The Future of Syria: Towards Inclusive Peacebuilding
Chatham House, London | 15 March 2019 | #CHSyria

The Syrian conflict's continuation reveals the level of complexity in finding a road map to achieving sustainable peace, while Syria rapidly loses its human, social, physical, financial and natural assets. Yet the international community’s efforts focus mainly on the balancing of power between fighting parties and on short-term stabilization instead of negotiating an inclusive peace agreement.

This conference brings together policymakers, experts, academics and civil society leaders to identify the main institutional and socio-economic challenges to stabilization in Syria, and to offer policy recommendations in support of an inclusive peacebuilding process.

08.45 – 09.15  Registration and Refreshments

09.15 – 09.30  Opening Remarks
Lina Khatib, Chatham House

09.30 – 11.00  Session 1: Conflict Economy Dynamics

The first session will provide an overview of the conflict’s impact on different economic sectors and will offer examples of coping strategies utilised by local communities. It will also focus on the competition between different external actors and how they cooperate with internal ones to benefit from the Syrian conflict economy. Speakers will also discuss the effect of the conflict economy on the restoration of state functions.

Speakers
Basma Alloush, Norwegian Refugee Council
Haid Haid, Chatham House
Sinan Hatahet, Omran Center for Strategic Studies
Moderator: Emma Beals, Syria in Context

11.00 – 11.30  Refreshments

11.30 – 13.00  Session 2: The Politics of Reconstruction

This session will explore the current political context and funding mechanisms for reconstruction, and the social, economic and demographic implications for Syrians inside and outside of the country. It will offer policy recommendations in support of the formation of an inclusive reconstruction process.

Speakers
Steven Heydemann, Smith College
Nader Kabbani, Brookings Doha Center
Alia Moubayed, Jefferies International
Moderator: Neil Quilliam, Chatham House

13.00 – 14.00  Lunch
Session 3: Challenges for Social Cohesion

This panel will discuss the main drivers of deterioration in social cohesion and social capital, and will explore mechanisms used by different actors to increase polarization in Syrian society. Speakers will propose policy options to restore Syria’s social capital and to create a hospitable environment for returnees.

**Speakers**
Ruwan Al-Rejoleh, Independent Researcher
Allaa Barri, Chatham House
Zaki Mehchy, Chatham House

**Moderator:** Sara Kayyali, Human Rights Watch

Refreshments

Session 4: Beyond Stabilization and Towards Inclusivity

This session will discuss current stabilization negotiations that focus on power redistribution among dominant parties. It will also highlight the role of external actors in any potential agreement and how they can support Syrian civil society to achieve sustainable peace.

**Speakers**
Salma Kahale, Dawlaty
Lina Khatib, Chatham House
Lina Sinjab, Chatham House

**Moderator:** Ruth Citrin, Chatham House

Reception