

Declaration of Principles

Issued by a group of civil society organizations, women's organizations, and activists

On August 21, 2021

Given the growing deterioration in the situation of Syrian women, which registered an increase in discrimination against them and in depriving them of their rights to development, work, education, civil rights and the right to grant citizenship to their children, and their exclusion from effective participation in public affairs and decision-making posts/positions, in addition to the rise in all forms of violence against them, including physical, psychological, sexual, economic and legal violence, and their exploitation as a means of war by all de facto forces and all parties to the conflict in Syria, and as an extension of an unjust reality perpetuated for decades by tyrannical political and religious authorities. Also, given the spread of misleading incendiary rhetoric contesting women's rights, and diminishing the importance of civil work and its humanitarian, social, legal and awareness-raising role in society, a group of civil society organizations, women's organizations, and activists held a consultative meeting (virtually) on August 21, 2021, at the invitation of the Syrian Feminist Lobby, and issued a joint document, with the aim of clarifying and reiterating the following visions, goals and principles of work:

- In 2011, the Syrian people carried out a revolution that witnessed an extensive and multi-faceted participation by women. This revolution was triggered to achieve democracy, guarantee rights and freedoms, and full and equal citizenship for all members and components of society, in accordance with the International Bill of Human Rights, and the relevant international charters and conventions; and we are still striving to accomplish that.
- We, as a feminist movement, civil society organizations, and individual activists, believe that the degree of justice and progress in any society is measured by the extent of women's rights and their full and effective participation in all social, developmental, economic, political, and legal aspects, which will positively affect the family and society in general.
- We also affirm our endeavor to achieve a gender-sensitive constitutional legal system that guarantees all rights for Syrian women and men, on the basis of full equality, and guarantees and safeguards public and individual freedoms, including freedom of belief, freedom of expression and complete personal freedoms. Our feminism and feminist struggle are inseparable from our struggle for justice, freedom, and equality for all marginalized groups in society, without exception.
- The goal of our feminist movement is to improve the conditions of women so they may face the violence committed against them and the various forms of exploitation, and to develop the Syrian legal environment to ensure that they obtain their full rights, to guarantee equality, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against them. The goal likewise is to empower women educationally, economically, cognitively, and intellectually to help them obtain equal and fair employment opportunities and to allow them to participate in public life on an equal footing with men. The need to improve these conditions becomes more urgent amid the ongoing war in Syria.
- While we condemn all those who legitimize violence and all forms of discrimination against women, whether individuals, agencies, political parties and organizations; reject all forms of inhuman violent and discriminatory practices and the perpetuation of negative stereotypes

against women; and work as a feminist movement and civil organizations to oppose them, we hold accountable all the forces that permit and license the killing of women and the violation of their rights throughout all the Syrian territories.

- Today, more than ever, we need to coordinate efforts and work to find integrated programs that achieve our common goals in attaining justice, equality and combating discrimination, to improve the conditions of women in all fields and bolster their role in building and developing the society and the state. It is further impossible to achieve success in peace processes, democratic transition, accountability, economic development and reconstruction for the advancement of the Syrian society without the effective participation of Syrian women, and thus establish a society where justice and equality prevail, within a secular democratic system, governed by the values and culture of human rights, the rule of law and complete equality, without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, sect, language, nationality, or political opinion.

As part of a Syrian feminist and civil movement that developed during ten years of the revolution and has worked and is still working and looking for a free, independent, and democratic Syria, we believe that we shoulder a responsibility to fight discrimination and violence against women in general and human rights defenders in Syrian society in particular, by the authoritarian regime and de facto forces, as well as by despotic clergymen and dark forces. No matter how different the political orientations of these groups may be, they agree on suppressing women and civil forces, and on rejecting any real changes that lead to the achievement of justice, equality and full citizenship in a democratic state that guarantees and preserves the rights of all its citizens.

Signed organizations/Associations:

اللوبي النسوي السوري Syrian Feminist Lobby

الحركة السياسية النسوية السورية The Syrian Women Political Movement

المجموعة النسوية الكردية

المركز السوري للإعلام وحرية التعبير syrian center for media and freedom of expression -SCM

المركز السوري للتنمية المستدامة

المنتدى الثقافي السوري المتوسطي / كندا

اليوم التالي The day after

أحرار - الحزب الليبرالي السوري Liberal party

" أصوات نسوية كردية " Dengê Femînistên Kurd

بسمة أمل Basmetamal

بيتنا Baytna

Syrian women's initiative for peace تجمع نساء سوريا من أجل السلام

Jusoor syria جمعية جسور لدعم الديمقراطية في سوريا

Jiyan charity society "جمعية جيان" المبادرة العالمية لمناهضة الزواج القسري وقتل النساء باسم الشرف

Hawwaa women empowerment association جمعية حواء لتمكين المرأة

Refkan جمعية رفقاَ النساءية
Jana Watan جنى وطن
Damir movement حركة ضمير
Maan حركة معاً ... من أجل سورية حرة وديمقراطية
DaMigra داميكرا
Syrian writers association رابطة الكتاب السوريين
Jin women association رابطة جين النساءية
Syrian Female Journalists Network شبكة الصحفيات السوريات
SYRIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK شبكة المرأة السورية
Aso network شبكة آسو الإخبارية
صوت النساء الكورديات
لجنة العمل الوطني
MARATOUS ماراتوس
Rm TEAM مجموعة البحث والإدارة،
CCSD مركز المجتمع المدني والديمقراطية
مركز الدراسات المتوسطة
Syrian Center citizenship مركز المواطنة السوري
مشروع وطن
Together to support women's issues معاً لدعم قضايا المرأة
(LDSPS) Local development and small projects support مكتب التنمية المحلية ودعم المشاريع الصغيرة
The syrian writer and authors forum ملتقى الأدباء والكتّاب السوريين _ صبحي دسوقي
Political feminist platform منصة سياسية نسوية
AGORA e.v منظمة آكورا
SAWT association منظمة "صوت" للمرأة اللاجئة في اسبانيا
Doroob منظمة دروب
Ster organization for human development منظمة ستير للتنمية
Qatra for humanity منظمة قطرة للإنسانية
Kareemat منظمة كريمات
منظمة نساء سوريات في هولندا
مواطنة_مساواة النساءية في محافظة القنيطرة
www.alsafina.net...موقع السفينة

Syrian democracies organization نساء ديمقراطيات سوريات

NoPhotoZone نو فوتوزون

SHAML Syrian CSOs Coalition

Signed names:

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زَهِيْر سَقْبَانِي

زَيْنَب التَّوْجَانِي

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