



North and East Syria Solidarity Inc
ABN 34 654 481 571
PO Box 848, Northcote VIC 3070
info@nessolidarity.org.au
www.nessolidarity.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release

17 March 2022

New group to provide aid and support to North and East Syria / Rojava

MELBOURNE: A newly-established Australian not-for-profit will provide humanitarian aid and other support to the people of North and East Syria, also known as Rojava.

North and East Syria Solidarity (NESS) plans to send much-needed medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and clinics in the region, hit hard by the covid-19 pandemic. NESS also intends to provide water-related aid, to address the effects of drought resulting from climate change and disruption to water flows of the major rivers by the Turkish regime. NESS will also work to build links between Australian communities, schools and cultural and environmental groups and their counterparts in Rojava.

“The people of North and East Syria showed real heroism by defeating ISIS territorially at great cost. They deserve the support of every Australian”, said Co-Chair Fionn Skiotis. “Rojava offers a beacon of hope in the Middle East – democratic, pluralist and focused on women’s rights and the environment. Its people now face huge challenges, including ongoing attacks by Turkey. We must not turn away in their hour of need”.

NESS will raise awareness in Australia about North and East Syria, including its unique political and social developments since July 2012 and its model for a democratic, pluralist and decentralised future for all of Syria. NESS will also press for recognition of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) as a legitimate political entity representing millions of Syrians from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.

“When the people of Rojava have done so much to make the world a safer and more tolerant place, it’s unacceptable for Australia and other developed nations to provide virtually no aid or support”, Mr Skiotis said. “We urge the Australian Government to recognise and work with AANES to provide necessary humanitarian assistance and diplomatic support.”

“On the happy occasion of this year’s *Newroz* (Kurdish New Year), we also invite all Australians to do the right thing and step forward to help our friends in North and East Syria”.

NESS plans to launch a range of aid, advocacy and awareness-raising projects during 2022.

- ENDS -

Further information: Fionn Skiotis, Co-Chair – mob: 0400 833 314 / info@nessolidarity.org.au

About North and East Syria Solidarity Inc: NESS Inc is incorporated as an association in Victoria (A01138601 / ABN: 34 654 481 571). Membership is free and open to all Australians who support its purposes – see www.nessolidarity.org.au.