

# Regional Outreach Mission

## Gaziantep, Turkey.

### May 2024

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## Summary Report

22-23 May 2024

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## SUMMARY

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The OSE-Syria Civil society Support Room (CSSR) under the leadership of DSE Najat Rochdi conducted a regional outreach mission with Syrian civil society to Türkiye from 22 to 23 May 2024 in Gaziantep. These regional visits are an essential tool of direct communication with actors on the grounds to provide update on the situation on the ground and share updates related to the CSSR's work and the political process in a broader sense.

In Gaziantep, the team held seven thematic meetings with a total of 30 civil society interlocutors located in Türkiye which included organizations and networks working on humanitarian aid/stabilization, education, peacebuilding, women's rights activists, human rights/legal experts, and youth groups.

Some of the key messages/recommendations were:

1. Humanitarian actors stressed the impact of funding cuts in the health and education sectors, as well as the reduced capacity to sustain programs relating to protection of women and girls and gender-based violence.
  2. Youth highlighted the need for inclusion, the demand for the recognition of degrees in North-west Syria, including masters and PhDs; the importance of civil documentation; creating opportunities for internships.
  3. Women highlighted the deteriorating situation for women and girls, noting high rates of suicide among women driven by a number of factors including domestic violence, lack of prospects for a better future; and a growing atmosphere of repression.
  4. Education actors called for support to higher education, recognition of certificates/degrees.
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5. Many raised concerns about the situation of Syrian refugees in Türkiye, highlighting tightening security measures and impediments to the residency of Syrian refugees and systematic attempt at refoulement.
  6. Many raised concerns about the Early Recovery Trust Fund, noting that if managed from Damascus, it could contribute towards further normalization and reconstruction in GoS areas bypassing sanctions on the one hand and excluding areas outside of GoS control. They stressed the importance of the Whole of Syria approach.
  7. All the interlocutors reiterated their full support to 2254 and that only the political solution will bring a sustainable peace and stability. They warned against dealing with Syria's crisis as a humanitarian crisis only.
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## CSSR 2024

The Civil Society Support Room (CSSR) was established in January 2016 by the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria as a mechanism to consult with a broad and diverse range of civil society actors. Through the CSSR, civil society actors can meet, interact and provide their insights and ideas to the Office of the Special Envoy, relevant United Nations actors, as well as international stakeholders.

This mechanism aims at rendering the UN mediation process more inclusive.

The overall supervision and guidance of the CSSR rests with the OSE-Syria. swisspeace Foundation has been mandated by the OSE to provide methodological expertise, operational and technical support to the process.

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## CONTACT

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