

The NASUWT supporting Colombian trade unionists through Justice for Colombia

Colombia is the world's most dangerous country for trade unionists. Although the historic 2016 peace agreement brought hope to millions of people, at least 35 teachers have been murdered in the last three years and many others have been threatened, forcibly displaced or harassed. Overall, more than 1,000 social activists have been murdered since the peace agreement was signed. As violence continues to impact workers, activists and communities, the Colombian government is failing to address the human rights crisis.

Even as they are being killed, members of the FECODE teachers' union, Colombia's largest trade union, have faced appalling stigmatisation from right-wing senators in the president's political party, who falsely accuse FECODE of seeking to indoctrinate children and harm the poor. The killings and smears come amid long-running FECODE mobilisations to improve conditions for workers and students in the public education system, which has suffered from decades of state underfunding and neglect.

The NASUWT has been <u>active in condemning the violence</u> and calling for trade union rights and human rights to be protected in Colombia. In December 2020, Education International <u>passed a resolution condemning the violence</u> and criticising the Colombian government's 'complicit silence'.

International pressure is vital to ensuring the Colombian government fulfils its obligations to the peace process and ends violence against trade unionists and activists. **That's why the NASUWT's support is so important to Justice for Colombia (JFC)**, the TUC's official campaign in support of trade unionism, human rights and peace in Colombia.

JFC would like to thank all NASUWT members for your fantastic support and solidarity for Colombian trade unionists and activists.

For more information on JFC's Colombian teachers campaign, please see the attached leaflet or go to: www.justiceforcolombia.org

To get in touch, write to: nick@justiceforcolombia.org