the expense of another.

## The personal positions of the journalists themselves:

Journalists usually have attitudes towards the issues they deal with, and a journalist's lack of objectivity leads to bias in that.

According to the “Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech” guide:

Not every bias in the press means the practice of discrimination or the promotion of hate speech. There are materials that bias the public in the face of tyrannical authority, or in favor of the weaker voice in exchange for the dominant voice, or in favor of the truth in the face of targeted political propaganda.

Contrary to prejudice, which seeks to conceal the truth, mislead the public, and incite against specific groups.

The most prominent cases of hate speech and discrimination practiced in the Arab and international media:

The guide also reveals the seriousness of bias and the spread of hatred in the media through several events, including what was mentioned in a Swedish study regarding the link between the anti-refugee and immigrant publications published on social media and the attacks against them.

In the Arab world, several Lebanese and Jordanian media outlets published biased coverage against Syrian refugees, which contributed to creating a bad perception of them within society.On a website belonging to one of the Lebanese channels, a report was published linking the spread of cancer in Lebanon to the increase in the number of refugees, based on the opinion of a doctor, without listing evidence to confirm this.

In this context, the guide explains the concept of moral panic, in which the media takes a position in which public fears outweigh the objective threat that society poses to an individual or group.

Some media outlets have worked for decades to spread panic about some gangs, drug dealers, manifestations of school violence, and stories of child abuse, to recently stereotype immigrants and refugees as a source of crimes, diseases, poverty, and many of society's problems.

## Rwandan Civil War:

This important historical case is always referred to because of the enormity of the crimes committed, which were followed by trials that ended with the condemnation of the media. The Rwandan RTLM radio played a role in fueling the conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnicities in the Rwandan civil war in 1994, and it incited the killing of Tutsis and described them as "cockroaches" during coverage of events.

## Basic steps for objective and ethical reporting to avoid discrimination and hate speech:

After the theoretical foundation, the guide moves to the practical part, presenting the series of stages that the journalist must adopt during the production of his journalistic material, starting from selecting the topic and ending with the ethical evaluation of the material before it is published. The guide also provides models for evaluation that enable the journalist to solve the ethical dilemmas that he may face:

## Step One: Planning the Story:

Before starting to identify the sources and write the journalistic story, the journalist must **build a knowledgeable background** on the event, by conducting comprehensive research on the issue he will work on, and collecting all available information from

specialized sources (data, statistics, academic studies, etc.),After that, he identifies all the sources of the story, and this comes by looking at all its aspects and choosing the affected persons or entities. The absence of one of its parties makes it far from objectivity and biased towards the narration of one party at the expense of another, and here the story becomes more susceptible to discrimination towards its parties. After collecting the sources, it is necessary to **Verify the information before using it**, because there are some sources that may declare false or inciting information, and here the journalist may not take these statements as facts and publish them as they are without verification, even if they are attributed to their sources.

## Step Two: Story Production:

While the journalist is producing his press story, he must take into account several things:

- Always be keen to put the appropriate questions for each source or party
- He should not complete his material behind the desk, but rather he should go to the field always to see the scene itself, not with the eyes of the sources only.
- Ensure the privacy of societies and take into account the cultural, social and religious contexts in order not to fall victim to discrimination and incitement to hatred.
- Following the statements of a person who has authority in her field and can make an impact, you must consider whether these statements contain incitementor discriminate or incite hatred or violence, and then not deal with it unless there is a valid editorial justification, and it should be placed in context, and a response must be obtained from the affected parties.
- Ensure that the content is evaluated, whether explicit, images or videos, and think about the consequences of using it.
- Examining the press stories published in the media on the subject of the press story, and deducing the aspects that were overlooked or covered in an incomplete or unprofessional manner, and trying to rectify them in the story to be written.

## Step three: write the story:

After taking the previous steps, and starting to write the story, it is necessary to adhere to the order of the sequence of novels according to importance, and to achieve a fair distribution of opinions.

In some cases, there is an opinion of one of the parties to the story based on inaccurate information, and it is likely that it constitutes a kind of inflammatory invitation towards a specific individual or group, and here lies the role of the journalist in responding to this inaccurate information by listing the correct information.

**Fourth step: Ethically evaluating the journalistic story:**

Commitment to the principles of objective journalistic coverage alone does not avoid the journalist from falling into the practice of unintentional discrimination in his journalistic stories. Rather, there are ethical responsibilities that the journalist must pay great attention to before deciding to publish his journalistic story.

Often, journalists present a story that appears in its general form to adhere to the professional and objective rules of journalism, but its general orientation tends to support specific discourse that promotes discrimination or hatred, whether through the nature of the selected

sources, the nature of the terminology used, or other tools that make a voice. One within the story is the loudest compared to other voices. Some journalists may support discourse that promotes discrimination or hatred within the journalistic story, without intending or knowing the consequences of this discourse and its impact on the reader.

At the end of the guide there is a set of questions.

## Conclusion

In the end, we conclude that the concepts of hate speech and discrimination, as well as the stages of news story production in the "Avoiding Discrimination and Hate Speech" guide, do not differ from the accepted rules among journalists.

However, the supervisors of this guide have given great importance and attention to professional practices that help journalists avoid discrimination and hate speech, such as mentioning cases of discrimination in the media, and indicating the sources that the journalist must rely on, and setting a number of tips for writing an objective journalistic story, as well as inferring a set of models for the ethical evaluation of the news story and to ensure that it adheres to a professional ethical discourse,and finally, the guide put together a number of questions that the journalist is advised to ask himself during the various stages and steps of producing and editing his journalistic story.

## Bibliography

**References:**

1. Ahmed Ben Marsli (2003) Scientific Research Methods in Media and Communication Sciences, University Publications Office, Algeria.

2. Khaled Daou (2021) Penal provisions for crimes of discrimination and hate speech in Algerian legislation within Law 20-05, Journal of Social Empowerment, folder 3, Issue 04.

3. Samir Qasimi (2021) Discrimination and hate speech between Law 05/20 and international agreements, Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Issue 05, Month 03.

4. Sakhr Ahmad Al-Khasawneh and Sahel Ali Al-Atoum (2021) The Role of Social Media in Spreading Hate Speech from the Viewpoint of Jordanian Journalists - A Field Study, Journal of the Islamic University for Sharia and Legal Studies, VOL 29, N01.

5. Abdel-Hadi El-Jawhary (1988) Studies in Political Sociology, ed., Nahdat El Sharq Library, Cairo, Egypt.

6. Alia Shoukry and others (1972) Reading in Sociology, 2nd Edition, Modern Publishing House, Egypt.

7. Muhammad Khamaysa (2019) Avoiding Discrimination and Hate SpeechGuide, Al Jazeera Media Institute.

8. Muhammad Sobhi Saeed Sabah (2016), Discrimination crimes and incitement to hatred and violence - a comparative study, Journal of Legal and Economic Studies, Issue 2, June, Egypt, Cairo University, Faculty of Law.

9. Hurdo Center (2016) Discrimination and Hate Speech - Between Egypt and the World -, Cairo.

***websites:***

10. https://institute.aljazeera.net/ar/news, Access date: 1/1/2022