

# SCNP

Syrian Civil Society  
Networks Platform





## Breaking the silos between Syrian civil society in Syria and the diaspora

**SCNP is a platform** that was established late 2017 and aims to bring together rights-based Syrian diaspora and civil society networks and coalitions from a range of host countries. It serves as a cross-country, cross sector, and cross network coordination platform.



### Our vision

For a diverse, vibrant Syrian-led civil society to take a leading role in international advocacy for Syrians and collaborate effectively and autonomously within Syria and across the diaspora.



### Our mission


To strengthen the collaboration, capacity, and voices of rights-based Syrian civil society and diaspora networks and build dialogue and solidarity between Syrian organisations.

# Joining forces and sharing resources: SCNP focuses on three key pillars to drive positive change and enhance collaboration within the Syrian civil society.

The three pillars encourage sharing resources and joining forces among members, as well as with a wider group of stakeholders:

The three pillars feed each other, with engagement and information sharing feeding advocacy messages and creating opportunities for members to collaborate.





SCNP's network comprises over 127 organisations and stretches across the globe, members from Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Turkey, the UK and the US.

SCNP acts as a space for coordination, prioritisation, joint advocacy, and consensus-building by empowering the exchange and leveraging of resources among Syrian civil society networks across geographical areas and sectors **“Information sharing”**

Enhancing Syrian civil society networks' access and capacity to jointly engage with policymakers **“Advocacy”**

Building members' capacity to by improving the joint learning process and encouraging resource and practice sharing **“Knowledge & Resource Building”**

Act synergistically to translate its collective knowledge into briefs and advocacy messages **that** can be shared with a diverse range of stakeholders and policymakers. **“Dialogue & Engagement”**

## SCNP works under four thematic priorities :

1. The Humanitarian Situation inside of Syria. This would include any topics related to humanitarian or aid-related emergencies, development and long-term infrastructure and community services.
2. Rights of Refugees. Including any topic related to Syrian refugees, regardless of location, including push and pull factors, conditions in their host country/community, resettlement, integration, or (eventually) informed return.
3. Justice and Accountability. Topics covered include housing, land, and property, human rights challenges, detainees, bringing justice and bringing justice and accountability to the forefront in Syria. Countering the post-conflict narrative.
4. Future of Syria. This would include topics such as a future constitution, elections, youth, and other future-related issues.

SCNP members agree that the platform is very well positioned to work on Localization of aid, and Nexus activities in Syria.

## **Pillar 1: Information Sharing;**

SCNP facilitates enhanced coordination among Syrian civil society organisations and networks by focusing on shared priorities and themes. The platform serves as a collaborative space for these groups to meet, promoting the development and maintenance of effective collaboration mechanisms. Substantive engagement is maintained through regular and systematic communication channels, with a focus on issues that are important to the majority of members.

## **Pillar 2: Engagement;**

SCNP fosters coordination among various actors and harnesses existing resources to effectively advocate for its objectives. This pillar involves translating thematic discussions into concise briefs and compelling advocacy messages, which are then actively disseminated to a broader audience of stakeholders and policymakers.

## **Pillar 3: Advocacy;**

Under this pillar, SCNP empowers its members to broaden their engagement with a diverse array of stakeholders, both geographically and thematically.

The organisation is committed to breaking down barriers between various types of organisations operating in different sectors and regions throughout Syria and the diaspora in order to maximize the effectiveness of their engagement and advocacy efforts. SCNP actively builds relationships with organisations inside Syria, leveraging these connections to facilitate significant advocacy, strengthen messaging, and amplify its impact.

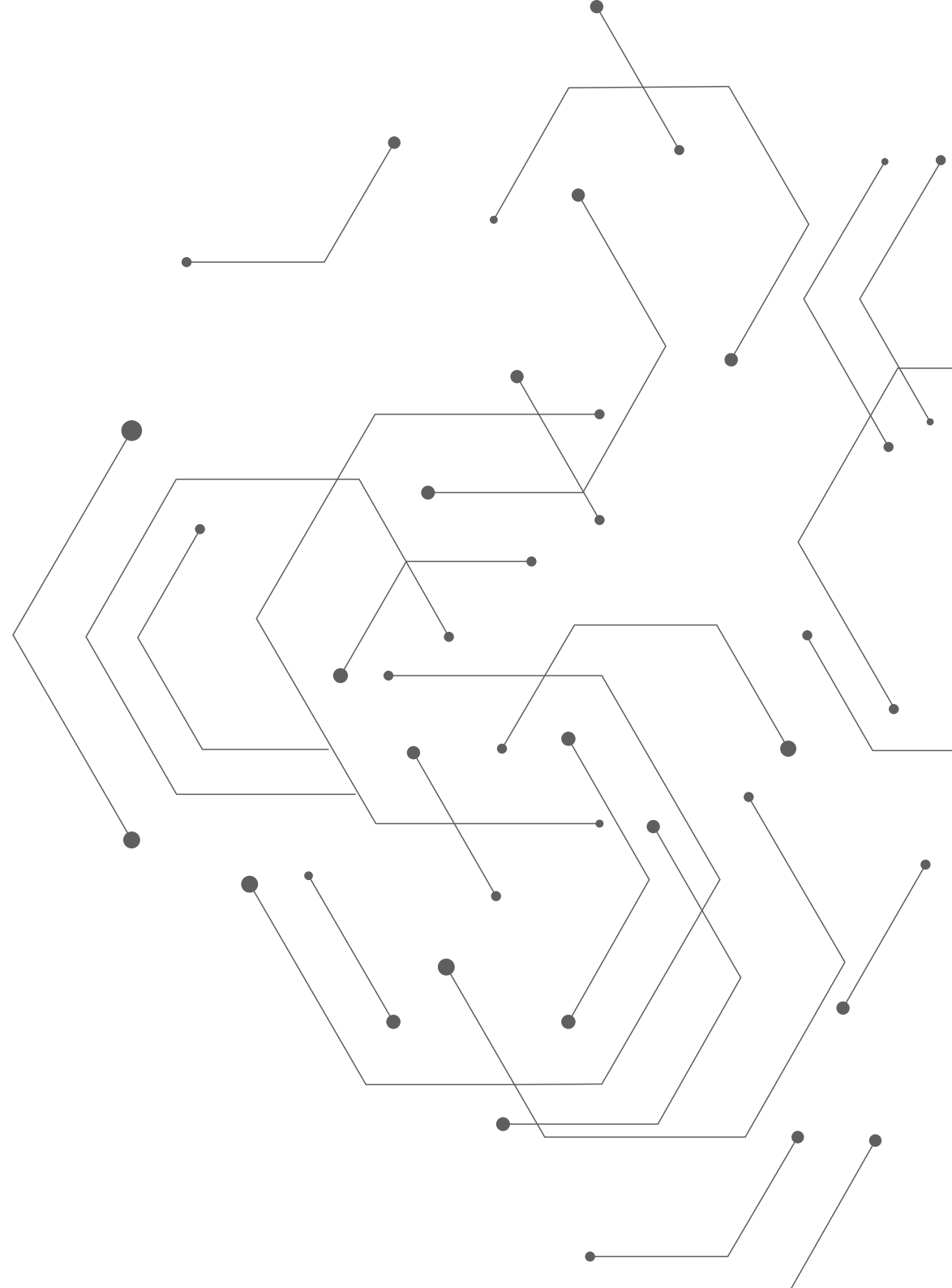
Furthermore, by expanding its reach to other contexts that share similarities with the Syrian situation, SCNP hopes to enrich thematic discussions and foster a collaborative learning process. As a result, the platform promotes the exchange of best practices and mutual learning, allowing for a dynamic exchange of concepts across diverse contexts.

# Achievements:

1. Establishing strong connections between Syrian networks in various areas of control in Syria and the diaspora.
2. Good coordination with other platforms of international, and national NGOs.
3. Bridging between humanitarian, human rights, and development organisations on thematic topics including cross border aid, forced return, forced disappearance and missing people, localization of aid, and more.
4. Engagement of members with international stakeholders in several platforms.

## SCNP, and to achieve its objectives, use:

- A. Thematic workshops and exchanges, Round tables discussions, Side events on the sidelines of major Syria-related conferences,, working groups; and Dialogues
- B. Supporting strategic and ad hoc joint advocacy initiatives.
- C. Studies and Research.
- D. Mainstreaming elements like gender, age, and minorities to create an environment that fosters equal participation and representation for all.



## Strengths:

- **Access and Buy-in:** SCNP has strong outreach within Europe and across the globe, since it is a large coalition with high level of trust from its members and external stakeholders. This can support SCNP and networks to advocate more effectively.
- **Diversity:** SCNP includes networks that engage in a variety of activities ranging from humanitarian, to development, to human rights, and acts as a pool for a range of skills, expertise, and resources.
- **Versatility:** Embracing an adaptive coordination approach, the platform refrains from enforcing representation upon its members. Rather, it facilitates coordination, allowing for a diverse array of themes to be addressed, catering to the unique interests and priorities of individual members.
- **Diaspora focus:** SCNP has evolved to meet the needs of Syrian diaspora across different contexts. It is unique in its focus on diaspora types of diaspora agencies.

# SCNP Members' Networks and Alliances:



Voices for  
Displaced Syrians



**WE exist**  
syrian civil society advocacy alliance



**SSDF**  
SYRISK - SVENSKA DEMOKRATIFÖRBUNDET



**SCAN UK**



SYRIAN NGO ALLIANCE  
تحالف المنظمات النضالية غير الحكومية



تحالف منظمات المجتمع المدني السوري  
Syrian CSOs Coalition



**VDSH**  
صندوق دعم المجتمع المدني السوري



**SND**  
SYRIAN NETWORK IN DENMARK





## 1. Charities and Associations Network in the United Kingdom, SCAN UK

The Syrian Charities and Associations Network in the United Kingdom, SCAN UK, is an independent network of Syrian NGOs, charities, CSOs, associations and organised regional groups, established to help meet the needs of the Syrian community in the UK.

SCAN UK was founded in October 2015 by a group of Syrian organisations. Today, the network includes ten Syrian organisation members based in different parts of the UK. These organisations work in diverse sectors, including humanitarian, medical, and social sectors. However, they all share the same interest of offering assistance to the Syrian community in the UK.

SCAN UK aspires to serve as an umbrella under which all Syrian registered charities and NGOs in the UK can work together towards ensuring that members of the Syrian community within the UK lead safe, productive, and well-integrated lives.

## 2. SHAML Coalition

Shaml is a coalition of Eight Syrian CSOs that have gathered around four leading democratic civic right values and aim to integrate these values in their wide range of services they provide in Syria. To include human rights advocacy, education, women's empowerment, peace-building, conflict transformation, local governance, technical capacity-building, and humanitarian assistance. With the ultimate goal of promoting these values within Syrian society and making them become widely accepted.



SYRIAN NGO ALLIANCE  
تحالف المنظمات السورية غير الحكومية

## 3. Syrian NGOs Alliance SNA

SNA consists of 24 SNGOs who are some of the largest SNGOs working to meet the Humanitarian needs in line with international standards and protocols. SNA provides the umbrella for these SNGOs to coordinate and advocate common messages ensuring the voices of affected populations are heard. We play an active role when it comes to how aid is being delivered in Syria.

**Vision:** To lead the Syrian humanitarian work and its voice to empower the rights of society.

**Mission:** An alliance of Syrian humanitarian organisations who actively and effectively advocate and coordinate at various levels the responses to the Syrian humanitarian affairs to help the Syrian people preserve their dignity and rights.



#### 4. The Alliance of the German-Syrian Aid Associations

The only nationwide representation of Syrian-German civil society organisations. Founded in 2013, it currently has 32 members throughout Germany.

VDSH e.V. and its member organisations, are politically independent and see themselves as part of a broad democratic movement that lives diversity and stands for religious-ideological neutrality.

The origins and stories of our member organisations are as diverse as the issues they work on. What they all have in common, however, is the belief that we want to work together for a better future for Syrians in Syria and the diaspora and that we achieve a lot with our commitment.

VDSH is the representative of Syrian civil society and the community in Germany. It stands for empowerment: VDSH supports the actors of Syrian civil society in Germany in building strong structures, placing their issues and making their work sustainable.

VDSH stands for a strong network: it brings together people from diverse backgrounds and network Syrian civil society both internally and externally.

VDSH is the spokesperson of the Syrian community: it places their concerns and topics and communicates them to politics, administration and science. Through campaigns and press work, VDSH generates visibility for Syrian topics.

## 5. The American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARCS)

ARCS is a secular, non-political coalition of Syrian diaspora led humanitarian organisations that provide multi-sector relief inside of Syria, as well as assistance and services to Syrian refugees in regional host countries and in the United States. Together the efforts of ARCS organisations help millions of Syrians, both those who remain in Syria and those displaced as refugees.

ARCS is dedicated to building a model network of diaspora organizations in the United States that will be an impetus for positive change, social welfare and development in their homeland. Guided by its values of humanitarianism, advocacy and collaboration, ARCS and its member organisations shall pursue this mission with compassion, transparency, and generosity.

**Mission** is to be a **voice for US-based Syrian diaspora** organizations who are providing humanitarian and development services for Syrians worldwide, **through advocacy and empowering local humanitarian actors.** ARCS serves as an impetus for positive change, social welfare, and progress through serving as a platform for coordination and organisational development.





**SND**

SYRIAN NETWORK IN DENMARK

## 6. The Syrian Network in Denmark (SND)

The Network aims to offer a meeting space amongst Syrian individuals, CSOs and NGOs in Denmark to work together on two levels:

- Externally, by supporting people in Syria and in neighboring countries in many areas such as children's education, health, women rights, and capacity building.
- Internally, to support Syrians in Denmark. The support might cover several topics such as integration, employment, education, and the rights of Syrians in Denmark.

**Vision:** Create a bridge between Syrian Civil Society organisations in DK for better visibility and representation.

### **Mission:**

- Connect Syrian civil society with interested Stakeholders in DK and Europe.
- Facilitate communication among Syrian civil society groups in DK and Europe.
- To offer help, guidance and training to members
- Share relevant information and generate ideas and projects.

## 7. The Syrian-Swedish Democratic League (SSDF)

The Syrian-Swedish Democratic League is an umbrella under which the Swedish-Syrian associations whose objectives and activities are based on democratic foundations.

The association is politically and religiously independent, and it works on integrating Syrians into Swedish society, while preserving their cultural identity. It also works to link and strengthen friendship between Syrians and Swedes, and to shed light on the situation in Syria. The League is against the tyranny of the Assad regime and against any form of racism, religious extremism and Anti-Semitism. The League calls for a future Syria, a democratic Syria governed by the rule of law, which protects the human rights of all Syrians. The Association's values are based on principles of democracy, human rights and gender equality, and on ethnic and religious diversity.



Voices for  
Displaced Syrians

## 8. Voices for displaced Syrians (VDSF)

The Voices for Displaced Syrians Forum (VDSF) gathers +40 Syrian civil society organisations operating in Syria and refugee-hosting countries, including Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq. Established in 2019, the VDSF advocates for the achievement of durable solutions to protect, respond to, and improve the quality of life of displaced Syrians inside Syria and abroad. Since its establishment in 2019, the Forum has actively engaged with international stakeholders in the Middle East region and elsewhere.

**Mission:** Involving displaced Syrians in the making of decisions affecting their lives and advocating for their rights at the policy level inside and outside Syria

**Vision:** Displaced Syrians are empowered and able to obtain their rights and have protection conditions inside and outside Syria Forum members.



## 9. We Exist

Is a Syrian-led initiative by a number of Syrian civil society organisations, supported by their International partners working together to ensure that the role of civil society is central to any thinking and planning on Syria. We organise and coordinate public campaigns in Europe, develop concrete messages and coordinate advocacy and lobbying that targets decision- and policy-makers.

It seeks to shape international narratives on Syria and Syrians, based on the information, experiences, technical expertise and recommendations of civil society actors, women and men that work directly with Syrians.

We Exist! Highlights the role of a major and under-reported aspect of Syria: an active, vibrant, young and dynamic civil society.

**SCNP**  
Syrian Civil Society  
Networks Platform