



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH

Advisory Council on Youth concerned with the escalating humanitarian crisis in Syria

Over the last week, young people in the neighboring countries of the Council of Europe have been and continue to be put at risk; their human rights have been and continue to be severely violated.

The Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) expresses its extreme concern about the reported increased military operations, in the last few weeks, in the north-east region of Syria. It's been nine years since the start of the conflicts and young people continue to suffer from one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time.

The Syrian conflicts has created one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time. Last week the UN human rights office, OHCHR, reported that seven civilians, including two women and a child, had been killed in the first two days of the Turkish operation. According to UNICEF, 80.000 children have been displaced because of the escalating violence. Civilians, the majority of which are already vulnerable groups - youth, children and women, have paid the highest price in this conflict because of the decisions of those in power that blatantly disregard international humanitarian and human rights law.

The CCJ joins the Council of Europe Secretary General, Marija Pejčinović Burić in expressing its concern with the humanitarian crisis in Syria. The CCJ considers this situation to be a serious violation of human rights which affects the lives of young people living in the wider region.

Member states cannot override responsibilities to protect civilians. International humanitarian law needs to be fully respected and human rights protected. It is a moral obligation, and shared responsibility for the international community to support and safeguard young people's lives and their rights in the affected area and in wider Europe.

We share the vision for their common future that protects young people, alleviates suffering, prevents further instability, addresses the root causes of the plural conflict and forges, at long last, a credible negotiated solution.

It is our duty, as young people, to stand up and work for a stable, peaceful environment for other youngsters, both within and beyond the borders of Europe. Strengthened international support is urgently required towards finding a political solution.

The CCJ demands that an end is put to this violence and that stability is promoted and achieved in the whole region. Mutual respect, dialogue and social cohesion are required in order to build a peaceful society.

The Advisory Council is in unity and solidarity with those young people whose lives are at risk and whose demands for peace are being silenced.

The opinions expressed in this statement are those of the Advisory Council on Youth and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Council of Europe or its member states.