

107 Syrian Organizations Call on the EU to Promote Inclusive Approach to Syrian Issues



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Signatories express disappointment at the neglect of urgent issues and the marginalization of regions and communities during the VII Brussels Conference 2023

The European Union organized a [Seventh Brussels Conference](#) on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region' on 14 and 15 June 2023, in Brussels. The conference addressed critical humanitarian and resilience issues affecting Syrians in Syria and neighboring countries.

Syrian participants– as individuals and organizations – and those who failed to attend due to logistical difficulties were looking forward to a more inclusive edition of the Conference reflecting the Syrian diversity. They were disappointed to see low levels of effective local representation on the Day of Dialogue. Those following up to the Conference also saw the marginalization and exclusion of many local organizations and groups, and made observations in this regard, to name a few,

- It was evident that there was a deliberate ignoring and dodging to address issues of vital importance to northeastern areas and other Syrian parts. There was a lack of representation of northeastern and regime-held areas as well as some neighboring countries. Actually, no speaker was identified to speak up about the suffering of northeastern Syria's population and advocate for the local communities urgent and priority issues.
- The naming of the first day as the "Day of Dialogue" indicates that there would be a direct dialogue between Syrians from different parts of Syria. However, the format of the Conference was actually focused track sessions, where non-participating organizations were merely hearers (except for time-restricted brief comments).
- Many individuals and organizations, in Syria and neighboring countries, who were invited to the Conference, confirmed that the organizers did not make sufficient efforts to secure logistical support and visas in time for them. This deprived them of attending the Conference and had a clear impact on the representation, which thus resulted in the failure to convey a complete picture of lived reality through the Day of Dialogue and the Ministerial meeting.
- For the third consecutive year, the Conference ignored repeated calls to include Syriac and Kurdish in the conference's main languages, despite them being Syrian national languages reflecting the diversity in Syria and the region.

Notably, the Syrian organizations active in different parts of the country, including the northeast, the west, and the regime-held areas, have made great strides towards mutual convergence defying conflict lines and artificial internal borders (This was evident in the response to the devastating February 2023 earthquake). Nonetheless, the Conference organizers did not use this already-created rapprochement between the organizations wisely. The lack of true and appropriate representation of all Syrian parts has perpetuated the current division and reinforced the marginalization suffered by certain communities, including women, people with disabilities, war casualties, and other vulnerable groups.

As such, signatories call on the EU and the organizers to,

1. Hold a special virtual meeting with the relevant organizations to clarify the mechanisms for selecting representatives of civil society, and explain the reasons for the Conference's failure to reflect Syrian diversity. This must be followed by the work on creating a transparent mechanism for selecting participants that takes into account the geographical, sectoral, and societal diversity of Syria.

2. Ensure equitable representation for all Syrian regions, local communities, and humanitarian sectors. As well as ensuring inclusive, equal, and real participation in EU activities, including at Brussels Conference. This needs the concrete implementation of the recommendation made by the UN secretary-general, [António Guterres](#) at the opening of the Seventh Brussels Conference, which says that there can be no sustainable political solution without all Syrians.
3. Exert real and effective efforts to bring the voices of local actors from inside Syria and neighboring countries to the EU events, whether by providing effective logistical support or ensuring their participation via the Internet. This would bridge the gap between organizations operating on the ground and those active in the diaspora.

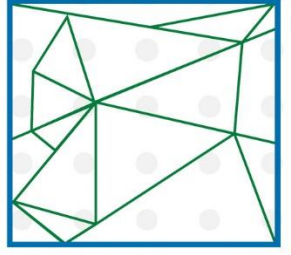
Signatories, (In alphabetical order)

1. Adil Center for Human Rights
2. AINSHAMS Organization
3. Al - Diyar Association
4. Al - Khaboor Association
5. Al - Raja Organization for Relief and Development
6. Allied for Peace
7. Al-Nawras Development Organization
8. Alzajel Organization for Civil Society
9. Amal Alfurat Organization
10. Amal Association
11. Analysis and Strategic Study Organization (ASO)
12. Anwar Algad
13. Arak of East Organization
14. ARAS Association
15. Areej Organisation for Social Development
16. Arzo organization
17. ASHNA for Development
18. Ashti Center for Building Peace
19. Azdaha Organization
20. Balsam Center for Health Education
21. Better Hope for Al-Tabqa
22. Better Tomorrow
23. Bukra Ahla Association for Relief and Development
24. Center for Research and Protection of Women's rights in Syria
25. Civil Society Platform
26. Civil Society Youth Organization
27. Community Solidarity Organaization
28. DAN for Relief and Development
29. DemoS
30. Dijla Organization for Development and Environment
31. DOZ Organization

32. Dvlepamtd Seeds Center
33. Ebdaa Organization for Development
34. Ella Organization For Development and Peacebuilding
35. Enma Aljazera
36. Enmaa Alfourat Organization
37. Ensaf for Development Organization
38. Environment and Water Association (EWAS)
39. Equity and Empowerment
40. Euphrates NGO
41. European and American Solidarity Committee for Afrin - Espoir Afrin
42. Future Hands Organization
43. General Union of Kurdish Writers and Journalists in Syria
44. Generations for Development
45. Haneen Al-Furat Organization
46. HOLM
47. Human Hope Team
48. Human Peace Association
49. Human Rights Organisation in Syria MAF e.v
50. Human rights Organization Afrin- syria
51. Inaash Organization for Development
52. Iwaa Organization
53. Jasmine Association
54. Jiyan Charity Association
55. Jiyan e. V.
56. Jsor Alamal
57. Kobani for Relief and Development
58. Kurdish Committee for Human Rights - Observer
59. Kurdish Organization for Human Rights in Syria (DAD)
60. Lamasat alkhier Association for Relief and Development
61. Lelun Association for Victims
62. Lights for Development and Construction
63. Malva for Arts and Culture
64. Manara Organization
65. Mary Association for Culture, Arts and Environment
66. Nasmel Amal Organisation
67. Nawat
68. New Horizons
69. Nujin Society for Community Development
70. Okaaz
71. PEACE SHE LEADERS NET WORK
72. PÉL- Civil Waves
73. Qadar Organization
74. Radiance of Hope Organization
75. Rahma Organization for Studies and Development
76. Rewangeh - for the Defense of Prisoners of Conscience in Syria
77. Rojkar Organization for Relief and Development
78. Sahem Organization for Cooperation and Development
79. Salam Organization

80. SAMA
 81. Sanabel Al - Furat Development Organization
 82. Sara Organization to Combat Violence Against Women
 83. Sawaeed Organization for Development
 84. Shawshaka Association for Women
 85. Sighted Hands Organization
 86. Slav Organization for Civil Activities
 87. SMART Center - Zirak
 88. Snnae Almustaqbal Team
 89. Sphere for Development
 90. Swaedna Organization for Relief and Development
 91. Synergy Association for Victims
 92. Syria Justice and Accountability Center (SJAC)
 93. Syrian Center for Studies and Dialogue - SCSD
 94. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights
 95. Syrians for Truth and Justice - STJ
 96. Tara Organization
 97. The Civil Cooperation Team Organization
 98. The Violations Documentation Center in Northern Syria
 99. Totol foundation for Relief and Development
 100. Tree of Life Organization for Development
 101. Urnammu for Justice & Human Rights
 102. Wamda for Development, Training and Consulting
 103. Weqaya Association
 104. Youth for Change
 105. Youth Optimistic Organization
 106. Zameen for Development and Peacebuilding
 107. Zin Development Center
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About Us:

Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization monitoring human rights violations in Syria. Founded in 2015, STJ has been based in France since 2019.

STJ is an impartial and independent Syrian human rights organization operating across Syria. Our network of field researchers monitor and report human rights violations occurring on the ground in Syria, while our international team of human rights experts, lawyers, and journalists gather evidence, examine emerging patterns of violations, and analyze how violations break domestic Syrian and international law.

We are committed to documenting violations of human rights committed by all parties in the Syrian conflict and elevating the voices of all Syrians victimized by human rights violations, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, class, and/or gender. Our commitment to human rights monitoring is founded on the idea that professional human rights documentation meeting international standards is the first step to uncovering the truth and achieving justice in Syria.



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EDITOR@STJ-SY.ORG