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**Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and
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Distinguished Chairperson/Members of Parliament

I am writing to you on behalf of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) in respect of the ongoing conflict in Syria.

As we approach the 10 year anniversary of the conflict, where millions of women, men, girls and boys have had to endure living for years in horrendous conditions, have been forced to move to camps or sites of last resort and all putting their lives remain on hold with a very uncertain future, we call on our colleagues in Parliament throughout the European Union to ensure that Governments and the entire international community continue to provide humanitarian assistance and endeavour to facilitate and support a peaceful and lasting resolution to the conflict.

The European community needs to ensure unhindered humanitarian access, particularly for aid workers, ensure that the UNHCR's principles for return of internationally displaced persons are applied and that funding is not only promised but available for humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction within Syria. We further call on support for the further renewal of UN Resolution 2533 extending the authorization of a mechanism that brings life-saving humanitarian aid into Syria.

To achieve a just and lasting peace, an inclusive political process is needed that is Syrian-led, represents all Syrians – including women – and commits to upholding their human rights. A lasting solution is dependent on European and global leaders prioritising an inclusive and stable Syria.

Charles Flanagan TD

Chairperson

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

Houses of the Oireachtas

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge