

A Heartfelt Sisterly Letter to the Courageous and Resilient Women of Syria,

We, the women and girls of Afghanistan, write to you with hearts full of solidarity and hope. Your recent political achievements are a testament to your strength, vision, and determination. You have shown the world what it means to stand for justice and equality, and for that, we celebrate you. Yet, as sisters who have faced similar struggles, we feel compelled to share some lessons from our own experiences.

As you move forward, we urge you to keep the following points in mind:

Stay Vigilant Against Empty Promises

Be cautious of verbal commitments from groups claiming to have reformed, especially those with a history of suppressing women's rights. Words alone are not enough; do not accept promises that defer securing your rights to an indefinite future. Instead, demand concrete actions and written guarantees to ensure your rights are respected and upheld.

Demand Meaningful Participation at the Negotiating Table

Insist on meaningful representation in all decision-making processes, particularly those related to the political and economic future of Syria. Do not allow others to decide your future without your voice and input.

Safeguard Your Rights

Remain steadfast in defending your hard-earned rights. Reject any attempt to roll back progress under the guise of religion, tradition, or cultural values. These rights are non-negotiable and must be enshrined in laws that cannot easily be overturned.

Build Strong Alliances Based on Solidarity and Collaboration

Unite with other women's groups, both within Syria and internationally. We, in Afghanistan neglected this important source of support until it was too late. Solidarity is your greatest strength in pushing back against efforts to marginalize you. Together, you can amplify your demands and protect your freedoms.

Insist on Equality Across All Spheres, Including Education, the Economy and Politics

Whether in education, employment, politics, or society at large, advocate for equal opportunities. The future of Syria must include women as equal partners in rebuilding and shaping the nation.

6. Learn From the Experiences of Others

Let the painful experiences of Afghan and Iranian women under regimes that suppressed our rights serve as a warning. Do not underestimate the lengths to which such groups will go to curtail freedoms once promised under the guise of culture, religion, or even claims of needing more time.

A Shared Vision for the Future

Your victory is not only a milestone for Syria but a source of inspiration for women everywhere, especially for those of us in Afghanistan. We hope that Syria will emerge as a

country where justice, equality for all, and peace prevail—and where women play an integral role in shaping that vision.

You are building a brighter future not just for yourselves but for the generations to come. We stand with you, united in our struggles and hopes, and we urge you to remain steadfast and fearless in your journey.

With respect, sisterhood and solidarity, and in peace

The Women and Girls of Afghanistan