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Date: 15/03/26
Ref No: 3060/0474/26

Subject: Official Review of the Dissertation Thesis Submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Journalism

Review of the Foreign Scientific Consultant on the Dissertation Thesis of Doctoral Candidate, HAFTAMU KIROS TEKARE

Entitled:

"Comparative Analysis of Framing of Human Trafficking in Contemporary Print Media" submitted within the Educational Program "8D03201" for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Journalism

I have reviewed the dissertation of doctoral candidate, HAFTAMU KIROS TEKARE, entitled: "Comparative Analysis of Framing of Human Trafficking in Contemporary Print Media", submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Journalism.

The dissertation is devoted to the study of media framing of human trafficking in contemporary print media, with a comparative analysis of newspaper coverage in to two countries in Ethiopia and Kazakhstan. The selected topic is highly relevant and timely since human trafficking is one of the most serious social problems and human rights violations in the world including in Ethiopia and Kazakhstan which demands continuous media, policy and scholarly attention. The researcher convincingly demonstrates the significant role of journalism and the news media particularly newspapers in shaping the understanding of the public, social attitudes and policy discourse related to human trafficking.

The dissertation is well planned and logically organized. The structure of the work is coherent and all sections are closely interconnected. The research objectives, tasks, and hypotheses are clearly formulated and consistently addressed throughout the dissertation. The researcher shows





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a strong ability to move from theoretical discussion to empirical analysis and to synthesize findings in a systematic and academically sound manner.

The methodology employed in the study is appropriate to the research objectives and meets contemporary academic standards. The dissertation is primarily based on quantitative content analysis which allows for a systematic examination of media frames used in newspaper coverage and framing of human trafficking. This approach is effectively supplemented by qualitative in-depth interviews which enrich the empirical findings and provide deeper insight into journalistic practices and framing processes. The combination of quantitative methods enhances the reliability and validity of the research results.

The dissertation contains elements of scientific novelty and contributes to the development of knowledge in the field of journalism and media studies. Through comparative analysis, the researcher identifies key similarities and differences in framing of human trafficking across the two countries newspaper contexts. The results expand existing research on media framing theory and offer valuable empirical evidence to scholars, journalists, educators and policymakers.

The conclusion presented in the dissertation are well grounded, logically derived from the analysis and fully reflect the content of all sections of the study. The researcher has published scientific articles in Scopus as well as local scientific journals of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including journals recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

During the period of Doctoral study, doctoral candidate, HAFTAMU KIROS TEKARE, actively participated in international scientific conferences and published research papers in conference





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proceedings. He also successfully completed research internships at Mekelle University in Ethiopia.

Overall, the dissertation is characterized by a high level of academic rigor, theoretical grounding, methodological consistency and practical relevance. The researcher demonstrates independence in research, strong analytical skills and the ability to conduct original scientific work at doctoral level. Based on the quality of the dissertation, the published scientific articles, and the academic activity of the candidate, I conclude that the dissertation of doctoral candidate, HAFTAMU KIROS TEKARE fully meets the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Journalism and that the researcher deserves to be awarded the stated degree.

Foreign Scientific Consultant/Supervisor


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