Quarterly Newsletter June - September 2023

The Day After (TDA) continues its unswerving commitment to advancing justice and human rights in Syria.

TDA's primary focus is on:

Effective Civil Participation in Democratic Transition

We support civil society representatives in political tracks, and partner with researchers and academics to provide evidence-based analysis to inform transitional tracks.

Supporting Justice and Accountability for Syria

We analyze violations of IHL/IHRL and work with survivors of arbitrary detention in Syria, families of the disappeared/missing persons, and civil society representatives in order to play a central role in justice and accountability efforts.

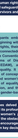
During the third quarter of 2023, as part of our commitment to fostering effective civic participation in the democratic transition,

The Day After organized a series of initiatives:

In Syria and Turkey, launching a series of training with the aim of empowerment of Syrian women:

Recognizing the pivotal role women can play in shaping Syria's political landscape and the ongoing challenges hindering their active participation in this realm, we conducted a sequence of training workshops.

In Northern Syria:



We chose two locations within the northern region, specifically Manbij and Raqqa, with the hope of fostering dialogue and enhancing political and civil participation. The sessions covered various topics, including the concept of citizenship, the importance of transitional justice, and the introduction of transitional mechanisms such as constitutional reform and elections.

The training sessions provided a platform for women to enhance their critical thinking skills and engage in discussions on pertinent issues affecting their communities, including women, children, and the broader society. These discussions aimed to encourage participants to generate recommendations and strategies for addressing these challenges, ultimately contributing to the overall stability and progress of their communities.

From a practical perspective, the training also emphasized the importance of Syrian women's active participation during transitional periods, recognizing their crucial role in ensuring sustainable peacebuilding and development, and best practices for promoting women's active involvement in decision-making processes.

In Turkey:

We participants embarked on a similar journey, delving into topics such as transitional justice, human rights, gender issues, and their intersectionalities. The training sessions also delved into the Women, Peace and Security agenda and Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, emphasizing the significance of women's active participation and representation in conflict resolution, equality, and women's rights, focusing on the role of women in peacebuilding and reconstruction, and the pressing issue of addressing gender-based violence.

The training sessions underscored the critical importance of transitional justice in Syria, and its profound significance. They also delved into the historical context of Syria, the ongoing transitional development, transitional justice, the Syrian conflict, and the various transitional justice mechanisms employed worldwide. These sessions aimed to encourage participants to develop strategies for increasing women's active participation in Syria's transitional process, ensuring their rights are upheld.

Exploring the Factors Shaping Political Participation Among Syrian Youth:

In our continuous efforts to shed light on the dynamics of Syrian youth's involvement in political spheres, The Day After (TDA) presents the findings of our research paper titled "Determinants of Political Participation for Syrian Youth: A Qualitative Exploration" Leveraging a qualitative approach, this study aims to unravel the intricate influences of various factors on Syrian youth's participation in political spheres.

This comprehensive study underscores the significance of political participation as a fundamental right, and its profound implications for individuals, communities, and the broader society. The research delves into various dimensions of political participation, including the factors influencing Syrian youth's decision to participate in political activities, the challenges they encounter, and the potential ramifications of their participation in political activities.

Our approach to this study relied on a unique social survey methodology, conducted through in-depth interviews with participants. The interviews encompassed various topics of the subject matter, including political participation, the Syrian conflict, the Constitutional Committee, and the Geneva Process. The research covered diverse regions and locations, including:

- Areas under the jurisdiction of the Syrian Interim Government
- Areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces in northeastern Syria (SDF)
- Territories under the authority of the Syrian regime
- Areas governed by the Salvation Government in Idlib and its surrounding areas
- Neighboring Arab countries
- Turkey
- Europe.

Research paper link (in Arabic)

Research paper link (in English)

Video about the study

The Day After (TDA) Contributes to a Global Guide on Integrating Displaced Communities into Transitional Justice:

The Day After (TDA) has been actively contributing the issues of transitional justice. The Day After (TDA) is pleased to announce its active participation in the development of a groundbreaking guide that aims to integrate displaced communities into transitional justice processes. This initiative, led by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), focuses on the critical role of transitional justice in displaced communities into transitional justice processes.

TDA's remarkable input is rooted in our extensive experience in addressing multifaceted issues within the transitional justice landscape. The guide primarily aims to facilitate the seamless integration of forcibly displaced populations into transitional justice frameworks. It emphasizes the importance of adapting transitional justice mechanisms to address these demographics and provides practical and applicable guidelines for practitioners and policy makers, acting them to recognize the unique challenges and opportunities that arise from displacement and forced migration and transitional justice.

ENGAGING WHOLE DISPLACED COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESSES

A GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS

The guide contributes significantly to the broader conversation upon which The Day After (TDA) has been actively participating. The guide plays a crucial role in the ongoing discussion of the principles of transitional justice, the challenges faced by displaced communities, and practical strategies for implementation. The Constitutional Committee, and the Geneva Process, underscoring its relevance and broad applicability.

For comprehensive insights into the guide and the collaborative efforts, please refer to the provided links.

Please follow the provided link

Empowering Syrian Youth on Housing and Property Rights

Recognizing the critical role youth can play in shaping Syria's political landscape, The Day After (TDA) has been actively engaged in a series of training sessions aimed at fostering civic participation and promoting youth involvement in the broader context of human rights work. A emphasized the importance of addressing the challenges faced by Syrian youth, including the lack of adequate representation and the ongoing conflict, which have significantly impacted their lives and property rights, a crucial aspect of human rights in the Syrian context.

Training Phases:

Commencing with a foundational conceptual approach, this phase delved into the intricacies of human rights, with a focus on the interconnectedness of civil and political rights with economic, social, and cultural rights.

Phase II (Urban):

Building upon the initial phase, participants ventured into more complex topics, such as the protection of housing, land, and property rights in the context of transitional justice, the protection of displaced populations, and the rights of refugees and returnees. This phase also delved into the concepts of transitional justice and its various mechanisms, including truth and reconciliation commissions, reparations, and institutional reforms.

Phase III (Rural):

The third phase directed attention toward the impact of housing and property rights during conflicts, drawing insights from international experiences within the region, the role of transitional justice in post-conflict scenarios, and gender issues in this context.

Phase IV (Online):

In this concluding phase, in-person sessions were conducted for trainees based in Turkey, Europe, and the Syrian regions, with the participation of trainees from the previous phases, who attended various sessions to delve deeply into specific human rights topics. Practical exercises served to illuminate the repercussions of property rights violations on individuals and communities, underscoring the interplay between these issues and the importance of upholding property rights in the broader peacebuilding process.

For additional information

For a comprehensive analysis, please refer to the provided statement and its recommendations

Please access the provided links

A Statement and Recommendations for the New UN Institution Addressing Missing Persons in Syria:

Moreover, The Day After (TDA) actively participated alongside a consortium of organizations and prominent human rights representatives, including women and victims. Together, they contributed to the formulation of a robust recommendation aimed at the establishment of a dedicated UN entity for missing persons in Syria. This initiative underscores the collaborative efforts and shared commitment to addressing the fates of missing persons and their families amidst the conflict in Syria.

The recommendation emphasizes the critical importance of addressing the plight of the individuals and their families, underscoring the profound impact on their lives and the broader societal implications. The proposed UN entity would serve as a dedicated platform for comprehensive investigations, ensuring accountability, and facilitating the pursuit of justice and truth. This initiative aims to shed light on the victims and their families, providing them with a platform to voice their concerns and seek justice. The establishment of such a mechanism is expected to be a significant step forward in addressing the complex issue of missing persons in Syria, a crucial step toward reconciliation and promoting peace and stability in the region.

The collaboration between The Day After (TDA) and various stakeholders, as evidenced by the recommendation, underscores the collective commitment to upholding human rights and seeking accountability for the victims and their families. The initiative aims to leverage the expertise and collaborative efforts of various stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness and impact of the proposed UN entity, paving the way for a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to addressing the issue of missing persons in Syria.

Charting a Path to Property Recovery: Exploring Mechanisms for Restitution in Syria

As Syria grapples with the staggering destruction of its properties, compounded by the complex legal landscape and the ongoing conflict, the imperative for effective mechanisms for property restitution has become paramount. The Syrian Center for Housing, Preservation and Restitution of Housing and Property aims to address the critical issue of property restitution in Syria, recognizing the profound implications for individuals, communities, and the broader society. The initiative underscores the importance of addressing property ownership disputes and ensuring the rightful restitution of properties to their rightful owners, a crucial step toward reconciliation and sustainable peacebuilding in the region.

The Day After (TDA) took a significant step towards shedding light on this critical issue by conducting a comprehensive study on property rights in Syria. The study delves into various aspects, including the historical context of property ownership in Syria, the various factors contributing to the current state of property rights, and the challenges faced by the country in the aftermath of the conflict. The study also proposes a set of recommendations and strategies for addressing the issue of property restitution in Syria, with the ultimate goal of fostering a sustainable and equitable resolution to this complex issue.

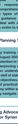
The content of this video is grounded in a comprehensive study by The Day After (TDA) titled "Charting a Path to Property Recovery: Exploring Mechanisms for Restitution in Syria." Focusing on the historical context of property ownership in Syria and the various factors contributing to the current state of property rights, the study proposes a set of recommendations and strategies for addressing the issue of property restitution in Syria, with the ultimate goal of fostering a sustainable and equitable resolution to this complex issue.

Click here to watch the video

Empowering Survivors and Families: Multi-Disciplinary Training in Syria and Turkey

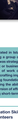
The Day After (TDA) has undertaken an extensive training program to empower both male and female survivors and families of enforced disappearances in Syria and Turkey. This multi-faceted training program encompassed three crucial areas of expertise:

Social Research Training:



In August 2023, The Day After (TDA) conducted a training session in Gaziantep, Turkey, dedicated to the art of field social research. This comprehensive training delved into various facets of social research, encompassing research methodologies, data collection techniques, ethical considerations, and the utilization of the internet and social media platforms for research purposes. The training also underscored the importance of conducting research with sensitivity and ethics, ensuring the well-being and confidentiality of participants, and upholding the principles of responsible and ethical research practices.

Digital Security Training:



During the same month of August 2023, The Day After (TDA) also conducted a training session in Gaziantep, Turkey, focusing on digital security. The training covered various topics, including password management, data encryption, and the utilization of the internet and social media platforms for research purposes. The training also underscored the importance of conducting research with sensitivity and ethics, ensuring the well-being and confidentiality of participants, and upholding the principles of responsible and ethical research practices.

Strategic Planning Training:

A three-day training initiative was orchestrated in Istanbul, Turkey, during the month of August 2023, meticulously targeting a group of 20 women survivors of enforced disappearances in Syria. The training encompassed various topics, with a predominant emphasis on key projects in Syrian transitional justice. The training sessions delved into the intricacies of transitional justice, the Syrian conflict, the ongoing peace process, and the broader implications of these factors on the lives of the participants. The training also aimed to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills to navigate the complex landscape of transitional justice and advocate for their rights and interests in the context of the Syrian conflict and the ongoing peace process.

Enhancing Advocacy and Communication Skills: Training for Syrian Civil Defense Volunteers

The Day After (TDA) conducted an insightful training workshop in Gaziantep Turkey from August 25 to 27, 2023, specifically tailored for the volunteers of the Syrian Civil Defense, the Syria's renowned humanitarian organization. This workshop prioritized enhancing advocacy and communication skills, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively advocate for their rights and interests within the Syrian context. Practical exercises and simulations were integrated into the workshop, allowing participants to hone their communication skills in a supportive environment. The comprehensive training covered various topics, including the principles of effective communication, the art of persuasive advocacy, and the application of these skills in the context of the Syrian Civil Defense. The training also emphasized the importance of ethical considerations in advocacy and communication, ensuring that the participants understand the ethical implications of their actions and communications.

The second phase of the training was dedicated to formulating advocacy plans tailored to the specific needs and challenges faced by the Syrian Civil Defense volunteers. This phase provided a platform for the participants to collaborate and develop strategies for addressing critical issues within their organization. The advocacy plans covered various topics, including enhancing volunteer welfare, promoting gender equality within the organization, and advocating for political representation and participation within the Syrian context. Practical exercises and simulations were integrated into the workshop, allowing participants to hone their communication skills in a supportive environment. The comprehensive training covered various topics, including the principles of effective communication, the art of persuasive advocacy, and the application of these skills in the context of the Syrian Civil Defense. The training also emphasized the importance of ethical considerations in advocacy and communication, ensuring that the participants understand the ethical implications of their actions and communications.

Empowering Victims' Rights in Conflict: Workshop Collaboration Between The Day After and the International Center for Transitional Justice

In the intricate processes of democratic transition, with all their accompanying challenges, the imperative for upholding human rights and addressing the rights of victims emerges as a pivotal consideration. The Syrian context, marred by years of conflict, has been fraught with profound implications for the rights of victims, including those living in exile. The case is undeniably demonstrative of the complexities and challenges inherent in ensuring the protection and advocacy for these vulnerable populations amidst the tumultuous backdrop of conflict and transition. The recognition of the rights of victims in this context underscores the critical role that they receive due compensation, and that the necessary measures are in place to rectify the injustices they have endured.

Within this framework, The Day After, in a collaborative endeavor with the International Center for Transitional Justice, organized a pivotal workshop in Gaziantep, centered on "Empowering Victims' Rights in Conflict Situations in Conflict." The gathering brought together an assemblage of international experts from the realms of transitional justice and human rights, with the overarching goal of fostering support amendments in Syria. The Day After played a pivotal role in facilitating and conducting the workshop's sessions.

Spanning three intensive days from September 7 to 9, 2023, this workshop meticulously delved into various facets of the rights of victims in the context of transitional and democratic transitions. Furthermore, it delved into the intricate dynamics of conflict and its implications on the rights of victims, underscoring the imperative for upholding these rights amidst the tumultuous backdrop of conflict and transition.

More on the workshop in Arabic