



SYRIAN WOMEN'S
FORUM FOR PEACE



Syrian Women's Charter (January 2014)

We, the Syrian women meeting in Damascus, are a voice of Syrian women nationwide, a reflection of a mosaic of Syrian society, narrators of suffering and pain experienced by Syria, and evidence of the sustainability and life of Syrian society. We met to form our vision as Syrian women and to identify and illuminate our mutual goals, which we believe that the international community should seriously consider in light of the Geneva II conference to be held at the end of January.

Our vision is summarized as follows:

- We must take action to end violence and prevent the export of weapons and militants into the Syrian territory.
- We must end the siege and facilitate the arrival of meaningful relief aids for those adversely impacted.
- We must emphasize the unity of the country and reject any political settlement made on an ethnic, sectarian or denominational basis.
- We reject any international intervention in issues relating to the form of the state and constitution. Such issues are the responsibility of the Syrian people.
- The international community must stop using Syrian humanitarian issues for political or economic gain.
- International stakeholders must lift economic sanctions on Syria and help facilitate the flow of basic goods and services to accelerate the process of economic recovery.
- The Geneva II Conference is an international conference on Syrian issues of peace and transition. In order for it to be successful, the conference must include participation of Syrian men and women from inside Syria in real and active roles. Political freedom and freedom of action of civil society and the media must be encouraged and upheld.
- We aspire to build a future Syrian state that will honor its citizens and their basic human rights.
- We emphasize the need to involve women from inside Syria in negotiating processes as representatives of the larger Syrian fabric. Women must have an equal role to men in advocating for their needs and priorities, and for designing the future Syrian state the process to get there.
- We must integrate women into the democratic process and support their active participation in disarmament, reconstruction, and transitional justice.
- We must address the issue of abducted and detained women separately of political interests. We must not exploit them or use them as a means of exerting pressure.

- We must foster international cooperation through economic empowerment programs for Syrian women and educational programs for Syrian children.

We, the Syrian women assembled in Damascus on January 6, 2014, call upon the whole world, particularly international players concerned and involved in the Syrian crisis, to make 2014 a year of peace and security in Syria. In light of this, we have adopted the above points as guidelines in our efforts to achieve peace in Syria.