



Statement

SNHR, along with 30 Institutions | Organizations, Contributes to the Establishment of the War, Conflict and Health Global Alliance

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), along with more than 30 organizations from nations worldwide, including academic institutions, human rights organizations, research centers and coalitions of civil society organizations, have united to work on establishing the [War, Conflict and Health Global Alliance](#), with the Alliance's electronic platform set to be launched in September 2021 at a high-level event, whose details will be announced later.

The Alliance is a collaborative body that enhances coordination and cooperation in health and humanitarian action and supports collective voices calling for an end to wars, mass violence and armed conflict, all of which pose major threats to health and health systems, by using data and evidence to engage decision-makers and practitioners in relevant fields, to reduce and mitigate the health effects of war and armed conflict on society. The Alliance seeks to address many critical gaps in humanitarian action within war/ conflict, particularly in situations where there is a lack of serious global leadership, and when affected communities are underrepresented. The Alliance also strives to support those working in countries that suffer from living with the burden of war, promoting justice and accountability as a foundation for peace, with the Alliance's vision being a world without war, where health is protected, justice is served and peace is promoted.

The main activities of the Alliance are embodied in four focal points:

- Establishing a 'global observatory to monitor the impact of war, conflict and health', developing indicators that show progress, and identifying focused areas of advocacy and action.
- Issuing the 'Global Status Report on War, Conflict and Health', which we hope will serve as the primary reference on the field situation of war/ conflict.
- Holding a 'global conference on war, conflict and health' every two years to achieve the main objectives of bringing together diverse participants, facilitating community work of practice, exchanging knowledge and experiences, and linking bridges between research, policies and practices.
- Issuing a world map of actors, initiatives and donors in the field of war, conflict and health.

The SNHR has worked for nearly ten years in monitoring and documenting the most notable violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law against health and humanitarian workers, and vital civilian facilities related to these two fields; we have a database that includes tens of thousands of incidents targeting these personnel with [killings](#) or [arrests](#) by various parties to the conflict in Syria, and we have [published many reports](#), in addition to hundreds of news items, which include incidents of violations committed against health and humanitarian workers.

In this context, the SNHR [signed a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2020](#) with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its [Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSD\)](#) project, which is accredited by the United Nations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and numerous humanitarian NGOs around the world. The AWSD is the most comprehensive global database of the major incidents of violence recorded against aid workers since 1997 to date. The MoU stipulates the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. This will effectively assist in the study, analysis and description of aid work in Syria, providing comparisons with the rest of the world based on the AWSD's findings.

In mid-2021, we also signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Physicians for Human Rights \(PHR\)](#), providing for the establishment of a coordination and cooperation mechanism to share information and data documented by SNHR on human rights violations against detained medical personnel, through which we aim to contribute to a research project that seeks to develop an understanding of how medical personnel have been targeted for arrest and persecution since the earliest stages of the conflict in Syria, particularly by the Syrian regime; this data will then be employed in analyzing the impact of these actions on various other factors, especially in treating those injured by Syrian regime forces targeting peaceful demonstrations, and to demonstrate that the widespread and deliberate targeting of medical personnel has prompted hundreds of these vital workers to flee outside Syria.

The past ten years of conflict in Syria have had catastrophic repercussions for the Syrian state and society, and the consequences of these repercussions will continue to unfold for decades. Through this important alliance, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) seeks to contribute to shed more light on the severity of the targeting of health and humanitarian workers and the vital facilities related to them, the need to avoid targeting, and the need for supporting and providing material, logistical and training assistance to health and humanitarian institutions operating in Syria and all parts of the world that suffer from the scourge of war/ armed conflict; SNHR will continue to build alliances in order to expose and detail the crimes and atrocities perpetrated by offenders in Syria, prevent their rehabilitation, and disclose the involvement of their allies, as well as to pave the way for their prosecution, and finally to provide definitive true accounts of human rights violations in Syria, as well as to advocate for the victims and endeavor to alleviate their suffering.



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