

**Informal comments to the media delivered by James Kariuki,
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United
Nations, on behalf of the Security Council signatories of the Shared
Commitments on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) on the situation
in Syria.**

13 February 2026

We – Colombia, Denmark, France, Greece, Latvia, Liberia, Panama, and the United Kingdom, Security Council signatories of the Statement of Shared Commitments on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), affirm our commitment to women and girls in Syria.

Fourteen years of conflict, human rights violations and abuses had a disproportionate impact on women and girls in Syria during the Assad era. Many suffered from sexual and gender-based violence and were unable to exercise economic, social and political rights, including rights to property, inheritance and custody of children when male family members were killed or missing.

During December's historic visit of the Security Council to Syria we saw the renewed political momentum to bring an end to years of hardship, and the Syrian Government's efforts towards building a more peaceful and prosperous Syria, through a Syrian-owned and Syrian-led political process. It also offered an opportunity to hear from Syrian women about their aspirations to build a future in which women are at the core and consider how best the United Nations can support this.

We call for the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in all political and decision-making processes in Syria. We look forward to demonstrable progress and continued efforts to ensure that the transition in Syria is sustainable and inclusive, including empowered representation from across Syria's diverse ethnic and religious communities.

We welcome the Syrian Government's commitments in this regard, including the provisions in the Constitutional Declaration of March 2025, guaranteeing the rights of women and expect that they will be realised and serve as a

framework for further Constitutional documents. We expect that discriminatory laws passed under the Assad regime that deny women their rights will be revoked and we encourage continued efforts towards the development of a National Action Plan in line with Security Council Resolution 1325.

We remain deeply concerned by reports that women and girls have faced sexual and gender-based violence. We are closely monitoring the impact of recent events in North-East Syria on women and girls, including displacement and reduced access to services. We call for continued and expanded efforts to strengthen prevention and protection measures.

Syrian women have long been powerful advocates for peacebuilding efforts, intra-communal dialogue and transitional justice processes. Noting the efforts undertaken by the Syrian Government to integrate women into the transitional process, we encourage the Syrian Government and all those involved in Syria's transition to continue listening to their testimonies and take action to realise their ideas.

The transitional processes must ensure the protection of the rights of all women and girls, regardless of ethnic or religious background, as well as women's rights organisations, women human rights defenders and civil society actors and the meaningful and safe inclusion of women in political processes.

We support the National Commission for Missing Persons, National Commission for Transitional Justice and National Inquiry Committees, as well as the ongoing work of UN mechanisms on these issues including the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, the Commission of Inquiry, and the Independent Institution on Missing Persons.

We stand ready to work with the Syrian government and all relevant partners to help realise a Syria in which women and girls play an integral role in building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable future.