

## Independent Civil Society

A dynamic, independent and vocal civil society is a condition for enhancing peace and building a democratic society. Women's rights defenders have been an active part of the civil society, mobilizing for their issue and for broader democracy and freedom, looking for support, solidarity and connections with the women's movement internationally.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- ❖ Stronger civil society organizations with sustainable coordination and cooperation among themselves and with the others.
- ❖ Civil society activists, women's rights and human rights lawyers equipped with legal knowledge and skills to advocate for an inclusive constitution building process, promoting women's rights and gender equality.
- ❖ Women activists empowered and engaged in political decision-making bodies and skilled in defending and promoting women's rights in democracy building.
- ❖ A common set of tools, methods and elements of discourse in order to promote gender equality as a priority on the political agendas.
- ❖ Multi-stakeholders dialogue launched with transitional institutions and political decision-makers.

## Gender Equality and Constitution Building

The on-going conflict in Syria and high level of violence imposed even more limitations to civil organizing. IFE-EFI strives to contribute to a non-violent political transition in Syria by supporting a civil society platform that promotes gender equality and women's rights as central to democracy and constitution building.



### MAIN ACTIONS

Strengthening the civil organizing and collective voice of women's rights and citizenship rights organizations.

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Support to a wide constitution building process inclusive of women's rights and gender equality.

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Fostering multi stakeholders dialogue and cooperation, promoting rights and equality.

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Publications, Advocacy, Communication and Dissemination.

## TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN SYRIA BY BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CONSTITUTION PROCESS

EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM  
2013 - 2017

Initiative Féministe Européenne  
European Feminist Initiative

IFE-EFI



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## Partnership and Solidarity

**European Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI** is an international policy network of independent women's rights organizations founded in 2003 with Headquarters in France.

**IFE-EFI** develops **solidarity, cooperation and partnership** with women's rights organizations and activists, in the Euro-Med region and wider to promote equal access to power and resources for women and men and fight oppression and discrimination.

**IFE-EFI** strives to develop a cross cultural feminist discourse based on the value of gender equality, the **universality of women's rights** and the use of non-violent means to solve conflicts.

**IFE-EFI** provides international solidarity and supports women's rights and human rights defenders to implement their activities based on their needs and aspirations for a future democratic Syria.



## Non –violent Transition

In conflicts, women's rights are never a priority. **In Syria women's rights activists claim from lessons learned that women's rights are inseparable from the national project and from the building of democracy.** Therefore IFE-EFI implements a program supporting the organizing of women's rights and civil rights activists for a nonviolent transition towards democracy, inclusive of women's rights and gender equality.



### MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

- **More and stronger rights-based organizations and networking**  
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- **A wide constitution building process inclusive of women's rights and gender equality**  
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- **Diverse spaces and channels for dialogue favoring mutual understanding on women's rights and democracy building**

## Women's Rights and Democracy

The program supports the work of women's rights and civil rights activists in advocating for **immediate stop of violence and for a peaceful transition towards democracy** in order to ensure that women's rights and gender equality are not left out of the transitional agendas.

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It also supports the work of the Syrian women's rights and civil rights organizations in building a constitutional reform process inclusive of women's rights and gender equality.

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The program enables the creation of spaces where women's rights organizations can engage in dialogue with stakeholders, in order to lobby for their project and elaborate the link between women's rights and democracy building. Multiple spaces enable further cooperation among women's rights organizations and with other parts of the democratic movement.