Presidency of the Republic of Colombia
Interior Ministry of Colombia
Office of the Attorney General of Colombia
National Protection Unit

c.c.
British Embassy in Bogota
Colombian Embassy in London
CUT Trade Union Federation
FECODE Teachers' Federation

3 June 2025

As trade unions who collectively represent millions of workers in the UK and Ireland, we condemn recent threats and smears against executive committee members of the CUT trade union federation and the FECODE teacher federation in Colombia. Through our partnerships with the campaign organisation Justice for Colombia (JFC), our trade unions have long supported peace, human rights and social justice in the country.

According to a CUT statement on 22 April 2025, the trade unionists have been "the object of unfounded and slanderous smears that labelled them as 'guerrillas' over their legitimate support for the campaign of President Gustavo Petro. These accusations not only lack any basis but constitute a grave attack on their honour [and] dignity and, more worryingly still, put their physical safety and that of their families at risk."

Through JFC, we have built strong relations with several of the trade unionists affected. Those named are CUT executive members Lina Montilla Díaz, Carlos Enrique Rivas and Nelson Alarcón and FECODE executive members Martha Alfonso, María Eugenia Londoño and Miguel Ángel Pardo. Some of them have met our members on JFC delegations to Colombia, as guests at our own trade union conferences and in virtual meetings. We have also backed CUT and FECODE campaigns to achieve fairer conditions for workers.

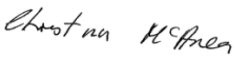
Your government has shown a clear commitment to working alongside trade unions to reduce inequality and build peace. The social reforms provide important improvements for millions of people and we hope the congress passes them into law. The Total Peace strategy, though it faces challenges, rightly prioritises dialogue as the means to end conflict.

However, ongoing violence towards trade unions is deeply concerning. Five FECODE affiliated teachers have been murdered in 2025, while two transport sector trade unionists have been killed in Cali since November. On 28 April, SINALTRAINAL food workers union member Walberto Quintero Medina was

killed in Cesar. Just five days before his murder, Walberto was a delegate at SINALTRAINAL's national assembly, at which JFC was an invited speaker.

Given the current situation of violence, the threats against our colleagues at the CUT and FECODE must be treated with urgency. The international community has welcomed your government's positive approach to peace and human rights and, as such, we ask that you ensure thorough investigations to identify those behind these aggressions and provide security guarantees for the trade unionists targeted and any others at risk.

Signed:



Christina McAnea, General Secretary, UNISON



Daniel Kebede, General Secretary, NEU



Rosa Crawford, Head of International, TUC



Sarah Woolley, General Secretary, BFAWU



Steve Gillan, General Secretary, POA



Gary Smith, General Secretary, GMB



Andrea Bradley, General Secretary, EIS



Matt Wrack, Acting General Secretary, NASUWT



Paul Fleming, General Secretary, Equity



Gawain Little, General Secretary, GFTU



Zita Holbourne, Joint National Chair, AUE