Name of MP

Houses of Commons

House of Parliament Westminster

DATE:

Dear (name),

**Subject: Request for you to sign EDM 1660 on the Colombian Peace Process**

I do hope that you are keeping well in this pandemic.

I am writing to you as my MP to ask you to sign EDM 1660 on the “Colombian peace process” <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58289> .

Colombia singed a Peace Accord in 2016 and despite an initial rapid beginning to its implementation, this has slowed down considerably, and violence has increased in the rural areas and against human rights defenders. This fragile peace process deserves to be supported and one way in which you could help is by signing the Early Day Motion

**Below I have cut and pasted the text of EDM 1660, I do hope that you feel able to sign this:**

*That this House is concerned by the intensification of violence in rural areas in Colombia, with 76 massacres and a 65 per cent increase in armed conflict in 2020, and against human rights defenders there, with Colombian defenders representing 50 per cent of the global total killed in 2020, which threaten to undermine the peace process; notes that communities on the Pacific coast of Colombia are experiencing a humanitarian and environmental crisis; further notes that Indigenous Peoples in Alto Baudó and other communities in Choco are increasingly caught in crossfire between illegal armed groups who are expanding their territorial control, forcibly recruiting children, perpetrating sexual violence, using antipersonnel mines and creating an atmosphere of terror; is also disturbed by reports of illegal gold mining in the Rio Quito region involving armed groups, which is exacerbating violence and resulting in biodiversity destruction; is alarmed by the death threat received in February by CAJAR lawyer, Sebastian Felipe Escobar, who spoke to UK Parliamentarians at an on-line event in June 2020, as well as by serious threats directed at other human rights defenders in Colombia; and calls on the Government, further to its responsibility as the penholder on Colombia, to request the UN Security Council to create a Group of Experts with technical expertise on organised crime to examine the impact of the illegal armed groups in Colombia and provide technical advice, in order to strengthen the work of the UN Mission of Verification in Colombia.*

Yours sincerely,

(Name)

(Address)