

# LIVING DIVERSITY: LESSONS LEARNED FOR SYRIA

## A STATEMENT BY **SUHA ALKASIR**

Hello!

First of all, I would like to thank the European Center for Kurdish Studies for inviting us, as members of The Syrian Women's Political Movement, to participate in this study trip.

For me personally, this trip was very important, because in Syria we have many language groups, and there is a kind of distance between us and there is no real harmony between us because of the regime in Syria. I wish and hope that in the future these languages will be official languages, and they will be taught in schools, and that individuals will be able to choose the language that suits them, and that they will be able to use their language in school and official offices.

On the other hand, the study tour was very important to us, as we were able to learn about the experience here in South Tyrol, and to know the suffering they faced and the experiences they went through. And we learned a lot from that.

Today, I see that the right of veto used by the three language groups is special, and I hope that we will also have the right to use the veto in Parliament in the future.

I have one note, I wish we had met more Syrian people. We met one person, and I did not feel that we learned enough from this person, because this person focuses on work in his life. I had hoped to meet Syrian men and women, to learn more from them and to know their opinion and thoughts on the South Tyrol experience.

The other point is related to female representation, and the comments we heard were, "We don't know how to motivate women to participate." I really don't know, but if a developed country like Italy doesn't know how to motivate women, I think that would be a problem. I hope we can overcome this problem in the future.