

## CCSD Hosts 2nd Annual Syrian Democracy and Peace Week September 15-21, 2025

The Center for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD) hosts the second annual Syrian Democracy and Peace Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness about achieving democracy, peace, and justice in Syria. The campaign will run from September 15, the International Day of Democracy to September 21, the International Peace Day.

The fall of the Assad regime and the new transitional period that started in December of 2024 represent a historic opportunity for Syrians to rebuild a democratic, pluralistic Syria on the basis of justice, citizenship, equality, and peace. During this week, CCSD stresses the importance of an empowered and independent civil society sector through:

1. Strengthening civil society organizations as key actors in democracy-building, peace, conflict prevention, reconciliation, development and recovery.
2. Reopening civic space for political pluralism, free association, and activism and encouraging the development of democratic political parties and movements that reflect Syria's diversity.
3. Ensuring women's and youth's rights and leadership in transitional institutions and peace processes, in line with UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 2250.

During this week, CCSD reaffirms our [Principles for Syria's Transition](#), and directs our allies to the following top priorities during the Transitional Period grounded on UN Security Council resolutions on Syria and international human rights conventions:

1. Convene a new inclusive Syrian National Dialogue and use it as the blueprint for the creation of a new constitution for the transition that guarantees separation of powers, separation between religion and state, judicial independence, decentralization, freedom to form political parties, and protection of civil and political rights including constitutional protections for freedom of expression, association, religion, and political participation. The February 2025 National Dialogue did not represent all of Syria and there is still a need for an inclusive process.
2. Build an inclusive, decentralized interim government that represents all Syrians based on qualifications, citizenship, and equal opportunities - free from discrimination by religion, sect, ethnicity, gender, or political affiliation. A government guarantees a safe and neutral environment based on human rights, ensures equitable power-sharing, protects minorities, and strengthens local governance through fair distribution of services and resources.
3. Guarantee conditions for the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of refugees and IDPs and develop a national and local reintegration plan that secures housing, property rights, and livelihood opportunities to all returnees and ensure refugees and IDPs are active participants in shaping solutions and policies affecting their future.
4. Strengthen cooperation with international justice mechanisms and ensure victims' voices are central to the process. Hold accountable all those responsible for crimes

- against humanity and war crimes in the last decades and also all perpetrators of massacres in coastal areas, Swaida, and across Syria.
5. Criminalize hate speech, sectarian incitement, violence and discrimination against women, forced migration especially of religious or ethnic groups, and discriminatory practices to prevent future cycles of division and violence.
  6. Develop policies and actions that guarantees transparency and accountability that address the economic challenges including opportunities for employment, financial investment, and sector specific pitfalls.