



FREEDOM CHARTER

*We, the people of Syria, from all our cities, towns, and villages;
from our diaspora; from our diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and religious
sects; women and men of Syria – affirm to ourselves
and announce to the world our vision and dreams of a free nation –
one that is devoid of oppression, ignorance, and discrimination.*

We want:

- *An inclusive state based on equality and justice for all, in which individual rights and freedoms are protected against discrimination.*
- *A state based on the rule of law, and in which the people choose their political leaders.*
- *An independent and sovereign state within United Nations-recognized borders, which abides by international conventions and treaties.*

Syria's future will be determined by the will of the Syrian people, and the following principles represent our resolve:

- *The nation's wealth and resources belong to all Syrians.*
- *The army's duty is to protect Syria's borders and defend her sovereignty, with no interference in political, economic, or social life.*
- *The judicial system must be independent, and not subject to the authority of other governmental bodies, nor subject to pressure of special interest groups.*
- *Basic education must be free, mandatory, and available for everyone.*

All Syrians are born free and have the right to:

- *Freedom of opinion and expression.*
- *Freedom of assembly and organization.*
- *Freedom of religion and religious practice.*
- *Freedom to form political parties, professional and trade unions, and civil society organizations.*

All Syrians are equal:

- *All Syrians are equal in their rights and duties, regardless of their gender, religion, or ethnic background.*
- *All Syrians are equal before the law.*
- *All Syrians have equal employment opportunities, based on skills and qualifications, within all public institutions.*
- *All Syrians – men and women – are entitled to equal pay for equal work.*



The rights of all Syrians are guaranteed:

- *Every Syrian has the right to access information and knowledge, and to communicate with other cultures.*
- *Every Syrian has the right to learn, acquire new skills, and develop new capabilities.*
- *Every Syrian has the right to own property anywhere in Syria.*
- *Every Syrian has the right to work.*
- *Every Syrian has the right to a fair trial in a court of law, without exception.*
- *Every Syrian has the right to vote and run for political office.*
- *The diverse people of Syria have the right to communicate in their own languages and promote their ethnic cultures.*
- *Every Syrian has the right to publicly funded health insurance and unemployment compensation.*

Syrian women's rights include:

- *The right to an education and the right to work.*
- *The right to vote and the right to run for political office.*
- *The right to grant citizenship to their children.*

We are resolute in our determination to achieve this vision for ourselves and for the future generations of Syrians.

***Damascus
October 13, 2014***