



"Safe Environment and Dignified Return for Syrians" 22nd and 23rd of January 2022. Metropolitan Hotel, Ankara, Turkey

The issue of displaced Syrians has become the leading subject in domestic politics in Turkey and the cornerstone of the ongoing political discussion about Syria and its future. This topic heavily impacts Turkey's national security and interests. The key concept in this discussion is a safe environment that needs to exist in Syria before any safe, dignified and voluntary return, as a right inherent to all refugees who are protected against forced and premature return in circumstances where security and living conditions are not in place.

However, there is currently a limited understanding both in the public opinion and in key audiences involved in the discussion regarding the concept of the "safe environment" and its paramount relevance and impact on the current situation of Syrians in Turkey and the central role that this concept would play in a future political solution in Syria.

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Hence, the lack of such understanding coupled with a sometimes-distorted image of the Syrian refugees in Turkey and the reality of the situation in Syria has led to a sharp rise in hate speech against Syrian refugees while diverting the focus and efforts of domestic policymakers in Turkey and decision-makers working on Syria from the real root causes of the problems and challenges facing displaced Syrians as well as Turkey as a key actor in Syria. Illuminating this concept and

Turkey's interest in establishing a safe environment in Syria will aim to help as the policy-makers search for ways to revive the elusive political process in Syria, and consequently to find the much-needed roadmap to a realistic and sustainable solution in Syria that would dramatically impact the issue of Syrian refugees in Turkey.

It is very important and necessary that such a symposium finds a place for the concept of 'Safe Environment' to be opened for discussion and to take place in a more meaningful way in Turkey's agenda.

This will help to deal with it in a holistic framework, including both its humanitarian and legal dimensions.

In order to work more effectively for the future, SACD and SOLARIS, representing both communities, bear the fruits of their efforts and their role in contributing to the construction of more peaceful societies is important.






Being aware of the fact that a 'Safe Environment' is the cornerstone in ensuring the survival of two safe neighbors and brotherly countries in the future, it is also very meaningful that such a Symposium takes place at this time



Panel Programme

Day one: 22 January 2022

Panel 1

- **09:00-09:30** Registration
- **09:30-09:40** Opening statement by **Rudaina Alkhazam**, SACD Program Director
- **09:40-10:30** Panel one: What does "safe environment" mean in the context of the Syrian conflict? (part one)
 - Moderator: Fatih Şanlı**
 -  **Speaker one: Ali Zafer Sağıroğlu**, AYBU- GPM
"Is 'Return' possible? What does 'Safe Environment' mean for 'Return'?"
 -  **Speaker two: Ahmet İçduygu**, MiReKoç, Koç University
What is a 'Safe environment in Syria' and difference from other contexts?
- **10:30-10:40** Coffee break ☕
- **10:40-11:40** Panel One: What does "safe environment" mean in the context of the Syrian (part two)
 -  **Speaker three: Zeynep Şahin Mencütek**, Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) "zoom participation"
Is 'Return' safe? Iraq field study.
*(*Field study on Syrians who returned from Iraq and then re-returned to Iraq)*
 -  **Speaker four: Refik Hodzic**, Transitional Justice Specialist
Safe environment for displaced Syrians as key precondition for peace and post-conflict stability – lessons learned in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 -  **Speaker five: Mohanad Al Hosaini**, SACD
Safe environments as defined by displaced Syrians
- **11:40-12:15** Q&A session 🗣️
- **12:15-13:30** Lunch break



Panel 2

- 13:30-14:20** Safe environment in Syria: pre-condition for return and lasting peace (part one)
Moderator: Refik Hodzic
 **Speaker one: Murat Erdoğan**
Ever Changing perception of 'Safe Environment' and its impact on 'Safe Return' discourse in Turkish sphere.
 **Speaker two: Mahmut Kaya, Harran Üniversitesi, Şanlıurfa**
How 'safe return' is seen by Syrians and the influence of faith-based organizations on the subject?
- 14:20-14:30** Coffee break 
- 14:30-15:30** Safe environment in Syria: pre-condition for return and lasting peace (part two)
 **Speaker three: Seda Altuğ, Boğaziçi Üniversitesi, İstanbul**
Law number 10 on Property of the Regime and its impact on 'Safe Environment' and 'Safe Return'
 **Speaker four: Dinçer Alptekin, SOLARIS, Ankara**
What is the legal framework for 'safe return,' and how is Turkey implementing it?
 **Speaker five: Dr Hala Ghawi, SACD**
Absence of safe environment in Syria and the ongoing displacement
- 15:30-15:45** Q&A session



Panel Programme

Day two: 23 January 2022

Panel 3

- 09:30-10:00** Attendance
- 10:00-10:50** How return and safe environment is understood within the public sphere and its impact on refugees? (part one)
Moderator: Haya Atassi
 **Speaker one: İbrahim Efe, Kilis Üniversitesi, Kilis**
How is 'Return and Safe Return' subjected in Media and its impact on refugees? (Academic approach)



Speaker two: Gökçer Tahincioğlu, T24 Ankara Temsilcisi

How are 'Return' and 'Safe Return' editorialized in Turkish mainstream media and their impact on the general public? Editorialization of policymakers in media.

• **10:50-11:00** Coffee break ☕

• **11:00-11:40** How return and safe environment is understood within the public sphere and its impact on refugees? (part two)



Speaker three: Ayselin Yıldız, Yaşar Üniversitesi, İzmir [Zoom participation]

Making meaning of 'Safe Environment' and Trafficking in Human Being within Syrian and Iraq context



Speaker four: Burcu Karakaş, DW Türkçe, İstanbul

Refugee Journalism and editorialization of 'Return' in Turkey.

• **11:40-12:00** Q&A session

• **12:00-12:15** Closing remarks

* The event will be held in Turkish with simultaneous translation to English and Arabic.