



Recommendations Paper

Issued from the Joint Series of Roundtables with the Department of Political Affairs – Bar Association – Women's Office in Idlib – Women's Volunteer Teams

Funded by the European Union and the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Implemented by Expertis France in partnership with the Ishraqah Women's Team

Location: Syria – Idlib

Date: 27 July 2025

I. Introduction

Based on the importance of enhancing women's participation in political, legal, and social life in Idlib, and with the aim of addressing the challenges hindering their effective engagement and empowering them to play an active role in society, a series of consultative roundtables was convened with the participation of:

- The Department of Political Affairs,
- The Bar Association,
- The Women's Office,
- Alongside a broad presence of women from volunteer teams and community activists.

These roundtables discussed ways to support and empower women and concluded with a set of recommendations and official commitments, outlined as follows:

II. Recommendations

1. First Roundtable: With the Department of Political Affairs

1. **Establish and activate a complaint box** as an official channel to receive women's grievances and ensure transparent follow-up, thereby reinforcing trust in the administration.
2. **Clarify mechanisms for joining political bodies** by publishing clear and transparent criteria for women wishing to participate in political life.
3. **Engage political actors with women's groups** through joint activities that enable direct interaction between decision-makers and women interested in public affairs.
4. **Facilitate political dialogues with women leaders** by holding regular meetings that provide a platform to discuss national issues and reflect women's perspectives.
5. **Launch targeted initiatives for displaced women** that respond to the challenges facing the most vulnerable groups, including psychosocial, social, and economic support.
6. **Implement joint initiatives between the Department and women leaders** to ensure that proposed policies are translated into practical measures on the ground.



2. Second Roundtable: With the Bar Association and the Women's Office

A. Recommendations to the Bar Association

1. **Enforce laws protecting women from violence** by obligating courts to apply them and expanding awareness of these protections.
2. **Introduce stricter penalties against perpetrators** to deter violations and establish a safer environment for women.
3. **Enhance women's participation in the legal profession and state institutions** by providing training and qualification opportunities to enable women to assume leadership roles.
4. **Legally advocate for women's rights** through adopting women's cases in courts and organizing legal and social advocacy campaigns.

B. Recommendations to the Women's Office

1. **Coordinate efforts of women's volunteer teams** to unify fragmented initiatives under a single umbrella, thereby increasing their effectiveness.
2. **Address gaps limiting women's societal participation** whether in the social, political, or economic spheres.
3. **Transfer Idlib's experience to other provinces** to share organizational and practical expertise with regions that have less experience.

3. Third Roundtable: Discussion of Recommendations with Relevant Authorities

A. Response of the Department of Political Affairs

1. Committed to **expanding the representation of women within the department** and ensuring their inclusion in decision-making positions.
2. Promised to **share transparent procedures for joining political bodies** with women from volunteer teams.
3. Expressed readiness to **establish a platform for regular political dialogues with women**, enabling them to present their views and suggestions directly.
4. Stressed that the **restructuring process after the fall of the previous regime** will seriously incorporate women's proposals.
5. Praised the **courage and frankness of the participating women**, considering their voices an essential component in developing the political process.
6. Emphasized that women play a **central role in strengthening social cohesion and achieving peace in the state after liberation**, announcing full readiness to provide all necessary facilitation to ensure their active and impactful participation.

B. Response of the Bar Association

1. Confirmed its commitment to **directly and effectively follow up on women's cases**, especially concerning violence and discrimination.
2. Announced plans to **organize regular awareness sessions on Syrian laws relating to women** and to work on improving and modernizing them.



3. Declared the provision of **free legal consultations and judicial support** for women subjected to violations.

C. Response of the Women's Office

1. Confirmed its commitment to **coordination with civil society organizations** to ensure complementarity of efforts.
2. Highlighted the importance of **organized work and the distribution of responsibilities based on regional needs in Idlib** to maximize impact.
3. Expressed readiness to **organize training programs to build women's leadership and skills**, in cooperation with state institutions and civil society organizations.
4. Considered itself a **supporting partner in the process of building a pluralistic state**, ensuring balanced representation of women across all sectors.

III. Conclusion

This series of roundtables concluded that women's participation in political, legal, and social life is no longer a secondary option but a **national and societal necessity** for achieving stability and cohesion after liberation.

The official responses from the Department of Political Affairs, the Bar Association, and the Women's Office demonstrated a clear commitment to working on the women's recommendations and integrating them into practical plans.

The participating bodies therefore recommend the establishment of a **joint follow-up committee** to issue quarterly reports monitoring the level of progress in implementing the recommendations, ensuring they are translated into concrete actions that benefit both women and society as a whole.