



From the above Syrian organisations in the UK  
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To The Rt Hon. the Lord Beith      The Rt Hon. the Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL  
beithalanj@gmail.com      steeld@parliament.uk

5 April 2017

Dear Lord Beith and Lord Steel of Aikwood,

We write to you as President and Vice President of the National Liberal Club, to draw your attention to the Club's hosting of a conference on 5th and 6th April, organised by EuroSCE and entitled 'Syria: from destruction to reconstruction.'

Despite its academic veneer, and the participation of a number of your fellow peers (Lord Kinnock and Lord Desai have withdrawn their patronage) this is in fact a propaganda exercise for the Assad regime. We link here to a statement from Syrian organisations in the UK which clarifies its nature, and that of its main billed speakers.

<http://www.togetherforsyria.org.uk/2017/03/syrian-organisations-object-to-pro.html>

Two of the speakers are so close to the Assad regime as to be on the UK Government's Syria Sanctions list—Ali Haidar at No. 128, and Bishr Yazigi at No. 232:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/601796/syria.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/601796/syria.pdf)

We note that your Club has a proud history of association with the Liberal tradition, and that your members must sign a declaration that they will not use the club's facilities 'for any political activities adverse to liberalism'. We cannot imagine any purpose more adverse to liberalism than that of promoting a monstrous criminal regime such as the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is particularly obscene that the event should take place when the world is reeling with horror at the latest chemical attack by the regime on its own people. That the venue is of such a venerable tradition, in the heart of Westminster, gives an appearance of respectability to a rogue regime and its supporters.

We ask you to investigate how and why this conference was hosted by your Club, and ask how you intend to prevent further such gross lapses from the spirit of liberalism.

We would be grateful for a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mohammad Alhadj Ali, Syrian Welsh Society  
Mohammad Isreb, Syrian Association of Yorkshire  
Dr Fadel Moghrabi, Peace and Justice for Syria  
Yasmine Nahlawi, Rethink Rebuild Society, Manchester  
Sawsan Abou Zainedin, Syria Solidarity UK  
Dr Mohammad Tammo, Kurds House  
Mazen Ejbaei, Help 4Syria UK  
Dr. Abdullah Hanoun, Syrian Community in the South West