Human Rights and Reconstruction in Syria
Chatham House, London | 25 May 2018

Although the conflict in Syria continues unabated, there has already been a shift of focus onto Syria’s reconstruction. Many international actors have refused to contribute to Syria’s reconstruction until a political strategy towards settlement is negotiated. Some are unsure of how to proceed, and others have expressed interest. While Syrians are entitled to having their country rebuilt, participating in reconstruction in Syria may support the narrative that the conflict is over and thus weaken the calls for accountability and justice.

14.30 – 15.45  Session 1: Reconstruction in Syria: Between Political Pragmatism and Human Rights Idealism

This panel will focus on political and human rights in the reconstruction of Syria.

**Speakers:**
Toby Cadman, Co-Founder and Head, Guernica 37
Maria Alabdeh, Executive Director, Women Now for Development
Jean Francois Hasperue, Political Officer on Syria, European External Action Service

**Chair:** Ibrahim Olabi, Executive Director, Syrian Legal Development Programme

15.45 – 16.15  Refreshments

16.15 – 17.30  Session 2: Mainstreaming Human Rights: From Humanitarian Response to Funding Reconstruction

This panel will address how economic, business and humanitarian considerations impact human rights in Syria’s reconstruction.

**Speakers:**
Wayne Jordash, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers
Fionna Smyth, Head of Humanitarian Policy, Advocacy, Campaigns, Oxfam
Joseph Daher, Professor, Lausanne University

**Chair:** Noor Hamadeh, Programme Head of Human Rights and Business Unit, Syrian Legal Development Programme

The event will be held on the record.