



President Iván Duque Márquez
 President of the Republic of Colombia
 Casa de Nariño
 Carrera 8, No. 7-26
 Bogota
 Colombia

C.C.
 Members of the CSIVI in representation of the Government of Colombia
 Members of the CSIVI in representation of FARC-EP
 UN Verification Mission in Colombia
 Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia
 Embassy of UK in Colombia
 Embassy of Ireland in Colombia
 Embassy of Colombia in UK
 Embassy of Colombia in Ireland

24 November 2021

Dear President,

As trade unions in Britain and Ireland, and on behalf of more than six million of our combined members, we wish to mark the fifth anniversary of Colombia's historic peace agreement by reaffirming our unconditional support for its full implementation. Through our work with Justice for Colombia, and standing alongside our trade union colleagues in Colombia, we have provided international support to the peace process since its initiation and are committed to doing so for as long as necessary.

We welcome the FARC's compliance with its obligations to the agreement, including both the laying down of its weapons, as was certified by the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, and its ongoing participation in the transitional justice system. The participation of former FARC combatants in Congress is another positive outcome of the agreement. In addition, we applaud the huge strides towards peace taken by the more than 13,000 accredited former FARC combatants in the reincorporation process.

However, we are concerned about the government's lack of progress in implementing the peace agreement. The failure to advance comprehensive rural reform means that many of the transformative benefits contained in the agreement have yet to reach the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Continued forced eradication of illicit crops by state forces, which appears to contravene the agreement's terms on voluntary substitution, is another major cause for concern.

The delays in enacting the 16 congressional seats for regions impacted by conflict are also highly regrettable and we hope that their belated introduction in 2022 will finally address the needs of these communities.

Furthermore, we are extremely alarmed by the violence that, according to national human rights organisations, has claimed the lives of over one thousand social leaders and close to 300 former FARC combatants since the agreement was signed. We share the UN's position that implementation of the peace agreement is the most effective means of tackling this violence. We ask that your government prioritise finalising the public policy for dismantling paramilitary-successor groups, as well as enacting protective measures for former combatants, the majority of whom now reside outside formal transition zones.

We condemn in the fullest terms the appalling police violence which killed 43 people, alongside widespread other human rights abuses, during National Strike protests earlier this year. We would also like to call for urgent action from your government to end Colombia's dire record as the world's most dangerous country for trade unionists, with 22 murdered between March 2020 and April 2021.

The Colombian peace process provides a global example that dialogue is the principal avenue towards resolution of armed conflict, but the consolidation of peace depends on both the current and future administrations fulfilling their constitutional duty to fully implement the agreement. We pledge to continue putting all our efforts into supporting everyone working towards peace in Colombia and to ensuring the international spotlight remains until a stable and lasting peace becomes a reality for the Colombian people.

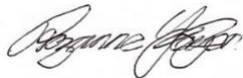
Signed:



Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, TUC



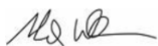
Kevin Callinan, President, ICTU and General Secretary, Forsa



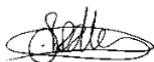
Rozanne Foyer, General Secretary, STUC



Ged Nichols, General Secretary, Accord



Mick Whelan, General Secretary, ASLEF



Sarah Woolley, General Secretary, BFAWU



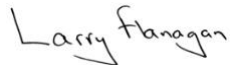
Roy Rickhuss, General Secretary, Community



Claire Sullivan, Director of Employment Relations and Union Services, CSP



Dave Ward, General Secretary, CWU



Larry Flanagan, General Secretary, EIS



Paul Fleming, General Secretary, Equity



Matt Wrack, General Secretary, FBU



Eoin Ronayne, Deputy General Secretary, Forsa



John Boyle, General Secretary, INTO



Gerry Murphy, Northern Secretary, INTO



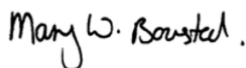
Horace Trubridge, General Secretary, MU



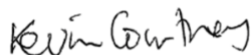
Patrick Roach, General Secretary, NASUWT



Mark Dickinson, General Secretary, Nautilus



Mary Boustead, Joint General Secretary, NEU



Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary, NEU



Michelle Stanistreet, General Secretary, NUJ



Mark Serwotka, General Secretary, PCS



Steve Gillan, General Secretary, POA



Michael Lynch, General Secretary, RMT



Clare Mellor, Chief Executive, Thompsons Solicitors



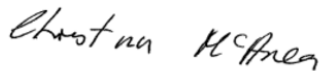
Manuel Cortes, General Secretary, TSSA



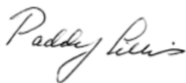
Dilwyn Roberts-Young, General Secretary, UCAC



Jo Grady, General Secretary, UCU



Christina McAnea, General Secretary, UNISON



Paddy Lillis, General Secretary, USDAW