

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Developing a Media Model for Mitigating the Consequences of Human Rights Violations in Iraq

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

n the introduction, the phrase “there is a clear lack of a comprehensive model addressing how media can systematically reduce the impacts of human rights violations” should be supported by a direct citation or a brief mention of key gaps found in the reviewed literature.

In the “Historical studies” section, you list Iraq’s three eras. Provide a connecting sentence that shows how these historical violations relate to current media vulnerability and justify the need for a media model.

Table 1 and subsequent coding tables contain very long lists. Consider summarizing or grouping similar codes visually (e.g., color bands, hierarchy) to improve readability and interpretability.

The practice recommendations (capacity building, protection of journalists, etc.) are strong but could be connected back to the model’s categories; e.g., explain how “media networking” or “storytelling” can be operationalized in Iraqi regulatory frameworks.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In “Theoretical Foundations,” you outline five theories (Developmental Media Theory, Foucault’s Discourse Theory, etc.). Consider explicitly linking each to Iraq’s context. For example, show how Foucault’s discourse theory explains state co-optation of Iraqi media.

Terms like “media awareness” and “media literacy” appear interchangeably in the theoretical section. Decide whether these are distinct constructs or synonyms and align the terminology.

In the discussion, when stating “digital platforms provide alternative spaces where state-controlled narratives can be challenged,” cite one or two studies from your reference list that empirically show this effect in Iraq or similar post-conflict contexts.

The limitation “the sample size and academic orientation may have excluded grassroots activists” is good but could be deepened by discussing how this might bias the proposed model (e.g., underestimating practical barriers journalists face).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.