

## Syrian Female Journalists Network

إعلام نسوي لتغيير اجتماعي  
Feminist Media For Social Change

10 Years  
of  
Feminist Struggle



## Feminist Media For Social Change..

Today, the **Syrian Female Journalists Network Foundation** is celebrating its tenth anniversary..

### HOW WE STARTED?

In 2011, as part of the changes brought by the public revolutions in the region, Syria rose up, and the Syrian revolution started. March 2011, the pivotal moment that changed our lives, as women, as journalists, media professionals, and as feminists.

The 2011 revolution was not only about changing the Syrian political system; Rather, it extended to be the beginning of a dynamic and continuous social change movement throughout the country.



## WHO ARE WE?

We are a foundation that dares to **change** and **challenge**, a foundation with a vision to change the image of women in the media and promote a **feminist and critical media discourse** to reach social justice.

SFJN is the first foundation specialised in **feminist media** that works with Syrian journalists and media institutions on gender-sensitive reporting. It advocates for the rights of women media workers and human rights defenders.

We approach discrimination, injustice and inequality in our region with a special focus on Syrian media through **advocacy, capacity building, policy analysis, research, safety and protection mechanisms**. Our team consists of **critical thinkers, activists, advocates and problem solvers with an intersectional anti-colonial feminist outlook**, strong analytical, social and communication skills from a range of backgrounds, identities and perspectives.

The Syrian Female Journalists Network was founded in 2012, by the journalists **Rula Asad** and **Milia Eidmouni** to create a space for communication and support among Syrian journalists and to develop the media from a critical feminist perspective.

The SFJN was registered as a non-profit foundation in 2013 in the Netherlands.

## THE MEDIA WE SEE

We see a bridge that connects the media with the women and feminist movement in the MENA region; the bridge also connects the media with its workers. We see that the realities of both groups have been enhanced no matter their culture, creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, race, socio-economic status or any other form of diversity. We see the voices of women journalists amplified, they have been placed in leading positions in their institutions and the media is raising awareness about gender equality and women's issues in particular. We see that the bridge connecting the media, its workers, the women and feminist movement has created a multi-layered, multi-faceted society, free of stereotypes, exclusionary politics, discriminatory laws, patriarchal culture. We see a society that is critical and feminist, fair to all its citizens, committed to a positive social change in thinking and behaviour with respect to matters surrounding social justice and equality. We see a media sector that is united, that does not adhere to frontiers, that surpasses borders, moves beyond categories and rejects identity politics. It is characterized by solidarity, an intersectional feminist outlook, accessible to all. Its discourse is comprehensive, it dismantles gender inequalities and biased representations, it strengthens critical thinking, it amplifies voices and emphasizes multiple experiences. It is sensitive towards raising awareness on social justice and human rights. This is the image we see at SFJN, this is our vision, a vision to which all media outlets are committed.



## OUR VALUES

**Feminist:** Our feminism is intersectional and all inclusive, meaning displaced, immigrant and refugee inclusive, disabled inclusive, age inclusive, Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) inclusive, LGBTQI+ inclusive, non-binary inclusive, gender-fluid inclusive, sex worker inclusive, fat inclusive.

**Intersectional:** We recognize that all forms of injustice are interconnected and must be tackled simultaneously. An intersectional approach identifies systemic barriers and allows the implementation of policies and laws which are genuinely inclusive.

**Transnational:** We operate across national boundaries and enter into solidarity beyond borders. Forms of injustice are a global phenomenon and the system that is causing them is an overarching one. We advocate for dialogue, learning from each other and transnational coalition building to achieve social justice and gender equality.

**Transformative:** We are committed to making long-lasting and tangible changes in non-normative people and women's lives in particular by addressing the root cause of gender inequality.

**Environmental justice:** We are against oppositional and hierarchical thinking, i.e. nature versus culture; mind versus body and believe in the interdependence of all species. Gender justice is inextricably linked to the liberation of the environment from human destruction and people from different ethnicities, races, socio- economic background and other forms of



diversity must not experience different qualities of air, water and life. We  
believe in the struggle for a healthy environment for all.

## SFJN FOUNDERS

### Rula Asad

She is a Syrian feminist researcher, journalist, feminist media mentor and trainer, environmental activist, and former footballer, born in Damascus in 1983.

Rula is the co-founder and executive director of SFJN. Holds a master's degree in gender studies in media, culture and arts from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Damascus.

She started her career as a sports reporter in Syria in 2002 and then worked in the field of culture until 2011.

In 2010, Rula founded the initiative to Support People Displaced by Drought, which was one of the few human rights environmental initiatives in Syria.

Rula has worked in the field of print, audio, visual and digital media, and has published her articles and research work on local, regional and international media and human rights platforms.





Since the beginning of the Syrian revolution, Rula has devoted her time and energy to working in the field of feminist media through founding and managing SFJN, as well as through her journalistic and research work from a critical feminist perspective on topics related to revolutionary movements, social and political movements, social justice, the environment, digital rights, and the safety and security of women human rights defenders.

## Milia Eidmouni

Milia is a Syrian freelance journalist, born in Homs in 1984, she holds a degree in Media and Philosophy from the University of Damascus, Faculty of literature and Humanities.

Milia is a co-founder of the SFJN, and has worked as Regional Director since its founding until 2020."



After her graduation, Milia worked in the field of digital media, until she moved to Amman in 2012.

She is an expert in advocacy and mobilization campaigns in the field of women's rights, media and social justice. Milia Aidamouni was the regional director of SFJN in addition to her work as a trainer in using modern media for social change.

On our way to a Syrian feminist media, SFJN's efforts over the past years culminated in the formation of 4 main programs with the aim of achieving knowledge accumulation and the sustainability of feminist media work:

**Gender Radar**

**Protection Program**

**Qalat Platform**

**Media & the Women Peace & Security Agenda**

The programs intersect in their objectives and seek to improve and **develop the media discourse, build the capacities** of women and men media workers, and work to **create a safe working environment** for women in the media sector.

## CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

# 2014

Syrian Women's Day

International Women's Day

The campaign was organized jointly with Dawlati Foundation

Published a collection of posters and artwork focusing on Syrian women detainees and abductees

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The campaign included visual definitions of violence against women, “honor-related” violence and femicides, forced marriage, child marriage and domestic violence, and contributed in sharing of trusted hotlines numbers to report cases of violence in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.



# 2015

## جمع مؤنث تائر Campaign

### International Women's Day 2015

The campaign focused on highlighting success stories of Syrian women teachers, journalists, activists and human rights defenders.



## The Ink isn't Dry

### World Press Freedom Day

A series of reports and radio programs discussing the situation of freedom of media and expression in Syria. in collaboration with a

group of local Syrian radio stations: (Orient TV , Radio Rozana, Radio Arta, Radio Nasaem, Sout Raya, Radio Rouh, CFI)





## 16 Days combating Violence against Women



This campaign focused on the difficulties of education in Syria and the impact of militarization on girls' education

# 2016

## Female Citizens program

## International Women's Day

A collection of stories by Syrian women who challenge their reality and the difficult conditions Syrian women are going through.

In collaboration with “I am SHE” Network

## This Is Your Right

Campaign on access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms.



# 2017

## Women Storytellers

Lebanon 2017, France 2019

with a panel discussion with two former detainees women: Hind Mjally and Dania Yakoub.

The project tells the stories of several Syrian women who are fighting for their rights to equality and freedom. The Storytelling Project included an exhibition of **eight sculptures** made by Syrian artist Ola Sheikh Haidar. The sculptures were accompanied by audio recordings and a book called "**From the Shadow**", which tells the stories of several Syrian women who left the shadows to demand their rights in equality and freedom.



## World Press Freedom Day

A campaign was launched in cooperation with AIN Infographic Magazine, Syria

Untold & Data 22

Infographic shows violations against media institutions and centers since the beginning of 2017.



Syria is the world's deadliest country for journalists



Infographic shows violations against journalists in Syria since the beginning of 2017



## Syrian Elsewhere Exhibition Germany and Netherlands

A visual project focused on following up on a number of Syrian women and men living in Europe, documenting the different stages of their experience in their new communities.



# 2018

### Feminist Content

The idea of “Feminist Content” began during a workshop on gender in Syria, in collaboration with Al-Jumhuriya

The production contains

12 podcasts

27 written articles

15 infographics

## She's a Defender



## Political Empowerment of Syrian Women



Divided into a group of topics that discuss and research feminist thought:

- History of Syrian women/feminist movement
- Syrian feminism after 2011
- Feminism and Arabic Language
- Feminism and Exile
- Feminism and the Internet
- Sexuality
- Art and Feminism
- Literature and Feminism
- Feminism and Detention
- The Impact of Militarization on Syrian Women
- She's a Defender
- Political Empowerment of Syrian Women

## 2019

### Stories of young women, by them

Comic book that collects illustrated stories produced by a group of Syrian girls during a creative writing workshop organized by the foundation, which aimed to raise awareness about **child marriage**.

## Organizing a regional meeting in Tunisia

With women journalists from Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia and Syria

### Report: Vicious Circle of Violence

A special file on sexual and gender-based violence, produced by Gender Radar and was published in collaboration with Al-Jumhuriya.

## Security and Safety of Syrian Women Journalists Campaign

### Risks and Violations

On the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the SFJN published a series of facts and information about violations committed against Syrian journalists in general and women journalists in particular to highlight the threats and dangers facing them, as well as their need for psychological support and to ensure their security and safety.







# 2020

## **The challenges facing women in media appearance**

discussion session in collaboration with the Journalists for Human Rights organization (JHR) with the participation of 14 journalists.

The attendees discussed some of the challenges facing **expert women** and limiting their media appearance such as **stereotypes and gender-based discrimination**.

## **International Women's Day Campaign**

On the International Women's Day 2020, the Syrian Female Journalists Network Foundation called on all media leaders and journalists around the world to work towards balanced presence and representation of gender issues in news, in terms of both quantity and the way of representation. A joint statement issued by the International Media Support Organization (IMS) and signed by 25 media organizations. The statement touched on the importance of balanced representation of women and men in the news and in current affairs, as this reflects the composition of society and showcases a greater variety of human experiences, views and concerns.

## **Media Content: Syria In Depth**

A collection of analytical articles and live interviews that attempt to dig deeper into the Syrian context





In partnership with International Media Support (IMS), the Guardian Foundation and Syria Untold.

## Covid-19

After the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the risks facing women journalists and human rights defenders have increased, whether **health, social or even economic risks**, after many lost their jobs in light of the pandemic SFJN dedicated its training and production to keep up with the impact of the pandemic on Syrian women journalists and defenders, through:

- A report based on a survey on the Safety and Security of Women Journalists and Defenders in the New Coronavirus Era
- Online Digital Security and Psychological Support Training sessions
- 8 Articles on the impact of Covid-19 on Syrian women in areas of displacement inside Syria, and in the Zaatari camp.

### Statement on Combating Violence Against Women Journalists

Oral statement to UN Human Rights Council 44th session (30 June – 21 July 2020)

Issued by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)  
supported by SFJN

## Syrian Road to Justice

Coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Syrian feminist organisations: Badael, Dawlaty, SFJN, Women Now for Development, and The Syria Campaign have launched the 'Syrian Road to Justice' campaign.



This campaign advocates for greater legal access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) perpetrated over the past 10 years of the Syrian conflict, especially for women survivors who face particular barriers to justice.

### Ayza Jawab

#### I want an answer

Solidarity campaign with Laila Soueif in her battle for the freedom of her children Alaa and Sanaa

### Local and Regional Partnerships

with ASO Network, Radio Al-Balad and Syria Untold

- 45 Media materials were produced (written, audiovisual, video)
- "Against targeting women media workers" (#ShelsNotATarget)

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the Syrian Female Journalists Network Foundation launched the campaign to support women working in the media sector and human rights activists in the region, especially Syrian women journalists and women defenders.

- **The impact of capacity-building on gender sensitivity and addressing  
UNSC Resolution 1325 in the Media**

Analysis report analysed 28 media materials produced as part of the Women, Peace and Security Program. Under this program, the SFJN aimed to achieve more professional and sensitive media coverage of women's issues and to strengthen the role of media in highlighting women's efforts in peacebuilding and highlighting the need to apply and implement the pillars of UNSC resolution 1325 in participation, protection and prevention of violence.

# 2021

## Comparison of most used instant messaging Apps in 2020

An infographic showing the basic differences between instant messaging applications, particularly in terms of confidentiality, privacy, and information security.

## 10 years of feminist struggle Campaign

On International Women's Day, we remembered Syrian women who worked for a better future for themselves and other women.



## Research: To Be Taken Seriously

Analysis of a sample of emerging Syrian media coverage of Syrian women politicians' participation in the first track (2012-2019)

## Case Management

Aims to support women journalists living in some countries of the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Erbil/Iraq, Turkey); Women who are at risk or who have been subjected to any form of physical or psychological harm as a result of their work in the media that may threaten their lives and safety.

## Beginning of the Mentorship Mechanism

Under WPS program, a follow-up and mentorship mechanism for women journalists who work within the Syrian context in Syria and neighboring countries, and who wish to develop their skills in producing balanced media materials that are sensitive to gender and conflict.

## Towards a Safe Work Space

Interviews reflecting women journalists' demands, their vision of what makes them feel safe in the field of journalism and media, and their experiences and opinions on discrimination and harassment, gender-sensitive policies, and balance in managerial positions.

## Report: Digital Safety is a Right

*Syrian Women Journalists and Human Rights Defenders in the Digital Space:  
Risks and Threats*

A first-of-its-kind study looks at the scope of **psychological, physical and professional impacts** of **digital violence** against Syrian women journalists and



human rights defenders. The report also highlights the types of digital violence experienced by women journalists and defenders and the platforms where such attacks take place.

### **Media Content on Public Space and the Body**

Three articles on the impact of our surrounding environments on our relationship with our bodies as women.

Published in collaboration with Raseef 22.

### **Videos: An Ordinary Day In Idlib**

The videos show the impact of war and conflict on the safety and security of Syrian women journalists in Idlib.

# 2022

## **analytical article: A new victim, but an opportunity to start the change**

An article written by Gender Radar's team mourning Ayat Rifai, and victims of domestic violence.

## **Report: Subdued Coverage**

A Critical Analysis of the Coverage on Domestic Violence in Some Emerging Syrian Media 2019-2021

Aims to study and observe media patterns and methods in which domestic violence against women and girls is addressed by a sample of emerging/alternative Syrian media institutions and feminist organizations. It highlights their role in reducing or enhancing this social problem and the effects on victims/ survivors of violence and perpetrators. Hence the extent to which it contributes to the pursuit of social justice and gender equality.

## **What Does Feminism Mean To You? Campaign**

International Women's Day

A campaign in which members of the Syrian Female Journalists Network expressed their different views on feminism



## **Publishing A Toolkit to integrate the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Media Coverage**

facilitating the work of journalists when covering stories and topics related to Resolution 1325 as an important part of the women, peace and security agenda, and providing some practical tools and suggestions to address the agenda from new and multiple perspectives. The toolkit also aims at raising awareness and highlighting the marginalization, oppression and silencing of women in times of conflict and the ensuing peace processes, and the implementation of recovery, prevention and protection projects when the battles on the ground come to an end.

### **Posters: The 11th anniversary of the Syrian Revolution**

We remembered the participation of Syrian women in the coordination committees of the Syrian revolution in its beginnings, through highlighting a number of the coordination committees founded and managed by women, or in which women constituted the largest proportion of their members

### **Posters: World Press Freedom Day**

The most important things to know about the Syrian Information Crime Law number 20 and its impact on press freedom





## **Dialogue Session - Berlin: War, Violence, and Exile**

On the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict  
The SFJN Foundation and Syria Untold held a dialogue session, in Berlin, on  
“War, Violence and Exile” to discuss media coverage of conflict-related sexual  
violence in Syria and countries of asylum.

## **Report: Stereotypical Exceptions**

The representation of gender roles in success stories in the Media.  
The Stereotypical Exceptions report raises questions about how emerging  
media outlets are considerate to gender sensitivity when dealing with success  
stories.

## PROGRAMS

### Gendar Radar

**Things that are not talked about are not thought about.**

After years of working in the field of Syrian media, the program was established with the aim of monitoring and analyzing media discourse from a feminist perspective, publishing periodic reports, and building direct partnerships with media institutions that wish to develop their work from an intersectional feminist perspective.

The program aims to **promote gender sensitivity** as an essential step towards a balanced, professional feminist and gender-sensitive media.

#### Program Outputs over 10 years:

- A total of **2,720 media** materials were mapped and **295 media materials** were analyzed (till September 2022).
- Development of an analytical tool based on the methodology of feminist critical analysis of media discourse that seeks to understand the specificity of local media discourse and the challenges facing Syrian alternative/emerging media institutions at the level of production and institutional structure. The aim is to use it to analyze the media discourse of these institutions to support them in developing gender

sensitivity and social justice and to identify positive practices, as well as to present it to independent journalists and journalists as a knowledge tool that contributes to building more sensitive media materials.

- **Six analytical reports for media partners** review both gaps and positive practices in a sample of media materials from four media institutions in Syria, Turkey, Germany, and France.
- **65 trainees** since the program was established in 2018 to support their efforts/m in producing a balanced and gender-sensitive media discourse.
  - Publishing of **3 thematic reports** that provide a feminist critical discourse analysis of a sample of **44** alternative/emerging Syrian media outlets and **9** organizations working in the field of women's and girls' rights. The analysis in each report focused on a specific angle:
    - 1- Women's representation and identities in the media
    - 2- Media coverage of domestic violence
    - 3- Gender roles representation through success stories in the media.
- Production of **10 articles** in cooperation with 3 alternative/emerging Syrian media foundations (**Syria Untold, Rozana and Al Joumhuriya**) on various topics using the feminist and gender lens, such as:
  - Women's representation and Identities in Drama - Rozana

- Violence against women journalists and human rights defenders - Al-Jumhuriya
- Gender Dimension and Multiple Burden of Labor - Al-Jumhuriya
- Circles of Violence - Al-Jumhuriya
- Challenges facing women during the COVID-19 pandemic - Syria Untold

## **Protection Program**

**With the increasing rates of violations and threats against women journalists and the absence of gender-sensitive protection and safety policies in media institutions, the idea of of this program began in 2019, plans and mechanisms were developed to create a safe work environment free from violence and discrimination**

The program includes:

### **1- Case management service**

- Support women journalists/human rights defenders at risk by linking them to relevant service providers and institutions and coordinating the receipt of mental health, health, legal assistance and emergency grants.
- Support and advice on procedures and coordination with institutions and supporting bodies, in the event of necessary and emergency relocation for women journalists and defenders facing a particular risk or threat.

### **2- Emergency Fund services**

Provision of symbolic grants to women journalists/human rights defenders at risk.

### **3- Training for women journalists/human rights defenders**

regarding safety and self-care. Specialized training in mental health and digital protection, the SFJN can also nominate women journalists/human rights

defenders for training courses offered by other specialized institutions or organizations.

#### **4- Producing contextual and sensitive content around protection issues**

Publications and booklets on the protection and safety of women journalists/human rights defenders, including:

- Tips and advice on safety, self-care, protection from cyber harassment.
  - Highlights of the challenges and risks faced by women journalists/human rights defenders working in media institutions and as freelancers.

#### **5- Technical support to media institutions wishing to develop protection and safeguarding policies**

Provision of technical support through training sessions, workshops and meetings with media institutions' management to support in developing their protection policies.

During the past years:

- Provision of case management services to 11 journalists since the start of the program
  - Two needs assessments of the challenges and risks facing women journalists in northern Syria and neighboring countries were conducted.

This included: questionnaires, focus group discussions, and one-on-one interviews.

- Since the program's start, 5 symbolic emergency grants have been awarded
- Coordination and partnerships with international and Syrian institutions and alliances regarding the protection of women journalists and human rights defenders against gender-based violence.
- The Protection Program provided a reporting mechanism for women journalists and human rights defenders at risk in the Syrian context under conditions deemed dangerous for media work, especially for women media workers.
- Since its beginning, the Protection Program has continuously assessed protection and safety risks and needs of Syrian women journalists and human rights defenders, and has therefore provided tailored support and response.

## **Qalat**

### **First database of expert Syrian women**

After several years of cooperation and partnership with media institutions, training for journalists and being part of women's and feminist movements, we noticed the ease of communication with men and their exposure to the media as primary sources/ experts in news or reports, even in issues related to women. We also noticed the absence of women experts' voices. Therefore, stemming from this particular imbalance, we developed the Qalat platform (She Said).

Qalat is a digital platform developed by SFJN to achieve equitable gender representation for women in the media sector (print, video, audio)

The platform brings together Syrian women experts in a variety of fields (economics, politics, international law, sociology, sports...). Organizations and media and civil institutions registered on the Qalat platform can view the women experts' resumes and communicate with them directly through the available contact information.

The platform provides an easy, safe and secure interface connecting Syrian women experts with media and civil institutions. It also appreciates the individuality of experiences and the diversity of experiences accumulated by





Syrian women. Work is ongoing to develop the platform and improve its performance.

SFJN Foundation launched a platform in 2018, and currently it includes 116 women experts from a variety of fields.

## Media & Women, Peace and Security Agenda

This program focuses on addressing the role of the media in peacebuilding, gender equality and implementation of UNSCR 1325. It departs from the fact that women, -especially if also belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, having non-normative sexual orientation and gender identity, living in rural areas, with disabilities and in difficult socio-economic conditions- are largely under-represented in peace processes and formal decision-making.

Our objective has been to turn the media into a platform that amplifies the voices of women involved in peacebuilding processes, letting their stories be heard, and facilitating their participation in public debate.

SFJN focused on providing training and promoting capacity building instances for media workers on more professional and gender-sensitive coverage. This was planned and conducted in partnership with local media outlets and civil society organizations. In addition, SFJN worked on knowledge production and information sharing through publications and events.

### 2019 - 2020

Locally, SFJN WPS program focused on three main components:

- 1) Build capacities of women and men Journalists on UNSCR 1325.
- 2) Safety and Digital security training.
- 3) Hosting and coordinating dialogue meetings between women' rights organizations and journalists participated in the training.

### **Regionally, it focused on:**

- Increasing coordination to enhance safety and support for MENA women journalists.
- Producing a research paper analysing the representation of Syrian women in political leadership.
- Critical discussion with media and Syrian feminist organizations concerning research findings.

### **Partnerships during this program:**

With 3 media organizations

ASO Network, Radio AlBalad, Syria Untold

- 37 journalists and editors were trained and 45 Media materials were produced (written, audiovisual, video) in 2020
- An analysis report was produced on "The Impact of Capacity Building on Gender Sensitivity and addressing UNSC Resolution 1325 in the Media" The report analyzed 28 media materials produced by the journalists from the 3 partner organizations.
- 3 dialogue sessions (one in Jordan, two in Syria) were conducted with media institutions, journalists and civil society organizations. The total attendance of the three sessions reached 42.
- A joint media campaign coincided with the global campaign "16 Days of Activism" to combat violence against women, with the participation of

partner media organizations. Media materials including articles, videos and a number of awareness posters were produced.

- Produced Guidelines about gender sensitivity for media organizations/individuals.

### **Regional partnerships:**

Three- day conference between women journalists from the MENA region

November 2019

- 11 women journalists from the MENA region (Syria, Iraq, Tunisia and Libya).
- The regional meeting in Tunisia resulted in a set of recommendations addressing: solidarity, discrimination against women journalists and defenders, funding opportunities for feminist media organizations and networking.

### **Research: To Be Taken Seriously**

Sample Analysis of coverage by some emerging Syrian media of the participation of Syrian women politicians in the first track (2012-2019):

- focus on women politicians who participated in “Track I” and attended international events.
- Used critical discourse analysis to analyse 49 media materials that covered women political participation.
- Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 9 Syrian women politicians in the period between September and December 2020.

## 2021

### Locally, WPS program focused on:

- Emerging Syrian and regional media outlets have the tools and knowledge for promoting gender sensitivity while covering conflict and peace building processes.
- Media materials on how to implement UNSCR 1325 through media are produced and disseminated.

### Regionally:

- Build-up and strengthen regional alliance between women media workers and media organizations and feminist groups in MENA region that promote the construction of a community that follows guidelines on WPS, women political representation and gender-inclusive language.
- Develop and promote capacity building tools to integrate Women, Peace and Security into media.

### Other Activities:

- With Syrian journalists and local partners
  - ❖ Four webinars on gender-sensitive approaches conducted.
  - ❖ A mentorship and follow-up mechanism between journalists established (3 months).
  - ❖ 24 Media materials were produced (written, audiovisual, video) in 2021

- SFJN Conducted mapping and developed a database on CSOs, feminist organizations, and media institutions committed to gender equality in the MENA region
- Organized 12 regional online group discussions with six different countries (2 sessions with each country): Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, and Yemen.
- SFJN was a member in the Syrian Road to Justice Campaign (a campaign launched to support the first criminal complaint of its kind on sexual and gender-based violence).

SFJN collaborated with women survivors of detention, where they wrote 5 blogs about their experiences, the stigma and challenges they face. The blogs were translated to English, designed and published on SFJN website and social media platforms.

- Published a Toolkit on integrating Women Peace and Security Agenda in the Media:

With the aim of facilitating the work of journalists when covering stories and topics related to UNSC Resolution 1325 as an important part of the women, peace and security agenda, and to provide some tools and suggestions to approach the agenda from new and different perspective.

## History of Capacity-building over 10 Years:

**2013:** Integration of women in media coverage during the transition period in Syria: two training workshops in Amman and Gaziantep, aimed at laying the foundation stone for the establishment of the foundation, selecting its members and creating its virtual space and content.

**2014:** Training workshop on the use of multimedia from a gender-sensitive perspective, held in Gaziantep

Training workshop on integrating gender equality in media coverage, in Beirut

**2015:** 2 training workshops on the production of gender-sensitive radio content in Gaziantep

A Workshop on gender policies in the media sector, in Gaziantep

A Workshop on International Humanitarian Law and Resolution 1325, in Gaziantep

**2016:** 2 training workshops on reporting gender-based violence and against women, in Beirut

A workshop on digital security and information security, in Turkey

Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in Media, Turkey

**2017:** Training workshop for a group of women activists on photojournalism, Syria



A Workshop on gender equality and women's rights in the media, Syria  
A training workshop on the principles of blogging for women bloggers, in Syria  
through virtual space

**2018:** Training workshops on critical discourse analysis (with gender lens) in  
the media, Gaziantep

**2019:** Training workshops on critical discourse analysis (with gender lens) in  
the media, in France

**2020:** Training Workshop on gender and conflict-sensitive Media Coverage in  
light of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, Jordan  
Two training workshops on gender-sensitive media coverage in northeast  
Syria.

**2021:** The Media & Women, Peace and Security Program launched the  
mentorship phase for women journalists/media workers in the Syrian context  
and neighboring countries

#### **Training Locations:**

Syria: Northwest, northeast

Neighboring Countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Turkey

Diaspora: Netherlands, France, Germany

And many online trainings



## RESEARCH & REPORTS:

- 2015 The Ink isn't Dry: A guideline on gender sensitivity in media laws and codes of conducts in Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq
- 2016 Women in Emerging Syrian Media
- 2018 Guidebook on "Covering Women Peace and Security Issues"
- 2018 A Safety Guide for Media Work in Syria
- 2018 Syrian Elsewhere
- 2018 Women Storytellers
- 2019 Stories of young women, by them
- 2021 To Be Taken Seriously - ليؤخذن على محمل الجد
- 2021 Inadvertently Excluded - سقطن سهواً
- 2021 Digital Safety Is a Right
- 2022 Joint submission for the UPR of Syria - 40th session of the UPR Working Group
- 2022 Toolkit to integrate the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in media coverage
- 2022 Subdued Coverage: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Coverage on Domestic Violence in Some Emerging Syrian Media 2019-2021
- 2022 Stereotypical Exceptions: The representation of gender roles in success stories in the Media

## Partnerships Over 10 Years:

- **Local partners: media institutions:**

Al-Jumhuriya website ... ASO Network ... Masaha Platform ... North Press ...  
Radio Al-Balad ... Radio Alwan ... Radio Artta ... Radio Nasaem Syria ... Radio  
Sout Raya ... Radio Rozana ... Radio Smart ... Radio Souriali ... Sada Al-Sham ...  
Saiedet Souria ... Suwar magazine ... Syria Untold

- **Local partners: non-profit organizations:**

Badael Organization ... Basmeh & Zeitooneh ... Dawlaty... Start Point ... The  
Media Union of Aleppo and its Countryside ... Women Now for Development

- **International partners:**

AMICA ... ASML ... BBC Media Action ... Geneva Call ... Internews ... Journalist  
for Journalist ... Journalists for Human Rights ... MICT

- **Membership in:**

the Regional Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in MENA  
the Coalition Against Online Violence

- **Donors:**

Asfari Foundation ... Global Fund for Women ... International Media Support  
(IMS) ... Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (KtK) ... Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) ... GIZ

- **Previously supporting institutions:**

... IFA ... EMHRF ... HIVOS ... Heinrich Böll ... CFI ...



## OUR TEAM:

Today, we celebrate our tenth anniversary, which was achieved by the efforts of a team of women journalists, advocates, defenders and researchers over 10 years. We can only thank and appreciate them on this day.

At the end of this pivotal year in the history of the foundation, greetings from the team of the Syrian Women Journalists Network Foundation:

**Rula Asad**

**Co-founder and Executive Director**

Feminist journalist, researcher and media trainer in critical discourse analysis from a feminist perspective and a human rights defender

**Rand Sabbagh**

**Deputy Director**

A Syrian journalist and feminist researcher, after 2011 her work centered around political advocacy, human rights, and the empowerment of women through the media.

**Hayma Alyousfi**

**General Program Manager**



A Syrian intersectional feminist and human rights activist with a master's degree in risk and security, she has worked in program management and advocacy in the civil society sector since 2012

**Ana Lomtadze**

**Senior Finance Officer**

Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Tbilisi and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Finance and Control in the Netherlands.

**Roula Othman**

**GR Programme Coordinator**

Feminist journalist, human rights defender, researcher, and specialist in critical discourse analysis from a feminist perspective

**Nada Al Jendi**

**Protection Program Coordinator**

Specialist in protection and gender-based violence (GBV) programming and intervention, feminist fine artist, human rights defender, and advocate for refugees and immigrants' rights.

**Rasha Al Naddaf**

**Qalat Platform Coordinator**



A nonviolent feminist activist, human rights defender, studying a master's degree in the culture of nonviolence and human rights.

**Maya Boty**

**Gender Radar Program Officer**

Journalist and trainer in the field of gender and media

Based in Paris.

**Lama Rageh**

**Gender Radar Program Officer**

Freelance journalist with a master's degree in media, believing in feminist thought and the importance of gender mainstreaming in media coverage.

**Hiba Mehrez**

**Gender Radar Program Officer**

A feminist journalist, writer, theatre maker and researcher that focuses on the culture and media sector

**Ninar Omran**

**Communication Officer**

A feminist e-marketing expert, works in the cultural and media fields

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Ten years later, we continue the path working toward professional feminist media for justice and social change.

We carry our thoughts, our experience, our energy and the vision of our foundation and we jointly work with our partners in the vision and goal towards a just society, free from violence, patriarchy, intellectual and cultural colonization, safe for its women and valuing their experiences, fair to all its citizens and free from any form of vulnerabilization, marginalization or supremacy.

Today, SFJN is moving forward to strengthen its presence across borders, through local and regional partnerships and activities with media institutions, women's and feminist and human rights organizations for social justice.

We will start the second decade of the foundation's life with a new name that reflects our feminist thought and organizational maturity accumulated during the first decade. Soon we will be the Feminist Media Foundation.

**The resistance is still going on and the revolution is still alive..**