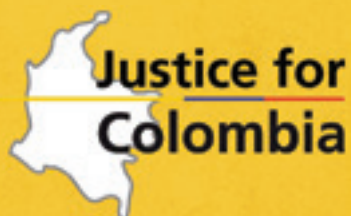


Peace in Colombia





PEACE

In 2012 peace talks began between the Colombian government and the FARC.
In October 2016 a referendum vote rejected the initial peace deal.
In December 2016 a final peace deal was ratified by the Colombian Congress.



ARMED CONFLICT

- In 1964 the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas were formed in response to deep rooted social inequality and extreme levels of political violence. The war was fought mostly in the poorest rural regions of Colombia.
- A failure to resolve the root social and political causes saw the FARC and other smaller groups at war with the Colombian state for more than half a century. A separate peace process between the government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) is still ongoing.
- The civil war was used as an excuse for the creation of state-backed paramilitary groups. The paramilitaries targeted rural communities, trade unionists, human rights activists and opposition politicians. They continue to act across Colombia.



War in Numbers:

† **More than 220,000 people killed.**

🚶 **7 million displaced.**

👤 **50,000 disappeared.**

At least 70% of these crimes carried out by the Colombian state and paramilitaries.

Key Points of the Peace Process

Political Participation

- FARC will fully demobilise and will form a new political party.
- FARC's new political party guaranteed ten seats in the Colombian congress for two electoral periods.
- 16 special congressional seats will be created for two electoral periods to represent regions most affected by the armed conflict.

Land and Drugs

- 3 million hectares of land to be distributed to landless peasant farmers.
- Crop substitution programmes will replace coca with alternative crops.

Truth and Justice

- A Truth Commission will be set-up.
- An Amnesty Law will apply to guerrillas and members of state security forces who have not committed War Crimes or crimes against humanity.
- Special courts will be created for guerrillas and members of state security forces who are not covered by the Amnesty Law.
- If the accused are considered to give the full truth they will receive alternative sentences of between 5 to 8 years that do not include prison. If they do not collaborate fully they can receive up to 20 years in prison.
- Sentences will consider restorative justice aimed at paying a service back to the community.



KEY INNOVATIONS

- Unprecedented involvement of victims in the talks - more than 3000 participated in national peace forums and 70 travelled to the negotiations to give testimony.
- Creation of a Gender Subcommittee to ensure a gender focus in the agreements - first of its kind in any peace process in the world.

THREAT TO PEACE: POLITICAL VIOLENCE CONTINUES

- Threats and assassinations of social and political activists continue - on average 100 killed every year during peace talks.
- Continued paramilitary activity in the country, regrouping in areas historically controlled by the FARC.
- Previous peace process in 1980s was followed by the wiping out of the Patriotic Union, the political party that was created as part of the agreement. Over 4,000 members were killed in an operation drawn up by the Colombian military and paramilitaries.

Justice for Colombia: ***Building support for peace and social justice since 2002***

- Named official advisors to the peace talks.
- Facilitated experience sharing between Colombian peace negotiators and politicians and trade unionists involved in the Good Friday Agreement.
- Campaigned for the participation of Colombian civil society in the talks.
- Built support for peace process in Britain, Ireland and the US. Organised historic peace events in the British and EU Parliaments addressed by representatives of the Colombian and FARC peace negotiating teams.



“JFC has played an essential role in helping us to share the experience from the Northern Ireland peace process at the negotiating table in Havana.”

Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Democratic Unionist Party

“The JFC peace campaign, in building international support for the Colombian peace process, has been central to Sinn Féin's involvement. We commend JFC's role in this important work.”

Sinn Féin MP, Paul Maskey

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