



# Position paper on Perspectives of Forced Displaced Syrian Women on their Conditions, Rights, and Demands

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## Executive Summary

**“Parties to a non-international armed conflict may not order the displacement of the civilian population, in whole or in part, for reasons related to the conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand.” (International Humanitarian Law, rule 129)**

Since 2014, thousands of Syrian women, along with their family members, have been forcibly displaced from their homes as part of a process called “reconciliation agreements” \* or “local reconciliation agreements”<sup>1</sup>. Most were taken to unknown and unsafe locations in other parts of Syria. Forcibly displaced Syrian women (FDS) were subjected to a variety of human rights violations before their displacement; including living under siege for years with constant bombardment, starvation, deprivation of access to educational facilities, denial of medical care and services, access to food, hygiene, clothing, or any other basic materials.<sup>2</sup>

Currently, FDS women live in extremely challenging situations; most FDS women are severely traumatized and lack psychological, health, economic, legal, educational, or community support. They have lost their support circles, beloved ones, homes, social and political roles, and jobs:

- With the absence of the utilization of any international mechanism or process to hold the Syrian regime accountable, women who have been displaced to opposition areas in Syria cannot return to their original areas and homes. Some face imprisonment by Syrian regime security forces for their political and humanitarian involvement, or a number of other reasons.<sup>3</sup> Others have no houses to go back to as their homes are occupied by other people or destroyed. Besides, many women cannot prove the ownership of their property because they lack official documents; the discriminative local laws make it harder for them to prove or transfer the right of property ownership after the death or disappearance of the men in their families. In addition, there are new oppressive and discriminatory laws by the Syrian regime<sup>4</sup> related to properties’ ownership.

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\*Using double quotations with some terms means that these terms are problematic and do not reflect the context.

1 For more information about the “Reconciliation agreements” see the following research reports:

“Local Reconciliation Agreements” In Syria: A Non-Starter For Peacebuilding.

[https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/46864/RSCAS\\_MED\\_RR\\_2017\\_01.pdf?sequence](https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/46864/RSCAS_MED_RR_2017_01.pdf?sequence)

“The Details of ‘Reconciliation Deals’ Expose How They Are Anything But”

<https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/the-details-of-reconciliation-deals-expose-how-they-are-anything-but-a-closer-look-at-the-regimes-process-reveals-its-real-goal-retribution-and-control>

Mass Forced Displacement & its Consequences under a ‘Reconciliation Agreement’

<https://tda-sy.org/2019/10/18/mass-forced-displacement-its-consequences-under-a-reconciliation-agreement/>

2 see the policy paper “Sieges as a weapon of war: Encircle, starve, surrender, evacuate”, 29 May 2018

[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColSyria/PolicyPaperSieges\\_29May2018.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColSyria/PolicyPaperSieges_29May2018.pdf)

3 It is worth mentioning that Syrian regime forces can detain and imprison any Syrian civilian (women, men, and even children) without any clear reasons. Therefore, in the absence of any kind of transparency, human rights, or accountability, most Syrians who were forcibly displaced to opposition areas inside Syria will not even try to access the areas under the Syrian regime’s control.

4 For more information about the mentioned discriminative Syrian laws, see (in Arabic): “A crime called Reconstruction”

<http://www.drsc-sy.org/%d8%ac%d8%b1%d9%8a%d9%85%d8%a9-%d8%a8%d8%b9%d9%86%d9%88%d8%a7%d9%86-%d8%a5%d8%b9%d8%a7%d8%af%d8%a9-%d8%a5%d8%b9%d9%85%d8%a7%d8%b1/>

- Many FDS Women in Syria, Turkey, and Lebanon have no official papers. The lack of official identification papers constrains their movements, as well as their access to health or educational services. Moreover, it puts them at risk of being deported to Syria or detained in Turkey or Lebanon. Besides, the irregular situation of many FDS Women, makes them vulnerable to sexual harassment and other types of abuse.
- Many women are subject to SGBV . They face it in their everyday tasks, such as renting apartments, looking for jobs or searching for health services, and so on.
- Most of the FDS Women lost their social networks and circles. Being in new environments and communities without any support is affecting negatively their ability to integrate and communicate with the new host communities.

FDS Women express frustrations of not finding job opportunities that meet their experiences, especially women who used to work with the civil societies under siege. They are shocked with the required qualifications and skills inside Syria (opposition areas) or in Turkey which they did not need in the siege to do similar jobs. For instance, writing CV's, English skills, advanced computer skills. This makes them feel unqualified and in need of additional job training.

- Most of the FDS Women lack the knowledge, support, and tools related to how to advocate for their legal situations and rights on an international and local level. The lack of support for women increases the absence of women from any access to local and international platforms related to justice and accountability processes for their cause and rights.

This paper aims to highlight the situation of forcibly displaced Syrian women (FDS Women) to stress the urgent need for serious, sustained, contextualized, and gender-sensitive support, solidarity, and responses with them and their communities. It also seeks to underline that FDS women are subjected to many human rights violations and crimes (especially siege and forced displacement) and to reiterate the ongoing impunity of perpetrators in Syria. It highlights the lack of justice in the Syrian scene in general and for marginalized groups across multiple levels (including rights such as remuneration, political status, economic situation, health situation, and right of return) in particular.

**Forcibly displaced women are not the only affected persons in the displacement context, but their opinions, rights, and demands are neglected and excluded from most justice responses in the present, likewise in the future. Their needs and challenges are generalized in the responses of most active actors at the political, social, economic, health, and educational levels. This is happening and will continue to happen because we still live under dominant patriarchal and dictatorial systems and laws. This will keep happening if we, women, feminists, feminist initiatives, networks, and associations do not show solidarity and work together with them to raise the voices and claim the rights, and demand justice from their perspective.**



## Introduction

The stresses, traumas, disappointments, oppression, inequalities, challenges, and needs mentioned by the participating women in the discussion groups in this project are just headlines of a long and very detailed journey of suffering that has no end in sight. They are pessimistic about any serious or sustainable resolution or action on this matter, especially when they observe the ineffective responses, interventions, and actions of the active actors in the scene; the global community, human rights associations, justice and accountability actors, and civil society to date.

FDS Women were excluded from all negotiations and discussions related to these “reconciliation agreements.” They were also not offered safe alternative residence in their regions as an alternative to displacement to other parts of Syria. Moreover, they were forcibly displaced to opposition areas (mainly Idlib and northeastern suburbs of Aleppo) designated by the Syrian regime and its allies (Iran and Russia), which was agreed upon by armed opposition groups. Along the way of forced transfer, many women and girls were subjected to sexual harassment by Syrian regime soldiers and other militia members at checkpoints, while other women and girls were also subjected to sexual harassment in some camps that temporarily hosted them in opposition areas after the relocation. Additionally, they faced inhumane situations during the journey; bus rides were exceedingly long, sometimes more than a day, and while some of them were sick, others pregnant or caring for sick children and the elderly, they had no access to help or support. Other women, especially activists, expected arrest at any moment during the long hours on the road.

**“Acts of forced displacement, whether in international armed conflict, in civil wars, or even in peacetime (if the other requirements for crimes against humanity are met) amount to international crimes. Even the difference established by the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia )<sup>5</sup> between deportation and forcible transfer – should it be accepted by other tribunals in the future – does not change the basic point that all these acts are criminal and that forcibly transferring people within a country is as serious as deporting them across a State border.”<sup>6</sup>**

**“[g]iven the systematic and widespread character of the forced displacement of persons in Darfur, the Commission finds that such action may well amount to a crime against humanity. The requisite subjective element (awareness of the systematic nature of the forced displacement) would be inherent in the fact that such displacement clearly amounted to a Government policy consistently pursued by the relevant Government authorities and the Janjaweed. Furthermore, given the discriminatory character of the displacement, these actions would amount to the crime of persecution as a crime against humanity.”<sup>7</sup>**

5 International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia | United Nations  
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (icty.org)

6 Acquaviva, Guido, Forced Displacement, and International Crimes: \*Acquaviva - Forced Displacement and International Crimes (unhcr.org)

7 Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur to the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1564 (2004) of 18 September 2004, Geneva, 25 January 2005, para. 332 ('Darfur Report').

This position paper is part of a pilot project that the Women Now for Development (WND) team conducted with 21 FDS Women “residing” in northwestern Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, and Europe. The project began after WND organized a workshop in Gaziantep, Turkey, in March 2019 titled “Feminist Discussions on Forced Displacement.” Based on these findings, WND, in partnership with PAX, designed and implemented a pilot project in 2020 with the main goal of equipping FDS Women with knowledge and tools to advocate for themselves and their communities to attain their rights. This aim was achieved through intensive legal training conducted by the Syrian Legal Development Program (SLDP). As well as a qualitative research project led by legal and research experts who conducted 3 Focus Group Discussions (FGDS) and 10 interviews with 21 women forcibly deported from Old Homs, AlWaaer, Darayya, Aleppo, Eastern Ghouta, AlQunitera, Daraa, Afrin, Muadamieh, Southern Damascus, Khan AlSheeh and Wadi Barada who shared their stories, narratives, challenges, and demands. This was conducted with Psychological support for FDS Women by The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT).

## The Importance of this Position Paper

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The WND team sees an urgent need to work on understanding the contexts and circumstances of FDS Women at all levels from a feminist and contextual perspective. We want to highlight the provisions of the FDS Women conditions to work with the women and other interested actors to respond in meaningful ways that meet their needs, demands, and nuances. We recognize that several layers of oppression intersect in the current situation of FDS Women, forming multiple inequalities and oppression. However, we are also aware that these inequalities did not just emerge after the siege and displacement. They have their roots in the social, political, cultural, economic, and legal patriarchal structures that existed before 2011. We are deeply convinced that ignoring these deeply rooted and current inequalities of women and other marginalized groups will negatively impact any local or international path of justice to them.

We are conscious that each displacement process in Syria has its context, specificities, and conditions. After this pilot project with 21 FDS women, we are even further aware that each woman has her own story and her challenges that she confronted during the siege, the displacement, and in the present. Therefore, we acknowledge that this position paper has limitations in addressing the specific contexts, conditions, violations, and sufferings that each woman has experienced and continues to experience. Nonetheless, we look forward to working with interested partners to produce a contextualized feminist knowledge production series narrated by FDS women on each forced displacement process that has taken place in Syria under the name of the “Reconciliation Agreement.”

## WND Positionality

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Many women in the WND team and most of the participants were exposed to the crime of siege and forced displacement in Eastern Ghouta, Daraa, and recently in Idlib. They experienced these inhumane situations in many besieged areas in Syria since 2012 while trying to achieve changes in the political, civil, and social aspects, or at least create and invent coping mechanisms to protect and survive their families. Currently, after being forcibly displaced, the women on our team are the main force behind the launch and implementation of the projects with FDS Women. They do this knowing that every FDS woman faces challenging psychological, economic, social, and legal situations, albeit in different ways, related to each woman's experiences and context. Moreover, they are conscious that dealing with such challenges as individuals and without community, civic, and feminist support makes it more difficult for each woman to move forward and holds FDS women back from meaningful participation in the processes of justice and accountability at every level.

We in WND raise our voices with all Syrian Forced displaced women to say that how the forced displacement took place makes it an international war crime and a crime against humanity. We do not accept any justice or political trajectories without our testimony, stories, and meaningful participation.

Together we want to share our narratives with other women who have experienced the same tragedies, crimes, and violations. We need to encourage and support each other, as well as build solidarity and sustained support with other groups and individuals. Simultaneously, it is important to articulate that our needs are quite different right now; some of us are still extremely traumatized and cannot find the energy to stand up and speak out for our rights. Others are in extremely difficult economic and health situations. Meanwhile, many face serious problems in obtaining official documents such as passports, real estate ownership, marriage certificates, and child registration papers. Moreover, some live with the overlap of all the above circumstances.

## Insights in Forced Displacement in Syria

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Though displacement and forced relocation can be considered an expected outcome of every war in this world throughout history, every ruling power or government has its specific mechanisms to force people to relocate and make these experiences as inhumane as possible. Most importantly, in such contexts, women are always under-represented in the documentation, in the political and legal process, and in the future decisions that directly affect their lives. Since 2013, Syrian civilian displacement has been, and continues to be, a means and strategy to repress, suppress, and silence people demanding political and social change. The Syrian government and, to a lesser extent, armed opposition groups had besieged people in several areas throughout the country. People in these areas went hungry for years and had no access to basic services under the constant bombardment of the Syrian regime and

its allies.<sup>8</sup>Under these dire circumstances, which lasted for years, women within their communities tried to survive with extremely limited resources. Some of them became breadwinners for their families, others kept creating a space of hope and resistance through civil society work and activities or by providing voluntary services in the education, and health sectors.

Some activists continued their activism under the arbitrary shelling and inside the shelters. They tried to live as much as possible under the siege, the shelling, the military existence, the destroyed schools and hospitals, the internalized traumas, the loss, and the wait for the day when the war ends.

The international community watched all these violations without any effective responses until the present. They looked on silently as the Syrian regime, with the support of Russian and Iranian forces forced the civilians, women, men, and children in all these areas to leave their homes under so-called “Reconciliation Agreements” to other unknown parts of Syria.

Thousands<sup>9</sup> were forcibly deported from their own places and properties in Daraya, eastern Aleppo city, al-Waer, Madaya, Zabadani, Kefraya, and Foua until 2017 (Amnesty, 2018). These situations of forced displacement were repeated in 2018 for thousands in Eastern Ghouta, Southern Damascus and Daraa. The regime and its allies have agreed to use almost the same strategy to dislocate the civilians from these areas: “Reconciliation Agreements”<sup>10</sup>.

Agreements without the consent of the civilians. They were displaced in the green buses<sup>11</sup> to the northwest parts of Syria without any negotiations or preparations.

“Displacement was not an option; it was something we were forced into. They gave us two options, either we die under the bombing, in the basements, or we die in the hands of the regime in its prisons or face all kinds of humiliation in the regime evacuation centers. Then came the decision of forced displacement, we forced ourselves to accept it because we had no other choice” (N.H, forcibly displaced from Eastern Ghouta, 2018).

“I was not aware of this agreement or as they call it “reconciliation.” I just knew the day before that I had to leave my house. We had no affiliation with anything that was done in this agreement, and we were not involved in it in any aspect. What happened to us is completely different from what is reported in the media or the news. We were all brought to a single destination, we had no options, and we did not choose the path or the area.” (R. Forced displaced from Daraa)

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8 Please read Amnesty’s report “We Leave or We Die”: Forced Displacement under Syria’s Reconciliation Agreements.  
<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE2473092017ENGLISH.pdf>

9 We did not find any gendered numeric statistic related to the number of women forcibly displaced internally in Syria. You can find the Forced population transfers from besieged areas since 2015 in this report (page 20-21):  
<https://siegewatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/pax-siege-watch-final-report-spread.pdf>

10 same resource as 7

11 Green buses: These buses used to be public transportation in Syria. However, the green buses were used to displace many civilians under the “reconciliation agreements” and became a symbol of one of the worst experiences for many Syrians.



## Recent Responses and Efforts

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Many Syrian local and international justice organizations and human rights associations have made efforts to document the human rights violations against Syrian civilians under the systematic internal displacement crimes. They have published many reports detailing the circumstances, contexts, and legal standing of certain displacement operations committed by the regime and its allies under the name of “reconciliation agreements.”<sup>12</sup> Some of these reports used the term “demographic engineering” to describe the Syrian regime’s strategic purpose of the forced displacement process and to articulate the short- and long-term implications and violations of such strategy against Syrian civilians and communities.<sup>13</sup>

However, most of these reports are missing a gender perspective and intersectional approach in analyzing the different implications, violations, and challenges faced by Syrian women and men during and after forced displacement. The absence of such a perspective may lead to more exclusivity of women in their participation in advanced steps of justice and accountability trajectories related to the siege and forced displacement crimes.

Alternatively, some Syrian feminist associations worked on emphasizing the importance of the details of crimes and violations against women and girls taking place in the contexts of strategically forced displacements led by the Syrian regime and its allies across the country. In June 2018, at a side event of the Syrian feminist political movement at the United Nations headquarters in New York, attention was drawn to the international community of the different ways in which Syrians, especially Syrian women and girls, are affected by the regime’s policy of forced displacement.<sup>14</sup>

There has been a lack of response and acknowledgement from international community on the specific needs, demands, and rights of forcibly displaced civilians, particularly women and girls, and silence on developing accountability measures for the displacement crimes and human rights violations against them.<sup>15</sup>

In the group discussions and interviews in this project, most of the FDS Women expressed their anger and frustration at this silence and ignorance of the women and their communities since the displacement incidences. They articulate that they are left alone to deal with their trauma, loss, and their severe and unstable economic and living situations.

**“There should be specific groups and networks for FDS Women to speak up their stories and advocate for their rights. We have different narratives, challenges, and violations than men. We want to advocate for their rights too, but we have to share what happened and is happening to us, otherwise, all these violations and crimes against us will be forgotten” (Tu. Forcibly deported from Eastern Ghouta 2018 to Damascus, then she went to Aleppo suburbs, Turkey then to Europe.)**

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12 For more information please see “No Return to Homs: A case study on demographic engineering in Syria” <https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/no-return-to-homs>

13 *ibid* fn 11.

14 Please check the website of the Syrian Women’s Political Movement for more information on this activity. <http://syrianwomenpm.org/>

15 The efforts of many local NGOs and civil society organizations to support displaced women and girls and their communities are not ignored here. We mean here comprehensive and sustainable support and partnership with the women.

## Challenges Demands and Recommendations

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Throughout the activities and workshop of the Forced Displacement Pilot Project, FDS Women expressed the challenges that they are facing on several levels and aspects as well as their suggestions to mitigate these hard conditions and challenges. It is hard to divide the challenges and inequalities that they are facing, since they intersect and intertwine very deeply. However, we are trying here to make some distinctions to realize the complexity of each challenge and its impact on the daily life details of every woman.

Psychological challenges and demands: It was not easy for some of the women to talk about their situations and narratives during the discussions due to many reasons relating to their psychological situation. Even though the WND team was careful to create a relatively safe environment and to have psychological support for this project. It was hard to speak up, due to the successive traumas they have suffered and are still experiencing.

Most of them expressed the challenges of getting along with people around them who did not face the same experiences. They find it hard to engage in “normal” conversations or to talk about common interests or daily issues. Even in the focused discussion groups and interviews, it was not easy for them to speak out their stories, and some of them share their narratives just because they feel responsible to keep talking about what happened to them, because they want these narratives to stay alive.

Some women, especially activists, think of their survival as a “curse”. They feel guilty to survive alone while some of their beloved people have died. Others think the same, they feel dead inside especially when they cannot communicate with their families who are living in the Syrian regime controlled areas due to security reasons.

Others expressed positive reflections about sharing, discussing, and listening to each other since they keep all these painful memories in their minds. They felt comfortable listening to the different stories of forced displacements and asked for more gatherings to gain more knowledge about what happened to other women from different areas in Syria.

Most of them expressed the urgent need for projects and services that provide spaces for them to meet, share and speak about the situations they have been through in the siege, displacement, and post-displacement. While some articulate their need for specialists (psychiatrists or therapists) who can speak their language and follow the women’s psychological status regularly.

## Legal challenges and demands:

Many women articulate the challenges that they are facing caused by not having their official papers (specifically ID, passports, marriage contracts, birth certificates, and educational certificates). Being undocumented affects their ability to access many basic services and resources like education, health, and jobs, but mostly in experiencing vital events (ie. Marriage, birth, etc.).

Furthermore, this situation prevents them from having a legal status and free movement between cities, as well as the opportunity for resettlement. Some women are trying to issue new official documents from the areas under regime control but with no success because of communication difficulties, security threats, and lack of money to pay for such services.

**“As for the registration of documents, my husband and I are still struggling with this issue until now. We don’t have a marriage certificate because we got married in opposition-controlled areas. We cannot register a marriage in regime-controlled areas because my husband is a former regime detainee, and so am I. It does not help us to register marriage here because the official documents issued here, from the interim government, for example, are not recognized” (Se, forcibly deported from Qunaitra 2018 to Idlib)**

Some women, especially those who lost the men in their families, are facing many challenges when trying to prove their right to inheritance. This is due to the new regulations and laws related to real estate ownership which put many burdens on displaced people in general and women, in particular, to prove their rights in property ownership. Furthermore, most of the women cannot go to their local government offices to process the related official paperwork because of security reasons and lack of free movement. This is in addition to the lack of specific information and access in dealing with such legal issues.

Therefore, FDS Women need accessible legal services where they can gain knowledge about the legal situations and circumstances related to their official documents and ownership of properties, among other rights. Such services can be provided through workshops, volunteer lawyers, and consultants who speak the women’s languages and are knowledgeable of the previous and current contexts’ complications.

## Challenges and demands on social and economic and the self-level:

Most of the FDS Women lost their social networks and circles. Being in new environments and communities without any support is affecting negatively their ability to integrate and communicate with the new host communities. Some women expressed that some receiving communities in Idlib and Aleppo suburbs received them in a very welcoming way, however, these areas face their struggles and cannot provide the support that they lack themselves. On the other side, some women mentioned that some people in the receiving areas are criticizing them for accepting the reconciliation with the Syrian regime and leaving their areas.

**“When we were deported from Aleppo, we were received by people in the areas to which we were sent, but the first word we heard was: We sold Aleppo, this word had a disastrous effect on us and affected most of us so far.” ((AS. Forcibly deported from Aleppo 2016 to Idlib)**

Such criticism and accusations are an extra burden on the FDS women and their families. Most women explain how tired they are of explaining that they had no choice to leave their homes. As a reaction, some women decided to avoid communication with some people from the receiving communities since they cannot stand such accusations, even when it is unspoken.

On the professional and career side, many FDS Women express their frustrations of not finding job opportunities that meet their experiences, especially women who used to work with the civil societies under siege. They are shocked by the required qualifications and skills inside Syrian opposition areas or in Turkey which they did not need in the siege to do similar jobs. For instance, writing CV's, English skills, advanced computer skills. This makes them feel unqualified and in need of additional job training. In Turkey and Lebanon, many women cannot access formal jobs because of their irregular status and lack of papers.

**“The situation is dire, as all the people that have been displaced since the beginning of the revolution to Turkey have taken the necessary training to work, are employed, and have their positions. As for us who brought the latter, there are no job opportunities for us, and we do not have the competencies required to work in organizations here. We were wronged when we were inside, and we were wronged when we were displaced and came to Turkey.”(NA, forcibly displaced from Daraa in 2018 to Idlib and then to Turkey)**

On the other side, some FDS Women who were working with NGOs and civil society initiatives in the siege, articulate that these organizations provided job opportunities for them after the forced displacement. However, they expressed that a small percentage of FDS Women and other women who have other skills outside the civil work were left alone without any support. Moreover, many women did not work before and were dependent on the men in their families. Now some of these women are displaced without the men and are struggling to find any source of income.

## Justice and accountability

Syrian women forcibly besieged and displaced are demanding to hold perpetrators legally and publicly accountable through:

- emphasizing the immediate need to fully document and preserve women testimonies to find the truth, assure a gendered perspective and lens of human violations and war crimes. Moreover, to provide evidence that could be used in future court trials against the perpetrators.
- ensuring that those who committed these crimes and caused the violations of rights are called out by all stakeholders involved. This includes those involved in the full chain of responsibilities, specifically Syrian, Iranian, and Russian soldiers, armed militia, Syrian decision-makers, Politicians, Security personnel, and the Presidential circle.
- being an effective part of the key discussions and processes on what a future Syria will look like. The current negotiations are often in male domains, which means that they employ discourses and practices that are closer to men's reality than to women. Therefore, the women call to play essential roles to both contextualize the gendered nature of what had happened during the context, as well as help in coming up with solutions.
- Demanding their right of a voluntary and safe return to their areas accompanied with full ownership of their properties.

**Therefore, after this pilot project with some forcibly displaced women inside and outside Syria, the Women Now for Development team calls for a more in-depth, gendered, and contextualized understanding of the specific circumstances of forcibly displaced people. We recommend civil society organizations, accountability, and justice associations and initiatives, feminist organizations, research institutions to focus specific efforts on the Syrian forced displaced communities. These communities and individuals were and still subject to serial violations and crimes; the siege, the official displacement, and the current displacement that they are living in right now. They need and deserve every effort from all of us to stand again, face the challenges and demand their rights.**

**The burdens, traumas, disappointments, oppressions, inequalities, challenges, and needs mentioned by the participated women are just headlines of long and very detailed suffering with no endpoint in the foreseen future. Without a doubt, the situations of the FDS women and their communities require a holistic approach of support and work from several actors on several levels. Such a holistic approach is not something that could be established soon, and we are aware of this. However, what we are trying to advocate here is to focus on the specificity and importance of this issue and its ownership, which will help not to forget or ignore this marginalized group, as happened and still with many other groups of the Syrian society. This, in turn, will help design strategies in the short and long term to support them and their cause, which should be the cause of every group that believes in human rights and justice.**

**Forcibly displaced women are not the only affected humans in the displacement context, however, their opinions, rights, and demands will be neglected and excluded from most of the justice trajectories in the current and the future. Their needs and challenges will be generalized in the responses from most of the active actors on political, social, economic, health and education levels. This is happening and will keep happening because we are still living under a dominating, patriarchal and dictatorship system and its laws. This will happen, if we, women, feminist initiatives, networks, and associations do not**

**solidarities and work together with them to raise the voice and demand rights, and ask for justice from our perspectives.**

**We can work on parallel trajectories and levels; for now, all participated women clarify that they do not have the minimum basics to live a dignified life:**

- They need to feel surrounded by communities and not be left alone. They need individuals' and groups' support to help them in being integrated into the new societies.
- Dignified work opportunities, education, and health services for them and their children. As well as decent training, and workshops to gain more knowledge of how to demand their rights.
- Legal support, services, and consultations on how to obtain official documents to practice their rights in; free movement, access to health and educational services (in Lebanon and Turkey) and to prove their ownership of their (and their disappeared or dead male relatives) properties in their original areas.
- Health services for them and their families; should take into consideration their economic and legal situation. Such services should be free and do not require official documents or health insurance.
- Educational services: access to educational institutions to continue or start the learning process. And again, it should be financially supported, gender-sensitive, and consider the legal situation.

**In parallel with:**

- Platforms and tools to share, document, and archive FDS Women's stories and experiences. Preferably with the partnership between legal and human rights associations and Feminist associations, to guarantee -to a certain extent- the inclusion of gender and context sensitivity. As well, feminist knowledge production led by Feminist activists, initiatives, associations, and FDS Women.
- Access to local and international justice and accountability processes where they can be an active part in designing and supporting such efforts and giving their testimonies about the crimes and violations that they witnessed, lived, and still living.





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