

Syria - We are not one single colour - Ihna mish laun wahid

What is the situation in Syria a little over a year after the fall of dictator Bashar al-Assad?

Tuesday, 27. January 2026, 18.00 Uhr - 22.00 Uhr

Program:

18.00 Music performed by Wasim Arslan (<https://www.wasimarslan.com>)

18.10 Welcome Dr. Bente Scheller, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Division, Heinrich-Böll- Stiftung

18.20 Introduction Petra Stienen, strategic advisor on international relations and human rights, former diplomat in Syria

18.25 Format: Panel

Unity in diversity

Syria has long been praised for the diversity of its culture. For centuries, it was a country that welcomed migrants and refugees, who integrated into and helped shape Syrian society. To what extent have dictatorship, war and their aftermath challenged this diversity? How has Syrian society changed, and how can Syria once again become a country that includes and serves all its residents?

With Rula Asad & Jamshid Hussein

18.50 Format: Panel

Citizens at the heart – reconstruction

For many years, it seemed unlikely that the war in Syria would end any time soon, making reconstruction feel like a project for the distant future. Yet throughout this period, architects, urban planners, sociologists and other professionals have been preparing for the moment when rebuilding could begin, determined to ensure that citizens are placed at the heart of reconstruction efforts. The collective together space recently held its first conference in Damascus after many years of collaboration. What are the prospects for these projects? And what is needed now for their efforts to flourish?

With Ahmad al-Mahairy und Chaghaf Howayek

19.15 Break and Snack

19.35 Format: Panel

Justice and participation - Women's roles and women's rights

Over the course of the conflict, women have played prominent roles, both in Syria as well as abroad. In Syria, they often became heads of households and filled many roles both personally and professionally at the same time, with male family members forcibly disappeared, drafted, or looking for options for themselves and their families to leave Syria. Abroad, many women shouldered the responsibility not only for their families but also for their communities, as founders and leaders of projects, and by using their professional skills to advance Syrian citizens' rights and visibility. How do the new authorities deal with this immense social capital? To what extent is the predominance of Islamist and conservative forces in government a threat to these notable achievements? What is the importance of justice, particularly for women?

With Joumana Seif, Yasmin Merei & Razan Rashidi

20.40 Reception with music performed by Wasim Arslan (<https://www.wasimarslan.com>)