The Essence of Regulating the Parliamentary Conduct: A Comparative Study

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Abstract:

This study, titled “The Essence of Regulating the Parliamentary Conduct: a Comparative Study”, examines the term of parliamentary conduct, its definition, as well as its differentiation from other concepts, and listing the legal frameworks governing it.
Thus, the study is examined, in two articles, the essence of regulating the parliamentary conduct: "The concept of a parliamentary code of conduct" in the first section, and the principles and criteria of parliamentary conduct, in the second section thereof.

The study followed a comparative legal analysis approach to examine the problem of the study on core; the parliamentary conduct, its principles and criteria that promote such conduct, and reached a number of results; the most important of which are the failure of the Jordanian legislator to recognize this essence, which made the parliamentary code of conduct lose its core.

**Keywords:** Parliamentary Conduct, Parliamentary Code of Conduct, Standards of Parliamentary Conduct, Principles of Parliamentary Conduct

**Citation Reference:**


**The introduction:**

Parliamentary conduct as a means of contracting for the formation of the parliamentary government, given that the parliament is a deliberative, argumentative body. Therefore, it is necessary to examine defining the term parliamentary conduct, and differentiating it from other concepts, clarifying the legal frameworks governing it, and discussing the legal regulation of parliamentary conduct. Thus, the study is dealt with in two sections to address the regulation of Parliamentary conduct: the first section is “the concept of Parliamentary Code of Conduct, and the second is the principles and standards of parliamentary conduct”.

The study followed a comparative legal analysis approach to examine the problem of the study on what parliamentary conduct is, its principles and criteria that promote such conduct, which makes the question of the study centered on the following:

What is parliamentary conduct and what are the standards and principles which are based upon?

The regulation of parliamentary conduct takes several legal systems. This may be achieved in the internal rules of procedure of the parliament, or; It may be organized in the form of a code of conduct attached to the rules of procedure.
This study will discuss the most important articles of parliamentary principles and standards. Therefore, this study will be divided into two sections, the first of which discusses the concept of parliamentary conduct, and the second of which deals with the principles and standards of parliamentary conduct.

The first section
the concept of the parliamentary code of conduct

Parliamentary conduct in terms of its essence necessitates its distinction from other concepts such as ethics. Western countries adopt the term "parliamentary ethics" or "imposed morality", while the Jordanian legislator chose the legal term "code of conduct", which necessitates discussing it linguistically and idiomatically.

The first subsection: The concept of parliamentary conduct linguistically

"Morality" in the language of the Arabs: spontaneity; because its owner has been destined for it. Firuzabadi said: Alkholoq “Morality: spontaneity and nature, chivalry and religion.” Ibn manzur said: “Morality: creation” means: nature, and in surah Qalam verse 4 “and indeed you are of great morals.” Its plural: morals. Morals and spontaneity - it is said: be companion of the believer and deal with the wicked both with good manners, and in the hadith: “There is nothing in the scale heavier than good manners.” It is to the inner image of a human, which is his soul and its attributes and meanings that are specific to it, like the creation has to his outward image and its attributes as well as its meanings. They have good and ugly descriptions: the reward and punishment are related to the descriptions of the inner image more than they are related to the descriptions of the outward image, that is why the hadiths praising good manners are repeated in more than one place.

Al-Waseet dictionary defines morals: “the science of morals” is a science whose subject matter is value judgments related to actions that are described as good or bad. It was said that what is “ethical” is what conforms to the rules of

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4Ibn Manzoor, Muhammad bin Makram, Lisan Al-Arab, ibid, Material kholq.
5Al-Isfahani, Al-Raghib Abu Al-Hussein Al-Qasim Bin Muhammad, Vocabulary of the Noble Qur’an, investigation by Safwan Adnan Dawoodi, Dar Al-Qalam, Damascus, pg. 297.
morality or rules of conduct established in society.

Le Robert Micro dictionary of the French language defined the word "Éthique" as the moral science and includes moral concepts⁶, it also defined the science of ethics as a set of moral concepts for a person describing behavior that is consistent with justice⁷, and defined the word "Déontologie" as a set of rules or obligations that regulate members of the profession’s behavior or individuals who are responsible for a function in society, whether or not this is regulated by law. Among profession’s ethics: the medical professions.

Thus, the French lexical significance shows that there is a subjective criterion for the term "Éthique", while the term "Déontologie" relates to a professional objective template that relates to behavior.

The Oxford Modern Dictionary defines the term "ethics" as a set of behavioral principles recognized in human interaction and society's institutions in human behavior, and it is one of the branches of philosophy.

Thus, the word "ethics" denotes professional ethics, and in its semantic contexts it confirms its connection to philosophy. The word "ethical" is adjective, while "moral" means a group of Beliefs that show right from wrong, its adverb is “Morally” means good and correct manner, based on standards that show right from wrong, “Immorally” means immoral, and “moralize” means preaching or talking about the principles of morality.

The code is called in French-speaking countries, such as Quebec in Canada, with the "Code de Déontologie des membres de l'Assemblé")⁸, in compliance with the term of the philosopher Kant, as the term "Déontologie" denotes the due morals, and the establishment of the science of non-religious situational ethics, pioneered by Jeremy Bentham in 1825, and this is confirmed by Christian Laval⁹.

And conduct which means a person’s biography, behavior and direction: etiquette / good / bad behavior. The science of behavior is the science of ethics. And "behavior", in psychology, is the total response shown by a human being

⁷ Ibid., p395.
⁹ Christian Laval, Jérémie BENTHAM, Déontologie ou science de la morale, Revue d'études benthamiennes [En ligne], 1 | 2006, published on septembre 1, 2006, consulted on December 26, 2018. URL: http://journals.openedition.org/etudes-benthamiennes/172
Lexicon of meanings, behavior.
towards any situation he encounters\textsuperscript{10} and thus he is conscious and unconscious, which shows that this term denotes multiple meanings as homonyms; Therefore, behavior is the external manifestation of the psychological factors that govern human behavior.

**The second subsection: the concept of parliamentary conduct Terminologically**

The rules of ethics are general rules necessary to achieve the goals stipulated in the indicative code of conduct, without including punishment, and express ambitious aspirations and reflections, and are intended to describe behavior in a specific way.

The rules of behavior can be defined from the researcher's point of view as rules that define the optimal alternative and set the general legal framework that encourages or prevents work, as well as informing about the act that requires permission, according to guidelines and a procedure that determines the disciplinary fault and the punishment for it.

Liberal professions use the term "professional etiquette and rules of conduct", such as the legal profession\textsuperscript{11}. The "Constitution" like the Medical Constitution; Therefore, the distinction between these two terms is confusing, and for that reason it is considered a linguistic synonym, without judging it as a linguistic difference. There is no dispute in the terminology and the aim is in the meanings, not in words and buildings, and as a result, the term in Western thought is not linked to religion.

As for the “Mudawana” Terminologically, it includes different interpretations according to the major legal legislations. The code in Islamic law is a written act of record, such as the dash of codification of jurisprudence, history, literature and Quran sciences, and in the history of pre Islam Arabs of the civilization of the city of Ebla, west of the Syrian city of Aleppo, knew the first codification process since 2400 BC and Hammurabi of Babylon\textsuperscript{12}, according to the Anglo-Saxon common law the word code is developed on the basis of an agreement within the institution, and its application depends on internal regulatory laws\textsuperscript{13}. However, this does not negate that the American Constitution was issued in the form of a code, and according to the Latin


European continental system, it is specific to the collective laws issued by the legislative authority, such as the civil law, and the set of rules which must be respected, such as the Code of Honor\textsuperscript{14}.

This study used behavior as mentioned in the Parliamentary Code of Conduct, as an indication of parliamentary conduct to be more literal and professional, and with regard to the use of the terms “representative” and “parliamentary” as synonyms, it became clear to the researcher after checking that the term “representative” was mentioned in the Jordanian constitution in lieu of the term "democratic” contained in the draft of the Jordanian constitution of 1952\textsuperscript{15}. The Egyptian constitution is the historical source of the Jordanian constitution, and the constitutional legislator chose the term “representative” which is equivalent to the term “representative.” As for the English linguistic origin, it is representative democracy and parliamentary system, meaning representative democracy and parliamentary system, respectively. To differentiate between the two terms, representative democracy is linked to the existence of an executive apparatus separate from the House of Representatives, such as the American presidential system. In the parliamentary system, the executive power emanates from the legislative power, and the two terms will be used, here, as linguistically synonymous\textsuperscript{16}, taking into consideration that the concept of the representative system in use does not constitute a constitutional government. It has become the transformation of political systems to participatory democracy that approaches direct democracy.

Therefore, Stapenhurst and Bailey said: “A legislative code of conduct is an official document that regulates the conduct of legislators by defining what is acceptable conduct and what is not. In other words, it is a document that aims to create a political culture that places great emphasis on the appropriateness, validity, transparency and integrity of parliamentarians but The Code of Conduct does not seek to create this conduct per se\textsuperscript{17}.

As a result, the researcher believes that the development of parliamentary behavior is linked to the treatment of the problem of financial corruption, and the creation of a peaceful culture for a calm legislative mind, capable of thinking

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{15}Memoirs of the House of Representatives, Proceedings of the third session of the first regular session of the Jordanian Parliament, Amman on Wednesday, November 21, 1951, Issue 11, p. 70.
\textsuperscript{16} https://politics.stackexchange.com/questions/287/what-is-the-difference-between-representative-and-parliamentary-democracy last visit 4-7-2016.
rationally.

Since the essence of parliamentary work lies in communication, parliamentary work is regulated by principles and standards that govern parliamentary communicative relations and regulate the work of parliamentarians and their relations with others, including public and social institutions, an electoral base, civil society institutions, as well as the parliamentary institution. Therefore, the parliamentary principles and standards will be the subject of discussion in the following section.

The second section
principles and standards of parliamentary conduct

Parliamentary conduct includes behavioral procedures to follow in accordance with the laws governing it. It is based on principles and standards that requires knowledge in each parliamentarian, in order to regulate the work of the parliamentary legislative oversight body, and the representative’s exercise of these constitutional functions with skill and professionalism. Since these acts are boundless and unrestricted facts, it necessitated regulating them according to the principles and standards of the convergence of free professions and regulating the conduct of public servants and workers in civil society institutions, in accordance with the standards of parliamentary public life. The conductible responsibility of parliamentarians is more converging with the executive authority, especially in countries that form parliamentary governments, as the executive authority achieves prosperity and provides public services, and this makes the budget subject to the financial decisions taken by the minister in the conduct of his ministry’s affairs, so it is the responsibility of the minister, with regard to the financial aspect/ more important than the responsibility of the vicar18; From here, the discussion of this topic comes in two parts:

The first subsection: Parliamentary Principles

The researcher finds that the goals and principles are used as legal synonyms, but the goals are concerned with the desired result of the work and the obstacles

that we want to overcome in order to achieve success. The goal is the specific purpose or intent of a process, activity, or institution as a whole and it may be quantifiable, for example preventing corruption and achieving established standards. As for the principles, they are what is acknowledged for their clarity and constitute a guide to accomplishing the work\textsuperscript{19}, and it is agreed upon by society in terms of doing or avoiding it. It is the belief, fundamental principles and rules that are culturally endorsed, so that these concepts are not consolidated except through a free and extensive discussion and objective legal practice, so that the wording and meaning agree with the pragmatic practice that achieves the general benefit of society, and it moves from the slogans to the practical application considering the material law as a tool for change. As for the criterion, it represents the foundations on which the boundless facts are based. The researcher deduces from the law in its broad sense the principles of parliamentary work from the parliamentary code of conduct and parliamentary standards of behavior in comparative legislations such as Britain, in which the term minister is united by the parliamentarian because the same principles apply to the two legal positions and they are summarized in the following:

1. Selflessness: The representative's actions should aim to achieve the public interest Article 4 / Clause 1 of the Code of Conduct, and as a result, impartiality and nobility for the sake of the public interest, and rejection of hostility.

2. Integrity: that the representative avoids placing himself under the influence of organizations and individuals who try to influence his actions and decisions with the aim of serving their interests and achieving personal profit or achieving personal interest or family benefits for him and his friends, including the duty to inform in case of any conflict of interest.

3. Objectivity: That a member of parliament takes his decisions impartially, fairly and right, and uses the best evidence to make his decisions without bias or discrimination.

4. Accountability: The Member of Parliament is subject to accountability and questioning before the public for his decisions and actions, and to provide the public with what enables him to monitor and examine, and to make his decision through the ballot box.

5. Openness: That a member of parliament makes his decisions and actions openly and transparently, and not withhold information from the public, and present his decisions convincingly and legally, and that the confidentiality of

\textsuperscript{19} Lexicon of meanings. Target item.
information within a narrow framework, according to a modern law for obtaining information.

6. Integrity, Honesty & Honor: A member of parliament must be honest in disclosing a conflict of interest.

7. Leadership: That the aforementioned principles be evident in the behavior of the member of parliament and strictly reinforced, and that he have a real desire to challenge possible misconduct\(^\text{20}\), and that the principle of responsible leadership, which indicates the representative’s selection of national leaders on the basis of merit and competence, is achieved in the event of Availability of legal provisions that give the Council or its Speaker the right to choose, such as appointing Constitutional Court judges. The above principles are called the Seven Principles of Public Life issued by the Committee of Standards in Public Life, which was established in the United Kingdom in 1994\(^\text{21}\). Many countries tend to include these principles in their constitutions, such as the Kingdom of Morocco, with good governance or good governance (la bonne gouvernance), including Chapter 167 of the Constitution, or to issue special laws regarding them, such as the “Public Life Ethics Act” in France, and according to its provisions, a parliamentarian is prevented from conducting his commercial transactions through his relatives, and the penalties for violating it reach to the deprivation of liberty for a period of three years and a prohibition from running for upcoming elections and a fine according to the severity of the act\(^\text{22}\).

8. Strengthening national unity (Article 4, Clause 3) of the Code of Conduct, and not covering up any corruption or injustice that would harm the country and the citizen.

9. Respecting civil and political rights (Article 2, Clause 5), so that citizenship is the focus of parliamentary conduct, avoiding clan tendencies and narrow sub-loyalties, by promoting the concept of citizenship.

**The second subsection Two: Parliamentary Standards**

The essence of the standards of parliamentary conduct is reduced to the concept of conflict of interest that regulates the disclosure and declaration of


interests and the proper use of resources. These standards constitute an important axis in the concept of parliamentary conduct and are based in essence on regulating the material interests of the representative and the parliament, and constitute an evolution of the responsibility of the member of parliament, which was limited to being associated with the right to speak and disturbing the order of the session during parliamentary deliberations.

Parliamentary conduct breaching the duties of membership is an aspect of corruption and a matter of national security. We find that the criterion of conflict of interest has a legal presence in the judicial system with regard to the judges' dismissal to their lack of impartiality. The Arab Spring and economic globalization revealed the fusion of wealth and power. Therefore, reducing the conflict of interests strengthens democracy and the legitimacy of the state, so that the political system can adapt and sustain continuity and not collapse.\(^{23}\)

The term parliamentary conflict of interest is problematic in itself in terms of its concept, definition, and its forms. It is consistent with or inconsistent with other terms, such as: the principle of conflict of interests, similarity of interests, corruption, impartiality, transparency, prior disclosure of information, illegal gain and disclosure rules. The issue of parliamentary conflict of interests is clear in marriage, intermarriage, kinship relations, meetings of senior officials in commercial, clan, regional and doctrinal clusters. However, the conflict of interests is hidden in other relationships, such as: nepotism, and hidden biases in political culture, as the study of Stapenhurst, R., and Pelizzo emphasized the importance of culture and training in the success of the code of conduct\(^{24}\), as the vision of political players differs in their vision of national interest, integrity, and objectivity, which is steadily settling in, practice, and public opinion control and the need to improve the culture of society\(^{25}\). And since the term “conflict of interests” applies to the aforementioned apparent issues, it is important in monitoring wealth and its change, movements and travels, and whether there are close kinship relationships or not\(^{26}\).

Thus, the concept of conflict of interest represents the upholding of private affairs over the public interest, which necessitates limiting nepotism that puts personal, social and interest relationships before objective considerations.


\(^{26}\)Abu Hammad, Ibrahim Muhammad, Legal Regulation of Conflict of Interest, ibid
The problem of bias is one of the forms of breach of parliamentary behavior, because it drops objective considerations and tends to subjective personal considerations, and to the practice of nepotism by giving preference to the unentitled over the deserving one, due to influence and relations. Therefore, the need arose for a statement of legal standards for conflict of interest. Belizzo believes that there is a need for consensus on the common values and preferences of parliamentarians, which achieves a better success for the code of conduct\(^27\). The researcher finds that preferences for politicized appointment on merit and competence, preference for relatives, acceptance of gifts and banquets are the prevailing culture in society. This needs a cultural and legal change. In addition, there are those who are committed to the highest values, especially from the first parliamentarians. There are businessmen who aim to achieve their interests. Others do not care about conflicts of interest. This is consistent with the division of Mancos\(^28\).

Disclosure of this requires a vigorous pursuit to claim judicial satisfaction and claim the right through a specialized technical apparatus. As the general damage in the crime of corruption, and the perpetrator has public influence and is able to hide the evidence that is characterized by confidentiality, so the problem of proving it involves an aspect of legal complexity, and the competent authorities are represented by the Anti-Corruption Agency and the Parliamentary Privileges Committee in the countries where such a committee exists\(^29\).

Parliamentary conduct is considered an ethics of process, such as submitting a parliamentarian’s disclosure of financial disclosure to the competent authority, as it is a procedural work that ends as soon as it is submitted\(^30\). Therefore, the behavioral systems aim to preserve the correctness of the procedures, including the decision-making process for the parliamentary member, based on the available legal alternatives. The process of combating parliamentary corruption is procedural, like the procedural disclosure of gifts, allowances and resources. Although it is reduced to this, political corruption and parliamentary scandals are taking place at an upward rate, because morality is material and represents


equilibrium politics and the fait accompli.

Conflict of interest, then, represents a preventive and remedial aspect of combating corruption. Accordingly, the following table shows the basic standards of the parliamentary behavior system, which stem from the principles of legal integrity to regulate the legal value standards of conflict of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal system</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Research issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code of Conduct</td>
<td>A written list of principles and/or rules and standards for regulating conduct</td>
<td>Clear guidance for the deputy on expected behavior and accountability</td>
<td>Mechanisms Compatibility with external laws? Principles or rules? Or rules that include normatively defined behaviors Companion guide to the Code of Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registering interests</td>
<td>A list of private interests of a member of parliament that can influence his decision</td>
<td>Checking that private interests do not affect the function of the representative</td>
<td>What do you need to register? Who can have access to the information? What information is considered a right of privacy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaring assets</td>
<td>The financial statements of the total assets of the deputy parliament</td>
<td>Prevent corruption by allowing the examination of acquired assets through public work</td>
<td>How is disclosure (electronically, on paper, etc.)? What must be disclosed to the public? Should family members disclose their financial assets? Is the financial disclosure subject to examination by the tax authority?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowances and transfers</td>
<td>Rules governing permitted expenditures and</td>
<td>Ensure that public funds are not wasted, and that</td>
<td>Allowances represented by the different nature of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct within the parliament</td>
<td>rules for the system of speech and debate, respect for collegiality, parliamentary attire, and parliamentary confidence</td>
<td>Checking parliamentary work and professional performance in an atmosphere of respect</td>
<td>Behavior must be regular Consolidate sound parliamentary practices. Support for gender and gender equality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules for the relationship with the pressure group</td>
<td>Rules and restrictions on the representative's dealings with the pressure groups and the interests of the groups</td>
<td>Checking the impartiality of the representative and that the money he receives is not subject to political favoritism</td>
<td>What information must be recorded in the relationship with the pressure group? How is the balance between the interests of pressure groups and their political influence?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accordingly, the researcher notes the absence of a guide for Jordanian parliamentarians, which shows the legislative requirements for emerging issues. It shows the parliamentary conduct and traditions and the options available to the deputy so as to contribute to educating him, raising his sense of responsibility, and not disclosing interests and publicizing the responsibility in the Jordanian parliamentary institution, which makes the core of the standards Parliamentarianism is not available for parliamentary self-censorship, as the code is limited to general principles and some facts such as dress and the use of vehicle


license plates. Also, the Disciplinary and Conduct Committee does not issue annual reports or guidebooks.

The concept of conflict of interests was mentioned in Article 12/2/e of the United Nations Convention against Corruption\(^33\), but addressing it requires an open, non-closed political environment, achieved by a democratic system based on pluralism, freedom of expression, and the peaceful transfer of power. Parliamentarians constantly face the problem of conflicts of interest, as well as the Council of Ministers, who demand a more neutral political role on the part of the deputies, given their responsibilities in the executive authority, especially in financial decisions. As a result, on July 19, 1995, the British Parliament laid down the seven principles to solve the dilemma of conflict of interests, namely: love of others (self-denial), integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and honor, leadership (leadership), and this is what made it a beacon for legislators to be guided by, as it is an innovation in legitimate purposes\(^34\).

**Conclusion: New Horizons**

In the conclusion of this study, it reached a number of results, represented by the Jordanian legislator's failure to realize what parliamentary behavior is, which made the parliamentary code of conduct lose its essence, and that the terms contained in the code are required by concepts different from the internationally recognized standards and principles of parliamentary conduct.

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Québec, **CODE D’ÉTHIQUE ET DE DÉONTOLOGIE DES MEMBRES DE L’ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE**, 12.


