



Syrian crisis from a gender perspective

The crisis in Syria has been going on for over 4 years and is dominated by the violence of the government forces, insurgents and ISIS. The crisis is taking more and more casualties and the humanitarian situation has deteriorated sharply. Women play a crucial role; they oppose extremism and violence. At the same time it appears that Syrian women and Syrian refugee women are abused in different ways and opposed. It is important to underline the positive role of women in the Syrian crisis. In this regard we kindly give you the following *recommendations*:

- ✓ Make sure Syrian women have a meaningful space at the Geneva III peace negotiations as is ensured by the existence of UNSCR1325
- ✓ Support Syrian women civil society activists and organisations to participate in processes necessary to achieve democratic change, transitional justice and peaceful transition in Syria
- ✓ Invest in a legal solution for lack of documentation issues, mostly (refugee) women do not have access to official documents

- ✓ The Dutch government can help making an end to gender-blind humanitarian funding and programming by:
 - Placing the issue high on the agenda during its EU chairmanship
 - Empowering local civil society groups, especially Syrian women groups
 - Promoting a stronger accountability of donors and humanitarian NGO's on gender in emergencies

- ✓ Increased attention, in terms of funding and advocacy, to gender based violence prevention and response, where men are not only seen as perpetrators, but also as victims of (sexual) violence.

- ✓ The best humanitarian responses are the ones done together with the target group. Invest in needs assessments with Syrian refugees on Gender and SRHR. Only they can point out which need deserves attention. For example by:
 - Investing in access to contraception for women, also in a refugee camps to avoid unexpected pregnancies in deplorable conditions;
 - Ensuring the safety and dignity for women and girls in refugee camps by providing basic services such as clean and separate toilets for women and hygiene kits, sanitary napkins and enough lightening in sanitary places;
 - Investing in comprehensive sexual education for young boys and girls.