About the SGBV Training

The SGBV course will provide in-depth training on sexual and gender-based violence, examining the practical situation on the ground and the needs within Syria against the backdrop of international human rights and humanitarian law and monitoring tools for human rights violations. For this purpose, the training will provide techniques and mechanisms of securely monitoring sexual and gender-based human rights violations to support on-going and future efforts of accountability in Syria.

The training will revolve around a scenario on sexual and gender-based violence in Syria, which will be constructed on the basis discussions with participants on day one of the training. This scenario will underpin the remainder of the training course, providing a practical set of facts through which to examine the various international and Syrian laws and standards that can help combat and address sexual and gender-based violence. These include international humanitarian and human rights instruments, and their national equivalents, to acquaint participants with the international and Syrian legal framework. Presenters will use these discussions to explore effective implementation before international and national criminal courts and other accountability mechanisms, especially on sexual and gender-based violence.

The training will examine the collection, evaluation and secure storage and dissemination of information, to provide participants with concrete and effective practical skills that can be useful in their daily work on the ground. Part of the agenda will focus on security awareness and the identification of trauma to enhance the ability of human rights activists and their interlocutors to work on sexual and gender-based violence safely and securely. The training will conclude with a session examining the scenario developed on day one, to consolidate the results of the course.

About NPWJ’s Justice and Accountability for Syria Program

No Peace Without Justice’s work on Syria aims at reducing the expectation and rewards of impunity and building a culture of accountability. The purpose is to equip citizens to demand accountability and justice for violations taking place on a daily basis for the past two and a half years, and at the same time equip the judiciary and legal profession to answer that demand. The mainstay of the project is a series of advocacy and training events, which are being held in Gaziantep, Turkey, near the Syrian border, with Syrian judges, lawyers and civil society activists from Syria who can bring the skills and (perhaps more importantly) aspirations for justice back to their work and their constituents inside Syria.

The training series focuses on specific themes and issues which are relevant to justice and accountability process, rather than provide generic training on human rights and transitional justice. Training has already been held on Chemical Weapons Awareness and Documentation and the one on Forensic Investigations of Cases of Political Violence and this one on Documentation of Cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. In 2014, training will cover crimes against children in armed conflict (including recruitment) or in which children are significant targets; crimes against women, including sexual and gender-based violence; independence of the judiciary; fair trial standards; International Humanitarian and Criminal Law principles of legislative drafting, not only for legal practitioners but also for civil society (constitution building, etc.); psychological-social impact of human rights documentation, including primary and secondary post-traumatic stress disorder; and human rights in refugee and IDP environments. Some of the issues may be dealt with in multiple events and some of the training programs will cover more than one issue. All trainings include some degree of risk awareness to address the most common physical, digital and psychological risks.

The long-term goal of this project is to promote democracy and human rights protection through incorporating justice and accountability in decision-making on conflict resolution and stability, development, and reconstructing planning in Syria. The project's strategic objective is to support Syrian civil society playing an active role on justice and accountability issues, including advocacy and documenting human rights violations, including receiving, gathering, collecting, collating, processing and securely storing information, documentation and materials and analyse it for the purpose of establishing what happened and reconstructing decision-making processes that resulted in violations international humanitarian and human rights law in Syria since March 2011.