



ايقار

مركز الحوار السوري

Syrian Dialogue Center

Achievements Report 2017





Introduction

The "Syrian Dialogue Centre - SDC" is a Syrian civil society organization which aims to inspire and activate the dialogue regarding important issues to the Syrian people. Seeking to strengthen relations, enhance cooperation and coordination between Syrians.

SDC started its work through the first consultative symposium regarding Syrian affairs in the first quarter of the year 1435H -2015 AD. That was followed by four consultative symposiums during the years of 1435H -2015 to 1436H -2016 when SDC establishment has been announced as a response to the demands of the broad spectrum of active figures and institutions involved in the previous symposiums during the year of 2016.

SDC has two programs, **the Political Dialogue Program** and **the society Dialogue Program**.

Vision

To be a trustworthy home for Syrian dialogue and a pioneering model for promoting a culture of dialogue.

Mission

To initiate constructive dialogue that enables the Syrians to find practical solutions to face their common challenges, achieving integration, coexistence and rationalization of national decision-making.

Values

- Professionalism in the tools of dialogue and its ethics commitment .A professional commitment to the ethics, tools, and processes of dialogue
- Excellence in identifying and facing challenges
- Prioritizing the national interest over any factious or external affiliation
- Understanding and accommodating diverse opinions and respecting all viewpoints



THE "POLITICAL DIALOGUE PROGRAM"

The "political dialogue program" aims to promote the culture of dialogue and confidence-building between Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces. Where SDC seeks to contribute in achieving consensus regarding strategic political issues. It also tries to bring the views of them closer together in order to come out with common positions regarding the political developments.

The "Political Dialogue Program" includes three "dialogue routes" and a training route as following:

- 1 The "Coexistence" dialogue route:** It aims to promote and build the general national dialogue.
- 2 The "Cohesion" dialogue route:** It is intended to promote dialogue between specific and similar categories and specializations.
- 3 The "Detector" dialogue route:** a periodic symposium aims to discover the hidden aspects of political issues, and then implementing dialogue in order to come out with common and general recommendations regarding them. Therefore, SDC works on preparing a dialogue platform which brings together experts and specialists from interested parties, researchers and politicians in order to discuss the latest developments in the political arena. The "Detector dialogue route" is being implemented in partnership with "Strategy watch" and "Omran Centre for Strategic Studies", where the partner centres prepare highly professional "position assessment papers" to study the issues supposed to be discussed in the "Detector dialogue route" in order to enrich the debate in the symposiums and come up with more accurate and comprehensive insights.



THE SOCIETY DIALOGUE PROGRAM

The Society Dialogue Program aims to take the initiative in order to restore the vitality and the well-being of the Syrian society after decades of the tyranny of authority in general. Hence, in particular, it aims to discuss the community reactions caused by the Syrian Revolution in order to contribute in reforming what can be reformed. It also aims to enhance the culture of society work, and to contribute in strengthening of society, opening prospects for it, mobilizing its latent self-potential, and activating of institutions or individuals so that they will be self - motivated. Furthermore, it works to create a culture that highly appreciates the value of the community with consolidation of its centralization, and trusts its capacity and energies.

The social dialogue program includes two dialogue routes and a training route as following:

- 1 "Building" route dialogue:** SDC disseminates the thought and the culture of the society and promotes the centrality of society and the standards of its health and vitality.
- 2 "Reform" route dialogue:** SDC practically monitors the urgent societal phenomenons resulting from the repercussions of the Revolution, the legacy of "Al Baath party" rule, or the phenomenons expected to occur which need to be raised and highlighted via activating appropriate dialogue activities between concerned stakeholders.
- 3 Route (training):** consists of two aspects, the first is a skilful aspect that cares about the skills support the work of SDC in general. And the second is an objective aspect deals with topics that enhance the capabilities of the social interlocutors.

Activities of 2017

In the year of 2017, the Syrian Dialogue Centre held 16 events in addition to participating in the implementation of the "National Dialogue" project, the activities were distributed between the political dialogue program and the social dialogue program, as follows:



A photograph of a modern conference room. The room features a large U-shaped white table surrounded by black chairs. In the background, there is a large projection screen and two large black monitors on the walls. The ceiling has recessed lighting. A teal circular graphic is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the word "ACTIVITIES" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

ACTIVITIES



A symposium

Organization of the Syrian society in Turkey between reality and hope

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
4	18	Reform	The Society Dialogue	İstanbul	10 Rajab 1438 H - 7 April 2017AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to discuss the situation of the Syrian society in Turkey and the need to arrange its affairs and to serve the Syrians internally, and externally towards the Turkish authorities and their participation in the decision-making of the Syrians in Turkey.

Highlights

- The situation of the Syrians in Turkey and their needs, the effects of the absence of their unified representation, and mechanisms for representing the vital aspects of the Syrians
- The perceptions of the organization of the Syrian society as visions, objectives and mechanisms, and the role of civil society institutions in organizing and making its decisions
- The prospects of organizing the society in the common interest with the Turks and what are the potential opportunities that can be invested

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

- The importance of studying existing experiences and understanding their aspects of success and weaknesses
- Putting several initial perceptions regarding the mechanisms of building the society and its ability to accommodate the Syrians and their institutions within them
- The need to strengthen the existing specialized references / institutions to be a guiding force for organizing the Syrian society.



A symposium

Syrian revolution in its sixth year: Multiplicity of parties to the conflict and the arts of its administration

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
6	30	Detector	The political dialogue	Istanbul	11 Rajab 1438 H - 8 April 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

- The symposium aimed to introduce the participants to the nature of the "conflict" that is taking place in Syria and the stage it reached in order to discuss the available options for the Revolution and Opposition Forces to deal with it.
- The most prominent axes:
 - Discussion of the features transformation related to the pattern of the conflict to know the directions, limbs, route patterns, and determine the nature of the stage which have been reached
 - Identifying the stakeholders and their interactions.
 - Conflict management and revolution options scenarios.

Highlights

-The Revolution and Opposition forces need to understand the nature of the conflict and the interests of the parties involved in it.
Reminding the importance of coordinating plans and positions between the Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces.
Emphasizing on the importance of integrating the Revolution and Opposition Forces under one military and political coordination body, which has a positive effect in enhancing the ability of the Revolution and Opposition Forces to manage the conflict effectively according to their interests.



A symposium

After Khan Sheikhoun and Alshuairat: The military shifts and the future of the Revolution Factions

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3	30	Detector	The political dialogue	A virtual meeting	10 Shaban 1438 H - 6 May 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to study the changes that followed the chemical attack on "Khan Sheikun" town and the change in the position of the American administration and the rest of the international players in the Syrian issue. And understand the nature of the role of the Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces to deal with these variables

Highlights:

- The direction of the new American administration towards engaging in securing its oil interests in Syria and Iraq.
- The shift of Russian policy towards diplomacy aiming to legitimiz its presence in Syria
- Iran's attempts to impose itself by increasing its forces on the ground
- The difficulties faced by Turkey under these transformations

Highlights

The necessity of engaging the main factions of the revolution in a comprehensive reform project

- Gradual transformation into national army based on military doctrine and professional hierarchy.
- The need to take decisive positions against the forces of terror, extremism and radicalism
- Taking all means to prevent legitimization of the Iranian role in Syria



A symposium

Toward the development and implementation of the Empowering project

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3	30	Coexistence	The political dialogue	A virtual meeting	2 Ramadan 1438 H- 28 May 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The aim of the symposium was to discover the views of the participants on the development of the "Empowering" project in the light of the changes that took place during the past two years, in addition to the possibility of implementing the "Empowering of the Revolution" project or its ideas in the light of current developments

Highlights

- Introducing the project in its primary form with its principles, vision and general orientations
- Quick lights on its route and mechanisms of implementation.
- The most important changes that took place in the Syrian arena after the completion of writing the "Empowering project"
- Brief presentation on measuring public opinion towards Empowering ideas and options in two liberated areas: Idlib and Eastern Ghouta

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

- The importance of a comprehensive vision of the Syrian revolution.
- The need for sharing roles among the actors according to the principle of specialization and professionalism.
- The sensitivity of the stage and the need to expedite the rescue of what can be saved before the sinking of the revolution ship.



A symposium

The axis of consensus and international differences in dealing with the Syrian crisis

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3	25	Detector	The political dialogue	A virtual meeting	10 Ramadan 1438 H - 5 June 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to discuss the international points of consensus on the Syrian issue and points of disagreement in order to uncover the potential opportunities and identify the potential risks and then try to employ and invest the current status to preserve the gains of the revolution and reduce its losses.

Highlights

- The axes of consensus between the various parties involved in the international conflict.
 - Presenting the differences between international players.
- Highlights of outputs and recommendations:
- The importance of exploiting the international and regional actors consensus by Revolution Forces.
 - The need to exploit opportunities via benefitting from their contradictions for the interest of the Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces.



A symposium

Potential risks of the Gulf crisis on the Syrian issue and the mechanisms to address them

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3	20	Detector	The political dialogue	A virtual meeting	18 Shawwal 1438 H - 12 July 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to study the effects of the Gulf crisis on the Syrian issue

Highlights

Review of the expected effects of the Gulf crisis on the Syrian issue.

- Presentation of mechanisms to deal with this crisis by the institutions of the Syrian Revolution.
- Proposal to form teams to monitor future transformations and develop practical strategies to deal with them.

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

- Formation of a political and media discourse that avoids the revolution of conflicts
- Accommodating the forces of moderation within the official institutions of the opposition
- The need for a solid political-military-civilian bloc for the forces of the revolution and the opposition

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

The symposium - early - expected the implications of the Gulf crisis regarding the gradual abandonment of the Gulf forces supporting the Revolution after the intensification of the inter-conflict. And the fade out of the voice of some regional countries as a result of changing balance of the conflict related to the demands of the Syrian regime departure.



Training course

Society work before and after the modern state

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
5	20	Training	The Society Dialogue	Istanbul	1 Shawwal 1438 H - 15 July 2017 AD

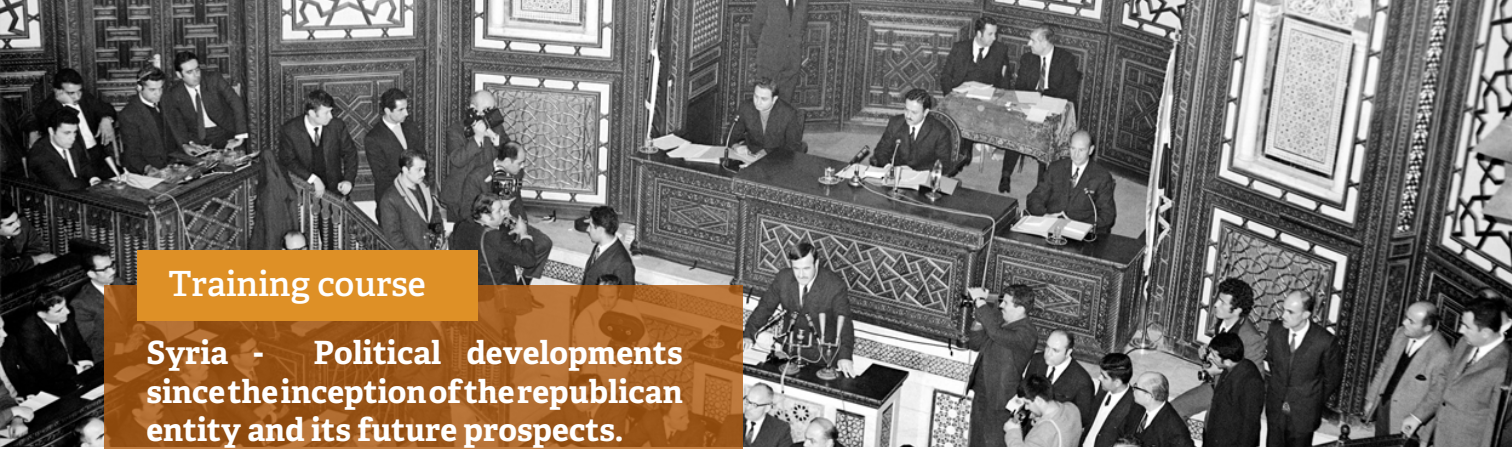
The goal of the activity:

The aim of the course was to strengthen the culture and social thought, to raise awareness about the issues of society building among the leaders of the institutions and their employees, and to raise awareness about the need to prevent the state dominating the institutions of society.

Highlights

Profound structural changes that occurred in society after the emergence of the modern state.

- A general definition of society before the modern state model and its main features, and the mechanism of its self-managing.
- The role of civil society organizations in the process of society building in Syria.



Training course

Syria - Political developments since the inception of the republican entity and its future prospects.

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
12	20	Training	The political dialogue	Istanbul	16-17 Dhu al-Qadah, 1438 H - 8-9 August 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The aim of the course was to increase the awareness of the political staff and politicians about the development of the republican entity in Syria to make political and national decisions with a good recall of the republican system in Syria

Highlights

- Review the historical stages of the emergence of the Syrian republican entity.
- Problems raised after the emergence of the republican entity such as demarcation of borders and artificial identities.
- The policies adopted by various international powers based on "empowering minorities".



A symposium

International deliberations to overcome the "Bashar al-Assad" complex and the risks of the national transformation project absence

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3.5	30	Finder	The political dialogue	Istanbul	15 Dhu al-Qa'dah, 1438 H- 7 August 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to study international deliberations related to Bashar al-Assad and what is going on in the corridors of diplomacy towards this issue in order to reach a comprehensive view regarding the current situation, directing the revolutionary bodies to discuss strategies in order to invest conflict to preserve the gains of the Revolution.

Highlights

- Presenting of the pressing questions that revolve around the central point in the equation of the Syrian conflict represented by the "Bashar Assad's complex"
- Analysing the different dimensions of the "Assad complex" of its different axes
- Studying the attempts made to overcome the "Bashar Assad's complex" by rehabilitating the system and extending cooperation, which all failed

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

- Adopting a national transition program outside of the stalled diplomatic routes in Geneva and Astana
- The need to create professional institutions and bodies capable of acquiring legitimacy
- The use of international conflicts in this regard, which helps Revolution and Opposition forces to achieve some political and military gains.

Dialogue Workshop

Issues and concerns of Syrian women in Turkey

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3	10	Reform	The Society Dialogue	Istanbul	25 Dhu al-Hijjah 1438 H - 16 September 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The workshop aimed to define the major issues facing the Syrian women in Turkey and arranging them so that the outputs and recommendations of the workshop contribute to preparing the next implementation plan for SDC to be addressed through specialized seminars or training programs.

Highlights

The status of Syrian women in Turkey in terms of geographical distribution, level of education, social status and the most important statistics that can constitute an input to understand the current reality and its challenges

- Brainstorming to present the issues facing Syrian women as monitored by the studies or by civil society institutions serving Syrian women in Turkey
- Arranging the issues drawn from previous axes according to priority and importance, and preparing practical scenarios regarding the axes and mechanisms to address the related issues.



A symposium

Specialized Symposium: Syrian Youth Economic Incubators between reality and challenge

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
5	15	Reform	The Society Dialogue	Istanbul	3 Muharram 1439 H - 23 September 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of the economic conditions of the youth and their problems in the labour market at home and in Turkey, to try finding practical solutions to help solve these problems or to mitigate their effects temporarily, and to contribute in establishment of an economic infrastructure for Syria.

Highlights

- The role of the Syrian organizations in Turkey in employing of Syrians
- The role of training organizations and free platforms in employing of Syrians
- Prospects for activating SMEs and their significant role in supporting national economies.
- Economic projects and the possibility of establishing and activating them in order to sponsor the pioneer projects for Syrian youth.

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

- The importance of studying the subject extensively for its importance in the current circumstances
- Call for integration and coordination of efforts between civil society organizations, training institutions, economic facilities, Syrian businessmen and interested Turkish parties in order to advance in the realization of the ideas and theses of the workshop.



A symposium

The impact of the decline of the American role in strengthening the Russian-Iranian domination of Syria

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3	20	Detector	The Political Dialogue	Istanbul	1 Safar 1439 H - 21 October 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to study the impact of the declined American role in enhancing the Russian-Iranian domination of Syria from the political and field aspects, in addition to discussing the appropriate position of the Revolution and Opposition forces under the current difficult circumstance to protect the Revolution ship from drowning.

Highlights

- A presentation of the features of the declined American role in favour of the Russian-Iranian axis and the changes are taking place politically and on the field.
- Presentation and study of the local military and field conditions in Deir Al-Zour governorate and the north of Syria.

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

- Using accounting tools to delegitimize the regime Legitimacy.
- Working on producing a new charter for the Revolution as required by the current stage.
- Focusing on a number of issues that could have regional and international support.
- Rejection of any role for Bashar al-Assad in the transitional period with considering that as a red line which is never be exceeded.
- Refrain from building static positions, meanwhile, abandon constants which are based on fragile international consensus.



Training Workshop

Toward rationalizing dialogue within the Islamic spectrum

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
4	25	Cohesion	The political Dialogue	Istanbul	29 Safar 1439 H - 21 November 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The workshop aimed to correct the dialogue within the "Islamic spectrum" in order to identify the shortcomings and weaknesses at the personal and societal levels and to develop solutions to them, in addition to explore the nature of dialogue within this group for the combination of bases that push towards rationalization and development of Islamic - Islamic dialogue in order to take the national responsibilities and avoiding the conflict.

Highlights

Discussing how the "Islamic-Islamic dialogue" should be as a basis for the workshop.

- Researching the flaws and weaknesses in the "Islamic-Islamic dialogue" on the personal and societal level
- Classifying of the problems of the Islamic-Islamic dialogue and then developing solutions and recommendations for each of them.



A symposium

Challenges of Constitutional Reform

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3.5	17	Finder	The Political Dialogue	A virtual meeting	8 Rabi al-awwal 1439 H - 26 November 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to highlight the major changes taking place in the process of negotiating with the regime starting with "Geneva 4" and its alignment with the Russian plan instead of adopting the first Geneva Accord as the basis for the formation of the Riyadh 2 delegation.

Highlights

- The major changes in the process of negotiating with the regime beginning with "Geneva 4"
- Scenarios for constitutional reform at the negotiating table, and their respective implications.
- Presenting a range of mechanisms to invest "Geneva 8"

Highlights of outputs and recommendations:

- Proposing the constitution of 1950 AD to be the basis for starting the constitutional reform, as the legitimate constitution produced by the Syrians through an elected constituent assembly.
- The importance to note that the main problem in Syria is not in the constitution as much as it relates to the mechanisms and guarantees of its application and protection.
 - The need to insist on a road map emanated from the first Geneva Agreement.



Youth Religious Workshop

"The impact of war conditions on the nature of religiosity among Syrians youth"

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
4	15	Reform	The Society Dialogue	Istanbul	14 Rabi al-awwal 1439 H - 26 December 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The workshop aimed to study the impact of the war in Syria on the nature of religiosity among young people and monitor their changes, in addition to studying the abuse of Syrian youth with the religious discourse and the extent of their interaction with it.

Highlights

- Discussing the nature of the changes in religiosity among Syrian youth.
- Researching the causes of these changes.
- Discussing a number of solutions to keep pace with these variables and reduce their negative effects while investing positive aspects in them



A symposium

Challenges of Constitutional Reform

hours	Participants	Route	Program	Place	Date
3.5	20	Detector	The Political Dialogue	A virtual meeting	2 Rabi ath-thani 1439 H - 20 December 2017 AD

The goal of the activity:

The symposium aimed to increase the awareness of staffs and political elites about the importance of the security issue and its reform in the light of the current negotiations, in addition to highlight on the weakness of the revolutionary activists which led to the political and strategic weakness of the Syrian Revolution.

Highlights

- The challenges of security reform in Syria in the light of the negotiations
- Security changes in Syria.
- Discussion of dealing with the security issue at the local, regional and international level.
- Highlights of outputs and recommendations:
- The importance of focusing on common intersections of the security issue with the regional countries in the political revolutionary discourse.
- Linking the security issue with the elimination of cross-border militias.
- Focusing on the relationship between the regime and the terrorist organizations. And clarifying that the regime was the real reason behind their exist in order to emphasize that the regime is the only option for the international community, in particular with regard to the security issue.

" The National Dialogue" project

The "National Dialogue" project is one of the "Coexistence route" projects under the political dialogue program of SDC. The project aims to enhance and build the national dialogue according to organized and studied steps depending on study the common points / issues between different parties and seeking to develop them, and searching for disputed points and studying the mechanism of their management and the coexistence with them.



Project Objective:

The project aims to build objective consensus between the various components of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces in order to agree on the foundations of the new social contract between the Syrians.

The implementing entities:

The Syrian Dialogue Centre (SDC) and "civilians for justice and peace" organization.



Sponsor:

The Consultation Forum.

The phases that have been implemented in the project:

1. Research phase

SDC has conducted a theoretical research study that examined and analysed the political discourses / ideologies of 62 bodies and entities belong to Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces in various disciplines: political, military and civilian, regarding 47 topics which represent the basis of the expected social contract whilst "civilians for justice and peace" organization has conducted a survey included 1700 questionnaires, consequently, the two studies were combined into a summary of their results.



1. Visits phase:

The project and the related studies were presented to the various forces, parties and institutions in the field. The majority of the forces and institutions have commended the exerted effort in the project and gave their different recommendations for follow-up.

Duration of implementing the two previous phases:

The two previous mentioned phases were implemented within around 10 months. Notably, the project will continue in 2018 via implementing detailed dialogue workshops, which will hopefully lead to broad consensus and participatory mechanisms in building the desired Syrian future.

A brief table of the Center's activities

No.	Activity name	Dialogue program	Hijri date	Gregoryen date
1	Organization of the Syrian society in Turkey between reality and hope	Society	10 Rajab 1438 H	7 April 2017 AD
2	Syrian Revolution in its sixth year: Multiplicity of parties to the conflict and the arts of its administration	Political	11 Rajab 1438 H	8 April 2017 AD
3	After Khan Sheikhoun and Alshuairat: The military shifts and the future of the Revolution Factions.	Political	10 Shaban 1438 H	6 May 2017 AD
4	Toward the development and implementation of the Empowering project	Political	2 Ramadan 1438 H	28 May 2017 AD
5	The axis of consensus and international differences in dealing with the Syrian crisis	Political	10 Ramadan 1438 H	5 June 2017 AD
6	Potential risks of the Gulf crisis on the Syrian issue and the mechanisms to address them	Political	18 Shawwal 1438 H	12 July 2017 AD
7	Training course: Society work before and after the modern state	Society	1 Shawwal 1438 H	15 July 2017 AD
8	Syria: Political development since the inception of the republican entity and its future prospects	Political	16-17 Dhu al-Qadah 1438 H	8-9 August 2017
9	International deliberations to overcome the "Bashar al-Assad" complex and the risks of the national transformation project absence	Political	15 Dhu al-Qadah 1438 H	7 August 2017 AD
10	Dialogue Workshop: Issues and concerns of Syrian women in Turkey	Society	25 Dhu al-Hijjah 1438 H	16 September 2017 AD
11	Specialized Symposium: Syrian Youth Economic Incubators between reality and challenge.	Society	3 Muharram 1439 H	23 September 2017 AD
12	The impact of the decline of American role in strengthening the Russian-Iranian domination of Syria	Political	1 Safar 1439 H	21 October 2017 AD
13	Training Workshop: Toward rationalizing dialogue within the Islamic spectrum	Political	29 Safar 1439 H	18 November 2017 AD
14	Challenges of Constitutional Reform	Political	8 Rabi al-awwal 1439 H	26 November 2017 AD
15	Youth Religious Workshop: "The impact of war conditions on the nature of religiosity among Syrians youth"	Society	14 Rabi al-awwal 1439 H	2 December 2017 AD
16	The challenges of security reform	Political	2 Rabi ath-thani 1439 H	20 December 2017 AD
17	Participation in the implementation of the "National Dialogue" project	Political	Extended during 1438-1439 H	Extended during 2017 AD



**DIALOGUE
BUILDS
BRIDGES**



الحوار

مركز الحوار السوري
Syrian Dialogue Center

   sydialogue

 www.sydialogue.org

 contact@sydialogue.org

