

Position Paper on the Situation of Women in Syria and the Requirements for the Transitional Period

Executive Summary

This paper sets out a comprehensive political and human rights position reflecting the perspectives of Syrian feminist movements and organisations on the transitional process and the current situation of women. It affirms that women's rights and meaningful participation are neither a sectoral demand nor a humanitarian issue to be deferred. They are a structural benchmark and a non-negotiable condition for the legitimacy of any democratic state founded on equal citizenship and the rule of law. The paper's principal demands are summarised in six measurable points:

1. Political participation and binding representation: Adopt a binding women's quota of at least 30 per cent in all government bodies, public institutions and state agencies, in line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and raise this to 40–50 per cent in constitutional bodies and legislative councils, with a binding deadline for implementation within two years.
2. Legislative reform and the elimination of discrimination: Withdraw all of Syria's reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), particularly those relating to nationality and personal status, including inheritance, guardianship and custody. Reform nationality, criminal and labour laws to guarantee full equality; enact legislation to protect against domestic violence; and adopt a modern civil family law.
3. Protection of refugee and displaced women: Establish a dedicated pillar addressing the rights of refugee and internally displaced women; guarantee their political participation and the conditions for safe and voluntary return; and protect them from all forms of physical and digital violence, as well as sectarian and regional discrimination.
4. Institutionalising a gender perspective across state institutions: Appoint gender advisers in all ministries and state institutions to ensure that an equality perspective is integrated into public policy and institutional reform.
5. Comprehensive transitional justice, education and equitable recovery: Adopt a non-selective transitional justice process that investigates all violations and holds all perpetrators accountable, without exception or immunity. At the same time, remove discriminatory stereotypes and content from educational curricula, and guarantee full transparency and fairness in the administration of educational grants, reconstruction and the distribution of resources.
6. A periodic monitoring and accountability mechanism: Establish an independent monitoring and follow-up committee composed of representatives of the signatory organisations. The committee should issue a public assessment every six months and prepare and publish a Shadow Report for the public and international forums, monitoring the extent to which the transitional authority implements the demands set out in this paper.

Introduction

Since the fall of the former regime, Syrian women and men have looked to the transitional period to honour their sacrifices and lay the foundations for genuine political transformation: a transition towards a state that is politically, economically, socially and in security terms stable, founded on the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights and the dignity of all citizens. Yet the practices of the transitional authority since assuming power have revealed a growing tendency to monopolise power and entrench the influence of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham within state institutions and their key structures, rather than build a civilian, pluralistic, independent and inclusive transitional authority.

While the transitional authority has devoted considerable effort to strengthening regional and international relations and securing external recognition, it has not accorded domestic issues and urgent national priorities the attention they require. It organised a limited and largely symbolic national dialogue that lacked genuine representation, pluralism and transparency and failed to reflect the diversity of Syrian society. Its non-binding outcomes did not establish a serious foundation for a new social contract or for a participatory transitional process grounded in the will of Syrians, women and men alike.

The dominant political and military forces also formed an almost entirely homogeneous transitional government while retaining control of key sovereign posts, in clear violation of the principles of inclusion and balanced representation. Armed factions—including extremist groups accused of grave violations and war crimes—were integrated into the new army and security services without their members and leaders being subjected to vetting, accountability or institutional reform in line with international standards. These forces have continued to commit violations, most gravely in the massacres in the coastal region and Suwayda, including extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, the abduction of women, attacks on civilians, and violations with sectarian and regional dimensions. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry has classified some of these acts as potentially amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, amid the absence of independent and transparent investigations and effective accountability.

In a context lacking representative legitimacy and national consensus, military and political alliances installed Ahmad al-Shara' as President for a five-year transitional period. By decree, he appointed a committee to draft a Constitutional Declaration that concentrated executive, legislative and appointment powers in the hands of the President, undermining the separation of powers and effective checks and balances and raising the risk of a new authoritarian order. The President was also granted significant influence over the composition of the legislature by appointing one-third of its members and controlling the mechanism through which the remaining two-thirds are selected. Women's participation has meanwhile remained limited and symbolic, falling far short of equal political partnership and failing to reflect Syrian women's role in the struggle and in public life.

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham's influence has extended into the judiciary, local administration and public institutions, threatening judicial independence and the impartiality of state institutions. Decisions and practices have also restricted personal and public freedoms and imposed forms of social guardianship and control that affect women in particular by limiting their mobility, choices and presence in public space, in contradiction with international obligations concerning equality, non-discrimination and fundamental rights and freedoms.

At the same time, the transitional authority has not treated transitional justice as a fundamental pillar of peacebuilding and the prevention of recurrence. Its decision establishing the National Commission for Transitional Justice was limited and fragmented, restricting the Commission's mandate to crimes

committed by the former regime. This restriction constitutes a fundamental breach of transitional justice principles, which require the inclusion of all victims and the investigation of serious violations regardless of the identity, political affiliation or military affiliation of the perpetrators. Any process that excludes crimes committed by other actors—including armed groups, de facto authorities and the current transitional authority—will not deliver justice or guarantee accountability, redress and non-repetition.

The transitional authority has not yet embarked on a genuine reconstruction process. Instead, it has opened the country to investment amid a lack of transparency and clarity that risks coming at the expense of poor and marginalised groups, including women facing the greatest forms of marginalisation. This is particularly relevant to women living in camps that remain in place today. Although the transitional government has announced a ‘zero-tent’ plan to be implemented by the end of the year, it remains unclear how women who are primary providers for their households in these camps will be supported.

Throughout years of conflict and authoritarian rule, Syrian women have endured complex and overlapping violations, including killing, abduction, enforced disappearance, detention, torture, sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence, as well as forced displacement, loss of household providers, economic exploitation, child marriage, and deprivation of education, employment and participation in public life. These violations have been perpetrated by a range of actors: the former regime, armed and extremist groups, de facto authorities, and the current transitional authority, under which violations continue and recur amid weak legal protection and the absence of effective accountability mechanisms.

Against this backdrop, this joint position paper expresses the vision of the signatory feminist organisations and movements on the current political and human rights situation and on the challenges facing Syrian women. These include the continuation of violations, exclusion from decision-making positions, the absence of meaningful political participation, and weak constitutional and legal safeguards for women’s rights.

The issues addressed in this paper are inseparable from the broader vision for Syria’s future. Women’s rights and freedoms are neither a marginal sectoral concern nor a demand to be deferred until conditions stabilise. They are a decisive measure of how democratic the state is and how just its institutions are. The Syria we seek must be a homeland for all Syrian women and men, free from authoritarianism, violence and discrimination, and founded on equal citizenship, the rule of law, the separation of powers, judicial independence and respect for diversity.

The new state must therefore be built with the full and active participation of Syrian women at every stage of the political transition and across institutions of governance and decision-making. The constitutional and legal framework must guarantee their political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, create a safe and enabling environment for women to act in public life, and protect them from all forms of violence, discrimination and exclusion.

Current Situation of Women in Syria

1. Political Context and Declining Participation

Women's political exclusion is clearly visible in the structure of the transitional authority and its institutions. The transitional government was formed with only one woman minister out of 23, a stark indication of women's position within the executive. The composition of the People's Assembly reflects the same political regression: only 21 of its 210 members are women. This limited representation does not guarantee influence and cannot reflect the diversity and experiences of Syrian women. It also points to the failure of the current political structure and the mechanisms used to constitute the Assembly to secure women's independent and institutionalised participation or establish binding standards for equality and fair representation.

The danger of this regression lies in the role that current transitional institutions will play in shaping the political and legal framework of the next phase, including the constitution, laws governing political life, personal status legislation, and laws concerning public freedoms and protection from violence and discrimination. Women's weak representation within these institutions limits their ability to influence decisions that directly affect their lives and rights and leaves decisions of fundamental importance within predominantly male-dominated and centralised political structures.

There is also a risk that women will be used as a political façade before the international community through limited or symbolic representation without meaningful participation in decision-making. Tokenistic representation strips participation of its substance and reproduces exclusion by selectively appointing a limited number of women while marginalising feminist activists, women leaders and women human rights defenders inside Syria, particularly those with a genuine presence in their local communities.

This paper does not treat Syrian women as a single homogeneous group. Forms of marginalisation and exposure to risk differ according to geography, social, sectarian or political affiliation, economic status, and experiences of displacement, loss, disability and lack of identity documentation. These differences do not negate a broader pattern of exclusion and violence; rather, they reveal its multiple layers and the need to address it through an intersectional feminist perspective.

The Constitutional Framework and the Centralisation of Power

Through the Constitutional Declaration, the transitional authority has entrenched a political structure in which broad powers are concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic, without an effective separation or genuine balance of powers. This weakens the capacity of legislative and judicial institutions to exercise oversight and ensure accountability. The Declaration also lacks clear and binding constitutional guarantees of full equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, as well as guarantees for women's effective participation in transitional institutions. This opens the door to selective interpretations of women's rights and subjects those rights to the direction of those in power and prevailing political and social power balances, rather than protecting them as established and non-derogable constitutional rights. It may also lay the foundations for a new form of authoritarian rule.

2. Refugee and Forcibly Displaced Women: Political Participation and International Advocacy

Refugee women and women who have been forcibly displaced face compounded challenges linked to the denial of political and civil rights and their continued marginalisation from decision-making processes concerning Syria's future. Safe and direct mechanisms that would enable their effective political participation in international negotiations, meetings and the drafting of transitional frameworks remain absent.

Any discussion of return must be explicitly tied to international standards for safe, voluntary and dignified return, with legal and security guarantees protecting women from arrest, harassment or reprisals. Refugee women also play a pivotal leadership role in international advocacy, documenting violations and bringing the voices of victims and survivors to international and United Nations forums. Their networks and movements therefore require sustained financial and political support so that women can continue to lead and influence international decision-making.

3. Legal and Judicial Context

Women face a rollback in legal safeguards concerning personal, professional and public freedoms. This is visible in interference with women's appearance and dress, restrictions on their presence in some public and professional spaces, and pressure on women working in the legal and judicial sectors. There are signs of a decline in the position of women judges and lawyers through dismissal, restrictions, or the imposition of social and religious conditions on their professional practice.

These developments are linked to broader changes within the judicial system. Concerns centre on the nature of the legal and judicial framework now being shaped, the extent of its independence, and its capacity to guarantee women's rights in personal status matters—including guardianship, custody, inheritance, family rights and access to justice. Any erosion of judicial independence or of the civil character of the legal framework will directly affect women, particularly in areas that have historically been sites of legal and social discrimination. The absence of independent and safe mechanisms for submitting complaints and accessing protection and legal aid also means that women's access to justice—particularly for survivors of violence and women facing the greatest vulnerability—remains limited and fraught with risk.

Legal discrimination is embedded in existing legislation. Foremost is the Nationality Law, which denies Syrian women the same right as Syrian men to pass their nationality to their children when married to a non-Syrian. This leaves thousands of children in displacement and refugee contexts at risk of statelessness and of losing fundamental rights to education, healthcare and property. This discriminatory framework is compounded by procedural barriers and tribal pressures surrounding inheritance, which can force women to relinquish their legal shares or exclude them from the distribution of estates. Guardianship provisions also reserve legal decision-making and the management of children's interests to fathers, excluding mothers even in cases of the father's absence or death. Certain provisions of the Penal Code and Labour Code also have discriminatory effects, including in relation to so-called 'honour' crimes, restrictions on women's employment and the absence of guarantees of equal pay.

Any legislative reform during the transitional period that fails to address discriminatory provisions in nationality law and the Personal Status Law—including inheritance and guardianship—and that fails to adopt a modern civil family law will leave discrimination against women embedded at the heart of the new state's legal system, regardless of any general constitutional commitments to equality.

Excluding women judges, lawyers and legal experts from this phase creates a twofold risk: it weakens the quality of justice itself and opens the way for laws and policies that do not reflect women's needs and experiences. The same risk extends to women human rights defenders, activists and lawyers who document violations or defend victims and survivors. Weak legal safeguards, limited judicial independence and the politicisation of institutions make their participation in legal and human rights work more precarious and restrict their ability to pursue accountability or access justice.

4. Gender-Based Violence

Security, Control of Women in Public Space, and Online Violence

Syrian women face direct and multifaceted security threats. Gender-based violence continues in the form of abduction, enforced disappearance, blackmail, sexual violence, domestic violence, defamation, the use of women and their bodies as instruments of humiliation, and online violence targeting feminist activists and women human rights defenders. Human rights and United Nations reports in 2025 and 2026 documented cases of abduction and enforced disappearance targeting women and girls, including reports by Amnesty International and UN experts concerning Alawite women and girls in several governorates, accompanied by clear calls for investigation, accountability and protection.

The impact of abduction extends beyond direct victims and their families. Fear generated by these crimes pushes women away from education, work and public life, restricts their daily movement and undermines their civic and political participation. Violence thus becomes, once again, a means of pushing women out of public space and back into the home, while security is used as a justification to control their bodies, choices and mobility.

This violence intersects with sectarian, regional, political and social affiliations, making some women more vulnerable to targeting, particularly in areas that have experienced massacres, security tensions or a collapse in protection. The absence of transparent investigations, continuing impunity and weak protection institutions deepen fear and push women towards greater isolation and vulnerability.

The transitional authority's responsibility does not begin only after violations occur. It also includes preventing recurrence, addressing environments that foster incitement, holding perpetrators accountable, and building security and judicial institutions capable of protecting women and men without discrimination. This responsibility extends to the security and military bodies operating under its authority where there has been no transparent vetting of personnel records or accountability for past and present violations. Without independent investigative mechanisms and civilian oversight, these institutions risk becoming a source of danger rather than institutions to which women can turn for protection and justice.

At the same time, hard-line social and religious discourse is increasingly seeking to redefine women's roles and status in society by interfering with their appearance and dress, restricting their presence in public space, and intensifying control over their bodies and choices in the name of religion, custom or 'public morality'. This discourse extends into organised campaigns in universities, educational centres and youth spaces, transforming education from a space for knowledge and debate into a space where women and girls are subjected to attempts to control their presence and shape their awareness and choices.

The risks associated with this trend are visible in campaigns such as the 'Golden Sheikh' campaign, supported by the transitional authority and the Ministry of Endowments, which has entered universities and educational centres under the guise of religious outreach. Such campaigns do not represent isolated social discourse; they constitute an organised and officially supported attempt to reshape women's roles within a system based on obedience, withdrawal and fear, making control over women a political and social indicator of the nature of the authority being built during the transitional period. Physical violence intersects here with symbolic and psychological violence, while control over women's presence, dress and movement becomes a means of rebuilding society around a patriarchal hierarchy that excludes women from public life. These campaigns exploit deteriorating economic conditions, widening poverty and unemployment, and the absence of support and protection networks to attract women and girls through limited assistance, privileges and opportunities, and then use their economic

need to systematically reshape their awareness and choices according to a single religious and social framework. This is not simply a matter of religious outreach; it is the use of economic vulnerability as a means of ideological and social control, linking access to support with acceptance of specific roles and behaviours imposed by those running these campaigns.

Violence against women also takes the form of organised online attacks targeting women active in public life, feminist activists, human rights defenders, women journalists, and women who document violations or participate in political and media debate. These campaigns include defamation, incitement, direct and indirect threats, and attacks based on reputation, appearance and personal life, with the aim of excluding women from online and media spaces and pushing them towards self-censorship and withdrawal.

The significance of these campaigns lies in the fact that they target women precisely as political, civic and intellectual actors. They seek to undermine women's legitimacy and intimidate other women into silence, non-participation and withdrawal from leadership. Online violence must therefore be addressed as a form of gender-based violence and as a political tool used to silence women and weaken feminist and civil society movements.

5. Recovery and Reconstruction

Recovery and reconstruction are among the most sensitive issues of the transitional period because they concern not only infrastructure and services, but also the redistribution of resources, the restoration of justice, and access to education, healthcare, housing, employment and protection. From a feminist perspective, recovery cannot be separated from transitional justice, the rights of families of missing and disappeared persons, education, health, social protection, and women's participation in defining reconstruction priorities.

Transitional Justice and the Missing and Disappeared

The transitional justice process lacks clarity and seriousness in its response to violations, including cases of forcibly disappeared women and men, detainees, victims and survivors. Women—especially the mothers, wives and daughters of missing, detained and disappeared persons—carry compounded legal, psychological, economic and social burdens in the absence of truth, accountability, compensation and guarantees of non-repetition.

Women's participation in transitional justice processes is a fundamental condition for justice for victims and survivors. A justice process designed without women, without victims' families, and without feminist and human rights organisations will remain unable to understand the gendered impact of detention, disappearance, displacement, sexual violence, poverty and the loss of household providers. Transitional justice in Syria requires a comprehensive approach linking truth, accountability, protection, recovery and reparations, while guaranteeing women's participation at every stage.

The risks are compounded when transitional justice is applied selectively and restricted to violations committed by the former regime, excluding or marginalising violations committed after its fall, including those affecting women in the coastal region, Suwayda and elsewhere. Subjecting justice to the narrative of the current transitional authority and categorising victims according to the identity of the perpetrator undermines equality before the law and turns justice into a political instrument for condemning the past while shielding violations in the present.

Bodies dealing with missing persons and transitional justice require clear criteria, publicly defined mandates, and meaningful representation of women, victims, survivors and families of the disappeared. Excluding women from these processes risks producing policies that neither reflect their needs nor recognise the burdens they have carried throughout the years of war and beyond.

Education

Women and girls face growing barriers to continuing their education, having their qualifications recognised, and safely accessing schools and universities, particularly in areas that have experienced massacres, security tensions, displacement or a collapse in services. The education crisis in Suwayda is a clear example of the politicisation of the right to education, where the non-recognition of the qualifications of thousands of students has turned education into an instrument of pressure and collective punishment.

Women and girls bear the most severe consequences because security fears, mobility constraints, poverty and social restrictions reinforce one another in times of conflict and tension. Depriving women and girls of education threatens their economic and social futures, undermines their ability to achieve independence and participate in public life, and reproduces their subordination within the family, society and the labour market.

The situation becomes more serious when the education crisis coincides with hard-line campaigns inside universities and educational centres. Spaces that should support knowledge, social interaction and the building of a future become spaces of surveillance, control and ideological influence over women and girls. Women's right to education therefore faces a dual threat: a material and service-related threat linked to institutional collapse, and a social and political threat linked to attempts to control women's presence and choices within educational institutions.

Health, Services and Protection

Women are bearing the cost of the deterioration of the public sector, the rising cost of private services and declining international funding, particularly in reproductive health, care for pregnant women, protection services and psychosocial support. As public services decline, women's vulnerability deepens because poor households often postpone spending on women's health or treat it as a lower priority.

Weak protection services also leave survivors of violence, women returning from camps, women without identity documents and women with disabilities in precarious legal and social situations. Recovery cannot be achieved without rebuilding public services around justice, equal access and protection, and without prioritising those facing the greatest vulnerability.

These risks are compounded for women without identity documents, women returning from camps, women with disabilities and survivors of violence because legal, service-related and social barriers intersect to restrict their access to protection, health, education, employment and justice.

The Economy, Employment, Resource Distribution and Reconstruction

Women bear a disproportionate share of widespread poverty, rising living costs, shrinking employment opportunities and the collapse of services. Those particularly affected include women heading households, women who have lost household providers, wives of missing and disappeared persons, displaced women, survivors of violence, women with disabilities, and women who carry sole responsibility for their children. Economic exclusion is also visible in dismissals, arbitrary transfers, pressure on women to resign, discrimination in employment opportunities and the absence of social protection.

Reconstruction policies and the distribution of resources also pose a structural challenge to women's rights and to their economic and social participation, particularly when reconstruction is treated as an administrative or investment matter detached from justice, equity and community participation. Reconstruction led through centralised, predominantly male-dominated decision-making structures and networks of power and influence, without the meaningful participation of affected communities,

women and feminist organisations, and without transparent criteria for the distribution of resources, contracts, employment opportunities and compensation, risks reproducing existing patterns of marginalisation and concentrating resources, opportunities and decision-making in the hands of those closest to the transitional authority.

In this context, women, particularly women who are primary household providers, displaced women, women who have lost household providers, families of missing and disappeared persons, and groups facing the greatest vulnerability—are at heightened risk of exclusion from employment opportunities, compensation, housing, services and participation in setting recovery priorities. Reconstruction must therefore be treated as a question of social and gender justice, not as a neutral technical or economic process.

Reconstruction requires women’s meaningful participation in defining priorities and guaranteed access to compensation, services, employment and protection. It also requires recognition of differences among women based on geography, economic status, displacement, loss of a household provider, disability and lack of identity documentation. Reconstruction must not become another route through which wealth and decision-making are re-concentrated within networks of influence at the expense of affected communities and those facing the greatest vulnerability.

Demands

Improving the situation of women in Syria requires addressing the structural causes that have eroded their rights, rather than responding only to the immediate consequences of violations. Women’s rights are political and human rights issues central to the process of state-building, not a separate humanitarian or social concern.

On this basis, we call for the following:

1. Syrian Transitional Authorities

In the short term

- Immediately end all forms of violations and violence against women, including abduction, gender-based violence, digital violence, hate speech and incitement, and hold all those responsible accountable regardless of their position or status.
- Guarantee personal freedoms and ensure that no restrictions are imposed on women’s dress, movement, work or participation in public life.
- End all forms of discrimination in employment, stop arbitrary dismissals, and guarantee equal opportunities and job security for women.
- Guarantee women’s access to essential services, particularly health, education, protection and psychosocial support.
- Launch transparent and independent investigations into all violations committed against women; publish the findings of those investigations; ensure the participation of victims and their families in justice processes; and guarantee accountability and an end to impunity.
- Fully implement all provisions of CEDAW, withdraw all explicit Syrian reservations to the Convention, and establish an annual implementation-monitoring plan in which feminist organisations participate in both monitoring and implementation.
- Establish independent, safe and confidential mechanisms for receiving complaints from women survivors of violence and other violations, and protect complainants from reprisals.

In the medium and long term

- Guarantee women's effective and meaningful participation in constitution-making, legislative reform, transitional justice and the rebuilding of state institutions, based on competence, expertise and commitment to human rights rather than tokenistic representation.
- Adopt a clear and numerically defined quota for women of at least 30 per cent in all public bodies and institutions, in line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and raise this to 40–50 per cent in constitutional bodies and legislative councils, with a binding timeframe for implementation.
- Integrate a gender equality perspective into all policies and reforms during the transitional period, including the judiciary, security sector, education, local administration, the economy and public services.
- Reform all discriminatory legislation, particularly nationality, criminal and labour laws, and enact a modern civil family law consistent with equality, non-discrimination and human rights.
- Ensure that all new legislation and policies are consistent with Syria's international human rights obligations, including obligations relating to women's rights.
- Adopt economic and social policies responsive to women's needs, particularly women who are primary household providers, survivors of the conflict, families of forcibly disappeared persons, and women facing the greatest vulnerability.
- Ensure women's meaningful participation in reconstruction processes and that their interests and needs shape reconstruction priorities.
- Appoint gender advisers in all ministries, official institutions and state bodies to ensure the systematic application of a gender perspective.
- Integrate education on equality and human rights into school curricula and training programmes for staff in state institutions; remove discriminatory and stereotypical content from educational curricula; and guarantee full transparency and fairness in the allocation of educational grants.

2. United Nations and International Bodies

- Exert political and diplomatic pressure to ensure respect for human rights in general and women's rights in particular, and integrate these standards across all aspects of the transitional period.
- Condition international support for the transitional period on respect for human rights, women's effective participation and guarantees of non-discrimination.
- Ensure and support the participation of independent Syrian feminist organisations in all dialogue and decision-making processes, rather than accepting symbolic representation.
- Allocate direct and sustainable funding to local feminist organisations.
- Support reconstruction programmes that guarantee women's participation in planning and implementation and their equitable access to resources.
- Support protection, health, psychosocial support and economic empowerment programmes and ensure the sustainability of their funding.
- Support transitional justice and accountability processes in ways that deliver justice for women, survivors and families of forcibly disappeared persons.

3. International Human Rights Organisations

- Continue monitoring and documenting violations against women in Syria and make their impact on rights and freedoms visible.
- Support accountability and efforts to end impunity, and ensure that violations against women are included in international monitoring mechanisms and reports.

- Provide technical and legal support to Syrian feminist organisations in their advocacy and documentation work.
- Support strategic litigation before international mechanisms and courts when access to justice at the national level is unavailable.

4. The Feminist Movement and Civil Society Organisations

- Affirm that women's rights are an integral part of the project of building a democratic state founded on citizenship and justice, and must not be reduced to a social or humanitarian issue.
- Support local feminist leaders, particularly women active inside Syria, and expand their role in shaping public policy.
- Strengthen the participation of young women and local women leaders in decision-making within the feminist movement itself.
- Develop joint advocacy plans with clear implementation and follow-up mechanisms so that this position paper does not stop at articulating demands, but also identifies practical pathways towards achieving them.

5. Donors and International Financial Institutions

- Require the integration of gender equality across all reconstruction and early recovery programmes.
- Ensure women—particularly groups facing the greatest vulnerability—have access to employment opportunities and economic recovery programmes.
- Support locally led, women-led initiatives and feminist organisations, recognising them as essential partners in rebuilding communities.
- Adopt transparent criteria to ensure that women are not excluded from compensation, housing and the restoration of livelihoods.
- Allocate long-term funding to protection, psychosocial support and economic empowerment programmes rather than relying solely on short-term projects.

6. Follow-up and Accountability Mechanism

The signatory organisations call for the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to continue its work until violations cease, and for the United Nations and its relevant offices to maintain their roles until the political transition is implemented in accordance with UN resolutions.

The signatory feminist organisations and movements also call for the establishment of an independent monitoring and follow-up committee composed of representatives of the signatory organisations to define practical implementation mechanisms. The committee should issue a public report every six months and prepare and publish a Shadow Report addressed to the public and international forums, monitoring the extent to which the transitional authority implements the demands set out in this paper.

Guiding Principles

The success of any transitional period should be measured by its ability to protect rights and freedoms and to consolidate democracy, the rule of law, pluralism and equal participation. Guaranteeing women's rights is not a sectoral issue; it is a fundamental condition for building a just and stable state. Any reform or political process that fails to secure women's genuine and effective participation will remain incomplete and incapable of delivering a sustainable transition.

Signed Organizations



الحركة السياسية
النسوية السورية
THE SYRIAN WOMEN'S
POLITICAL MOVEMENT

اللوبي النسوي السوري
Syrian Feminist Lobby



شبكة المرأة السورية
SYRIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK



مركز المجتمع المدني والديمقراطية