



From CHMK National Forums to MRC "Green Alternative Paper: A Kurdish Proposal for the BBC Charter Review

**Decolonizing the BBC: Integrating Non-Western Models to
Break Political-Business Collusion**

ABSTRACT

This proposal marks a transformative intervention in the public debate over the future of British public broadcasting, presenting a landmark "Global South" perspective for the Media Reform Coalition (MRC) Alternative Green Paper. Drawing on my experience as a Kurdish media scholar and Chairperson of the Kurdish Media Watchdog Organization (CHMK.org) from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and also as the General Coordinator of the CHMK National Forum on Media Reform I advocate for a fundamentally decolonized BBC model designed to dismantle the systemic political-business collusion increasingly threatening digital governance. At the heart of this proposal is the "Integrity Walls" framework, a structural blueprint born from the "hard-won" lessons of the post-conflict Kurdish media landscape. While Western media theory often relies on "soft norms" of impartiality, this framework proposes rigorous, hard-coded structural barriers to insulate public media from elite capture. By bridging the gap between non-Western journalism cultures and the British context, the proposal reimagines the BBC as a global commons rather than a state-adjacent institution. By integrating these non-Western insights, the framework provides a strategic roadmap to enhance editorial independence and ensure that public service media remains resilient against algorithmic manipulation and partisan interference in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This submission serves as both a policy roadmap and an invitation for global reciprocity, proving that innovation from the margins is essential for the survival of independent public interest journalism worldwide.

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Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Sulaimani. 02 February 2026

Title:

"Decolonizing the BBC: Integrating Non-Western Models to Break Political-Business Collusion"

Proposal-in-brief:

This proposal marks a transformative intervention in the public debate over the future of British public broadcasting, presenting a landmark "Global South" perspective for the Media Reform Coalition (MRC) Alternative Green Paper. Drawing on my experience as a Kurdish media scholar and Chairperson of the Kurdish Media Watchdog Organization (CHMK.org) from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and also as the General Coordinator of the CHMK National Forum on Media Reform I advocate for a fundamentally decolonized BBC model designed to dismantle the systemic political-business collusion increasingly threatening digital governance. At the heart of this proposal is the "Integrity Walls" framework, a structural blueprint born from the "hard-won" lessons of the post-conflict Kurdish media landscape. While Western media theory often relies on "soft norms" of impartiality, this framework proposes rigorous, hard-coded structural barriers to insulate public media from elite capture. By bridging the gap between non-Western journalism cultures and the British context, the proposal reimagines the BBC as a global commons rather than a state-adjacent institution. By integrating these non-Western insights, the framework provides a strategic roadmap to enhance editorial independence and ensure that public service media remains resilient against algorithmic manipulation and partisan interference in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This submission serves as both a policy roadmap and an invitation for global reciprocity, proving that innovation from the margins is essential for the survival of independent public interest journalism worldwide.

1. Intro and background

The BBC is currently confronting a critical crisis of "elite capture," a condition where the boundaries between executive political power and independent media governance have become dangerously porous. As a media scholar from the post-conflict context of Kurdistan, I observe that the vulnerabilities currently facing British public broadcasting mirror the systemic political-business collusion that has long challenged non-Western journalism cultures. Drawing on the empirical outcomes and strategic resolutions of [the First \(2021\)](#) and [Second \(2025\) CHMK National Forums on Media Reform](#), this proposal argues that the BBC can no longer rely on the "gentlemanly agreements" or soft norms of impartiality that defined its past. In an era of globalized digital threats and AI-driven manipulation, the institution requires a structural decolonization. By integrating the "Integrity Walls" framework, developed by CHMK.org and its National Media Reform Forums to survive volatile political environments—this submission provides a blueprint for replacing fragile norms with hard, legally codified structural barriers. Decolonizing the BBC in this manner ensures it evolves into a resilient global commons, insulated from the specific interests of the political and corporate elite.

2. Rationale, Analysis, and Evidence

Our research and recommendations at [the CHMK National Forum on Media Reform](#) indicates that in regions where political and commercial interests are deeply intertwined, such as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, traditional Western "soft norms" of journalism cultures are insufficient. The BBC's current vulnerability to government influence over appointments and funding mirrors the systemic "party-business ties" we have fought to sever in Kurdistan. Evidence suggests that the BBC's proximity to state power has led to a decline in global trust. By viewing the BBC through a Global South lens, we identify that its governance is still rooted in a centralized, state-adjacent model. The "Integrity Walls" framework, developed out of necessity in the Kurdish context, provides a tested blueprint for creating hard structural barriers that prevent the merger of political, corporate, and media power.

3. How would it work? (Three Main Implementation Methods)

I. **Method A: The Structural "Oversight Wall" (Governance Reform)**

- Mechanism: Amend the Royal Charter to replace government-led appointments with an Independent National Media Council, modeled on the recommendations of the 2025 CHMK Forum.
- Action: Governance would be transitioned to a meritocratic assembly of academics, civil society leaders, and media practitioners. This legally removes the BBC from the executive branch's orbit.

II. **Method B: The Economic Firewall (Anti-Collusion Reform)**

- Mechanism: Establish legal prohibitions within the Charter to prevent "Elite Capture."
- Action: Individuals with significant business ties to political parties or government contractors would be barred from holding executive or senior editorial power, effectively severing the business-political collusion that threatens editorial independence.

III. **Method C: The De-colonial Reciprocity Wall (External Audit)**

- Mechanism: Open the BBC's governance and impartiality audits to international observers from non-Western academic institutions, including CHMK.org monitors.
- Action: This creates a global "reciprocity" where the BBC is audited through a de-colonial lens, ensuring that its "impartiality" is not merely a reflection of localized British political biases but adheres to a global standard of the "Global Commons."

4. Benefits and Strategic Partnership

- I. Success: The BBC transitions from a state-adjacent entity to a resilient Global Commons, benefiting from "Innovation from the Margin" and synthesis of global expertise.
- II. Failure: Failure to implement these hard firewalls will lead to a total collapse of public trust and the eventual domination of the BBC by conglomerates of commercial-political partners.
- III. Invitation: This proposal serves as a foundation for the [*Third CHMK National Forum for Media Reform*](#) (July 2026) in London. We invite the Media Reform Coalition (MRC) to act as a Strategic Academic Partner to co-author a global roadmap for media reform in post-conflict and emerging democracies.

5. 'Your Views' (Consultation Questions)

- I. How can the BBC benefit from the specific "integrity safeguards" developed by Kurdish media watchdogs in emerging democracies like Kurdistan Region of Iraq?
- II. Should the BBC Charter include a mandate for "Global Reciprocity," allowing non-Western academic institutions to audit its impartiality?
- III. How can the civil society movements (including MRC and CHMK) collaborate to create a *Global Media Reform Model* that resists political-business collusion everywhere?