

## Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES)

In the course of the so-called Arab Spring, the Assad regime withdrew from the predominantly Kurdish region in northern Syria following massive protests by the population in July 2012. The people established a democratic self-government in the region with the participation of all ethnic, religious and social forces. In doing so, they also had to fight the advancing so-called Islamic State (IS). The last cities and areas to be liberated from IS also joined the Democratic Self-Government of North and East Syria, which now includes a third of Syria's territory.

Society in North and East Syria is organized on a grassroots democratic basis. It guarantees equal rights and participation at all levels for women and is ecologically oriented. It represents a peace policy model for the people in the entire region.

## Low-intensity war and embargo

However, this peace policy model is under threat from all sides. The Turkish state repeatedly attacks the autonomous self-government with drones, mortars, tanks and missiles. In 2016, 2018 and 2019, it occupied entire strips of land in violation of international law, and further invasions are imminent. This is leading to renewed displacement in the region marked by IS terror. The Assad regime also wants to extend its authoritarian rule over the region of North and East Syria again. In addition, the continuing economic and political embargo imposed by the neighboring countries, as well as by the EU and the USA, is causing shortages of important goods and reconstruction aid and intends to further demoralize the population.

The work of the Women's Foundation is determined by these political factors. The aim is therefore to support the population, which is under massive threat from all sides, to offer concrete help and to stabilize everyday life.

## European Committee of WJAS

We are a small group of German and Kurdish women, some of whom have been active in internationalist structures for a long time. We are in continuous contact with the Women's Foundation in North and East Syria and actively support their diverse work. We share with them the goal of strengthening the role of women in political and social development both there and here.

We provide information on current developments and projects through events, exhibitions and information stands.

We are a foundation with a lot of women's power but no assets. We collect donations and grants to finance our work.

The projects are mainly financed by donations. The ultimate aim of setting up cooperatives, planned to sustainably secure the educational and health work of the Women's Foundation, has been slowed by inflation and the economic embargo.

Support our work with your donation!

## Donation account

Kurdistanhilfe e.V., Hamburg/Deutschland

Keyword: WJAS

Hamburger Sparkasse

IBAN: DE40 2005 0550 1049 2227 04

BIC: HASPADEHXXX

The donations are tax deductible in Germany. Please indicate the address clearly.

## Contact:

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Instagram: [instagram.com/wjas\\_int](https://instagram.com/wjas_int)

## Foundation of Free Woman in Syria



## Development work by women in the Democratic Self-Administration of North and East Syria/Rojava





## Foundation of Free Woman in Syria (WJAS)

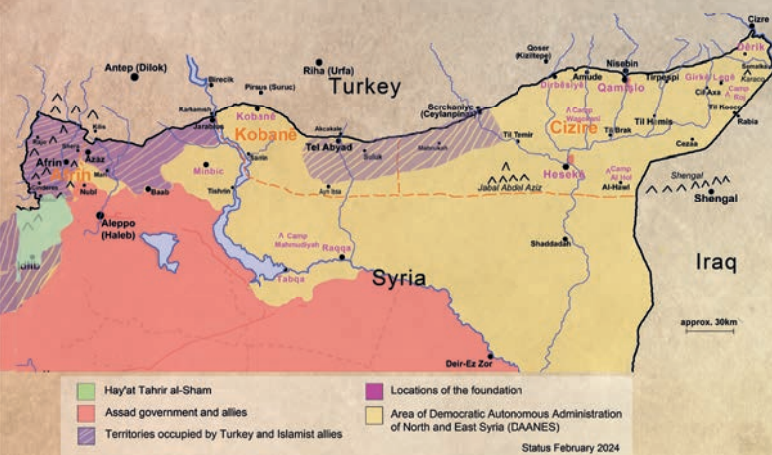
Founded in 2014 by Kurdish and Arab women, the „Weqfa Jina Azad a Sûri“ (WJAS) foundation is an independent social organization active in northern and eastern Syria. Its aim is to promote the autonomy of women and improve their living conditions by providing education, health and economic services.

The content of the work is based on surveys of women in the districts, villages and camps. Increased efforts are being made to expand educational opportunities and create jobs. WJAS strives for cooperation between all ethnic groups and religions, including within its own structures.

The approximately 150 employees of the foundation maintain facilities and educational centers. They work in Qamişlo, Girkê Legê, Dêrik, Chelaghe, Heseke, Dirbêsiyê, Raqqa, Tabqa, Kobanê, Minbic, Serin, as well as in the camps Al Hol, Roj, Waşokanî and Mahmudiyah.

The foundation's fields of work are very diverse and adapt flexibly to the local situation. In addition, WJAS continuously trains its employees, e.g. in dealing with trauma, safety, etc., so that they can work well and safely under the challenging conditions.

WJAS is also represented in various self-governing bodies and networks with various stakeholders. There is cooperation with local authorities, social and medical institutions locally and with various European organizations.



# Fields of work:

## Education

- ◆ Lectures on social topics, history, culture, ecology
- ◆ Literacy courses
- ◆ Language courses (Arabic, English, Kurdish)
- ◆ PC courses



- ◆ Music courses
- ◆ Sports courses

## Pedagogy

- ◆ Orphanage and kindergarten in Kobanê
- ◆ Further training for educators
- ◆ Kindergarten in Qamişlo, for the children of the foundation's employees



## Training/assistance to secure livelihoods

- ◆ Tailoring trade
- ◆ Knitting craft
- ◆ Hairdressing
- ◆ Arts and crafts
- ◆ Medical assistance

- ◆ Shop in Qamişlo for products from the sewing workshop



- ◆ Every participant is awarded a diploma

## Health

- ◆ Mobile clinic in Dêrik to care for the rural population
- ◆ Lorenzo Orsetti children's health station and gynecological care station in Kobanê
- ◆ Ari clinics: (free) basic healthcare for women and children in several locations
- ◆ Naturopathy centers (treatment and training) in Heseke and Dirbêsiyê
- ◆ Courses and lectures on gynaecological topics, children's diseases, general illnesses and first aid



## Offers in refugee camps

- ◆ Resocialization work with relatives of imprisoned IS members
- ◆ Further training courses on various topics, including diseases and naturopathy
- ◆ Training courses (tailoring)
- ◆ Work with children

## Networking and committee work/ representing the interests of women

- ◆ in the health committee
- ◆ at the school board
- ◆ at the Women's Council of North and East Syria
- ◆ in the Legal Committee
- ◆ in the assembly of the regional parliament



## Job creation

- ◆ Sewing workshops
- ◆ Cosmetic laser treatment



## More:

- ◆ Libraries in Qamişlo and Kobanê
- ◆ Designing public parks for women