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## **Coalition of Organizations Launches Campaign to Lift Sanctions on Syria**

**Washington, D.C. – January 8, 2025** A coalition of thirteen organizations—the American Coalition for Syria (ACS), Citizens for a Secure and Safe America, Global Justice, Multifaith Alliance, Rahma Worldwide, Syrian American Council, Syrian American Engineers Association, Syrian British Consortium, Syrian Christians USA, Syria Faith Initiative, Syrian Forum, Syrian NGO Alliance, and The White Helmets—have officially launched a public campaign to advocate for the lifting or easing of the comprehensive sanctions on Syria. This campaign aims to address the enormous humanitarian and economic challenges faced by ordinary Syrians in the aftermath of over a decade of conflict and six decades of authoritarian Baathist rule. Sanctions are a barrier to Syria’s economic recovery and reconstruction, and continuing to enforce them in light of the Assad regime’s departure would be both inhumane and unstrategic.

“Syria sanctions were originally imposed to target the Assad regime and hold it accountable for its crimes; now that Assad is gone, their purpose has been fulfilled, and maintaining sanctions would disproportionately harm Syrian civilians and obstruct their ability to rebuild their lives and communities,” said Sameer Sabounji, staff attorney and policy officer at ACS.

### **The campaign aims to:**

- Advocate for the immediate issuance of additional, expanded general licenses, in addition to a broad export license exception, to enable critical aid flows and facilitate economic recovery.
- Advocate for the immediate revocation of prohibitions against new investments in Syria, the export or supply of services to Syria by U.S. persons, and the temporary suspension or waiver of Caesar Act sanctions.
- Raise awareness about the urgent need to rebuild critical infrastructure and housing in Syria, restore basic services like electricity, revive economic activity, and facilitate displaced Syrians' safe, voluntary, and dignified return.
- Work with various private and public actors to encourage involvement in Syria’s recovery and engage with policymakers, diplomats, international organizations, and other stakeholders to coordinate and harmonize efforts for sanctions relief.
- Achieve the gradual lifting of all sanctions on Syria, including Syria’s designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.

“This is a collaborative effort, and we are proud to work alongside many organizations to ensure the voices of Syrians are heard. Importantly, many Syrian Americans are eager to contribute to Syria’s economic recovery but are blocked from doing so by U.S. sanctions. Together, we seek to create a pathway for recovery, stability, and hope in Syria,” added Wa’el Alzayat, national director of ACS.

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