

Syrian Civil Society Platform

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The political solution is the optimal solution in Syria. Analysis of local dynamics informs proposals for a political solution that are more realistic and accurate. Because of this, the effective participation of civil society and women in the peace process is necessary and fundamental. These three assumptions are the basis on which the Syrian Civil Society Platform (SCP) is built and is the reason why the structure includes Local Platforms in Syrian provinces, as well as in neighboring refugee communities. Foundational to this effort is a belief that inclusion and local consultations are the values underpinning effective community participation in manifesting a political solution in Syria.

SCP VISION FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION

The SCP works to achieve a successful political transition that realizes the aspirations of the Syrian people for justice, freedom, and dignity, with sustainable peace ultimately prevailing in Syria.

The SCP values all international efforts to achieve a political solution in Syria based on the Geneva I Communique and related UN Security Council resolutions. SCP considers articles 12 and 13 of UNSCR 2254 fundamental for confidence building that will allow for initiation of negotiations.

The SCP expresses frustration with the inability of the international community to implement or enforce standing UN resolutions and announces support for any efforts aimed at establishing a ceasefire, ending the bombardment, protecting civilians, releasing detainees, and determining the destiny of the disappeared.

The SCP believes that negotiations should be between two official Syrian delegations and that the High Negotiations Committee (HNC) should be independent in selecting the opposition delegation so long as it is committed to a political solution based on Geneva I and implementation of ceasefire as delineated in UNSCR 2254.

The SCP urges the HNC to include and consult on a continuous basis civil society, armed groups, political parties, and all segments of the Syrian population.

The SCP calls for separating the humanitarian track from the political track.

The SCP calls for working on the humanitarian track through breaking the siege, delivering humanitarian aid, releasing detainees and kidnapped people, revealing the destiny of the disappeared, establishing a national ceasefire—including an immediate end to the bombardment—and immediate implementation of humanitarian directives from the UN.

CORE PRINCIPLES:

Inclusion||Consultation||Participation||Transparency||Diversity||Independence

INDEPENDENCE: Recognizing that no party is truly neutral in a conflict of this magnitude, the SCP does not consider itself neutral toward the authoritarian practices of state authorities or any other authority. Instead, SCP identifies as independent, taken here to mean:

- ❖ Governance according to the values of freedom, dignity, justice, and equality
- ❖ Commitment to the human interests of the Syrian people, recognizing the equal rights of all Syrian segments of the population
- ❖ Adoption of the principles of accountability and reparations
- ❖ Decision-making independent of political orientations

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE POLITICAL SOLUTION:

Consulting at the local level on issues on the agenda for negotiations

Producing recommendations and proposals reflecting outcomes of consultations with the local communities

Monitoring and consulting throughout the entirety of the political transition