

# LIVING DIVERSITY: LESSONS LEARNED FOR SYRIA

## A STATEMENT BY **RAGHDA ZAIDAN**

The most important thing I would say is that the European Center for Kurdish Studies deserves a lot of thanks. This was not the first trip that we benefited from. There were many activities, and every event and trip we participated in organized by the center, there was a new and very important addition.

This trip in particular made me think about different things and make some comparisons with the situation in Syria. Here, the situation was perhaps more difficult than it is in Syria at various stages. This is due to the level of violence, rejection and accumulated problems. Perhaps our main problem is tyranny, rather than the relationship between the groups. We do not have a history of violence between the different groups as much as there was authoritarian repression that everyone suffered from.

Therefore, I believe that we in Syria have the ability to overcome these matters in an easier way, but we must have the ability to overcome what tyranny has instilled in terms of separation, distance, and not knowing each other. The more we can get to know each other, the more it will help us and contribute to our knowledge of how to arrange our affairs well.

Every country has its own experience and peculiarities, as is the case in Syria. And I hope that all Syrians will be willing to cooperate with each other, and give each other their rights, and this is not a gift, but rather a kind with knowledge, and that I put myself in the position of others and know fully that just as I want to live with my dignity, live my identity, and speak my language, the other also has the same right.

Thank you again!