Syria Country Statement

Key Messages
-the international community stands by while armed conflict in Syria destroys the commitment to dialogue and human rights

Key Recommendations
-pressure all countries to stop the flow of terrorists and weapons to Syria
- support a political solution inclusive of civil society
- prioritize the economic empowerment of women and youth

In Syria, armed conflict has won over the commitment to dialogue, logic, and reason. The cost has been a loss of respect for human rights. As a result of the ongoing conflict, the country’s infrastructure has totally collapsed. Syrian citizens are subject to abuses from all sides, including arbitrary arrests, rape, murder, displacement, and violence. Women are especially vulnerable to these types of violence. This is happening under the watchful eyes of the international community and with regional participants.

The struggle against militarism and extremism can only be successful if we are able to:
- Support women’s participation in political processes and decision-making;
- Empower women economically in the places where they live, with a view to prevent their exploitation;
- Integrate young people into civil society work, by offering an alternative to armed conflict;
- Send children back to school and restore the educational system; and
- Support a political solution to the conflict in Syria.

The international community can help by:
- Support for the containment and elimination of ISIS, through pressure on neighboring countries so that they stop the flow of terrorists and weapons into Syria;
- Putting greater emphasis on the need for a political solution that is inclusive of the diverse voices of Syrians through civil society networks and addresses the concerns and solutions that Syrians bring to the table; and
- Support, including technical support and funding, the economic empowerment of women and youth and building of a free and democratic Syria.

Please direct questions and comments to info@icanpeacework.org.