

Houses of the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on Human Rights hearing:

European Union (EU) trade negotiations with Colombia: the human rights perspective

Recommendations to TDs and Senators

1. What TDs and Senators can do about the trade negotiation currently underway between the EU and Colombia:

Support the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and Irish MEPs' call for a suspension of the trade agreement negotiations until human and trade union rights concerns are effectively dealt with.

Call for a suspension of the trade negotiations until the EU:

- Takes into account the gravity of the human right situation in Colombia by evaluating the reports and taking on board the recommendations of the four United Nations Special Rapporteurs who have visited Colombia in 2009 (on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions; on the situation of human rights defenders; on the independence of judges and lawyers; and on indigenous people).
- Better evaluates the possible impact of the trade agreement on poverty, inequality particularly on small peasant farmers.
- Includes Colombian and European civil society effectively in its evaluations.

2. How TDs and Senators can support the Colombian and International campaign for the right to defend human rights

- 🌀 Sign-up to the campaign
- 🌀 Members of the Sub-Committee on human rights should call on the Department for Foreign Affairs (DFA) to prioritise monitoring of the situation faced by human rights defenders and the implementation of the EU guidelines on human rights defenders and periodically report back to the Sub-Committee.
- 🌀 Visit Colombia and present findings to DFA on the situation of human rights defenders in Colombia.
- 🌀 Nominate Colombian human rights defenders as candidates for the Font Line Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk and other existing awards.
- 🌀 Invite Colombian human rights defenders to address TDs and Senators.