

**Space for Collaboration Conference VII**  
**24th – 31st of August 2023**  
**Final Statement**

[We are a group of Syrian women](#), from diverse backgrounds of the Syrian community. We are responsible for promoting solidarity, cooperation, and coordination among Syrian women and within our respective communities. Our members are from civil society organizations, independent activists, women working in public affairs, and individuals from local and national contexts. We take the initiative to shoulder the responsibility of addressing various critical issues concerning Syrian women and men. We exchange experiences to provide objective and gender-sensitive analysis of the reality in the field and the political process. We support the political process in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and other relevant resolutions concerning the Syrian political process.

We vigorously advocate for women's active participation in the political and constitutional process, and aim for no less than 30% - 50% representation at all stages, in line with the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, as well as related resolutions. We shed light on women's aspirations for the future and stand in solidarity with one another, particularly in exceptional circumstances such as the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Syria and Turkey in February 2023.

We support the Syrian people in their peaceful popular movement and their demand for a democratic state that ensures rights, freedoms, a flourishing and just economy, and a decent life for all Syrian women and men.

The following recommendations have been agreed upon during the Space for Collaboration Conference concerning the Syrian displacement and refugee issues, and the issues of detention and enforced disappearance.

**The Syrian Displacement and Refugee Issues:**

Following our discussion of the challenges and risks faced by Syrian women and men who have been forced to displace or seek refuge, it has been emphasized that tangible actions must be taken in the following areas:

1. Achieve progress in the political process, in accordance with Resolution 2254, concurrent with improving the conditions for Syrian women and men within Syria and in host countries. This will contribute to improving the situations of those who have been forced to be displaced and seek refuge.

2. Strengthen the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to protect and improve the situation for Syrian women and men, and those in similar status in neighboring countries. This includes ensuring freedom of movement, expediting asylum processes, and facilitating communication and registration within UNHCR for those not previously registered, including newborns. It also involves countering misleading information, hate speech, and bullying.

3. Increase the number of centers providing legal services and consultations and ensure the issuance of identity and legal documents for all Syrian women and men, including newborns<sup>1</sup>. Guarantee implementation of the laws combating racial crimes in host countries and document racial discrimination and violations against women. Provide safe spaces for abused women.

4. Support the healthcare sector, health centers, and hospitals to provide treatment for all diseases, including chronic and challenging ones, and necessary psychological support. Additionally, support the education sector in Syria and neighboring countries and establish a university lending fund for Syrian women and men.

5. Involve Syrian women and men in the creation, planning, execution, and monitoring of specialized programs to support those forced to seek refuge or displacement. Also, increase economic empowerment programs, particularly for women.

6. Ensure the safe and voluntary return of refugee women and men, displaced women and men, to their original places of residence or locations of their choice through a transparent process overseen by a committee formed by the United Nations in collaboration with Syrian civil society organizations. Document and halt all forced returns that constitute a clear human rights violation.

The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 will contribute to ending the conflict and achieving security and safety in various regions of Syria, facilitating the safe and voluntary return of those who have left their homes.

### **The Detention and Forced Disappearance Issues:**

After extensive discussion and deliberation on recent developments in the issue of detention and forced disappearance, as well as the crisis of the missing persons in Syria, and recognizing the importance of determining the fate and whereabouts of all individuals involved, the need for concrete steps in the following areas has been emphasized:

1. Ensure the release of all detainees and abducted individuals by all parties, starting with a particular focus on children, women, and those in critical health conditions.
2. Enact immediate cessation of arbitrary arrests, forced disappearances, and all forms of violence and hostilities. Violence includes domestic violence, sexual violence, gender-based violence, or violence based on the person's ethnicity, religion, sect, region, or any other acts that contribute to the rise in the number of missing persons in Syria.
3. Abolish exceptional courts, terrorism courts, emergency laws, and terrorism-related laws, and adhere to principles and standards of human rights in dealing with detainees while improving their health conditions.
4. Provide financial and technical support to the independent institution on missing persons, which was established in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution [77/301](#), to ensure the disclosure of the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in Syria, regardless of the responsible parties or de facto authorities. This support should be comprehensive, encompassing victims, survivors, and the families of missing persons, in close collaboration with all relevant actors and stakeholders.
5. Hold regular meetings with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the independent institution on missing persons after receiving [our written submission](#), which supports the consultation process, including the inclusion of women, civil society, and victims, in a manner that respects gender sensitivity and safeguards the rights of victims.
6. Involve civil society and victim associations in planning and implementing customized programs to support the families of missing persons survivors. Support programs that promote human rights, and document violations within the detention and forced disappearance file by all parties, and programs that contribute to accountability, including sexual and gender-based violence in detention facilities.

We, Syrian women and civil society organizations, commit to continue our efforts to achieve sustainable peace in Syria through a political solution based on UN Security Council Resolution 2254. This political solution should be just, inclusive, comprehensive, and ensure accountability, and the rights of all the victims.