



Initiative for the Constitutional Recognition and Official Status of the Kurdish Language in Syria

Syria is a country made up of different national, cultural, and linguistic communities. Language is a fundamental part of identity, culture, collective memory, and the passing of heritage from one generation to another.

Protecting linguistic rights does not conflict with the unity, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of the state. On the contrary, it strengthens the idea of equal citizenship.

Based on internationally recognized human rights principles, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two International Covenants, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNESCO standards on multilingual education and education in the mother's language, and relevant international experiences, including the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, we believe that preserving a language and passing it down through generations is an important part of protecting cultural diversity.

For this reason, there is a need to recognize Syria's linguistic and cultural diversity and establish legal protections for linguistic rights, including the right to use Kurdish and to receive education in Kurdish.

Accordingly, we announce the establishment of:

The Initiative for the Constitutional Recognition and Official Status of the Kurdish Language in Syria

This is an independent, peaceful civil initiative that is not affiliated with any political party or political organization. It seeks to strengthen linguistic and cultural rights, as well as education in the mother's language, through legal, civil, academic, and cultural means, and to work toward incorporating and implementing these rights in Syria's permanent constitution and national legislation.

Goals of the Initiative

1. To work toward constitutional recognition of the Kurdish language in Syria.
2. To call for the constitutional and legal recognition of the Kurdish language.
3. To establish Kurdish as an official language in Syria.

How the Initiative Will Work

The initiative is committed to peaceful, legal, and civil methods, including:

1. Conducting legal and constitutional studies and research.
2. Submitting proposals to the relevant bodies involved in drafting the constitution.
3. Organizing seminars, conferences, and academic discussions.
4. Cooperating with universities, research centers, and cultural institutions.
5. Cooperating with international organizations working in education, culture, and human rights.
6. Preparing draft laws and legislative proposals concerning linguistic rights.
7. Raising public awareness about the importance of linguistic and cultural diversity.
8. Documenting the situation of education and linguistic rights and publishing studies and reports on them.

The Initiative's Demands

1. Building a state based on citizenship and respect for different cultures and languages.
2. Developing a constitutional framework that recognizes linguistic and cultural diversity as part of Syrian society and provides clear legal protections for it, without compromising Syria's territorial unity or sovereignty.

Appeal to International Organizations

The initiative also calls on UNESCO, UNICEF, and other relevant international organizations to:

- Support research on multilingual education in Syria.
- Support the protection of Syria's cultural and linguistic heritage.
- Encourage discussion of international models and approaches for protecting linguistic diversity.

Conclusion

The initiative's vision is of Syria as a state based on citizenship and equality, one that protects its territorial unity and sovereignty while also preserving the cultural, national, and linguistic diversity of its society.

From this perspective, calling for the constitutional recognition of the Kurdish language is not a demand to take away anyone else's rights. It is part of building a modern constitutional system in which the rights of all Syrians are protected equally.

Linguistic equality does not diminish anyone, and cultural diversity is not a threat to the unity of the state. Giving both proper constitutional and legal recognition can instead provide a strong foundation for a state based on citizenship and the rule of law.

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