

OIDHACO welcomes the letter from MEPs to the presidential candidates in Colombia

Brussels, 7 May 2026. The International Office for Human Rights – Action Colombia (OIDHACO) welcomes the publication of the letter signed by MEPs from four political groups, addressed to the candidates in Colombia's presidential election, in which the European Parliament reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to building a stable, lasting and inclusive peace in the country.

In the letter, signed in Brussels on 7 May 2026, Members of the European Parliament stress the importance of the next government reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement, including its territorial, ethnic and gender-related aspects, as well as following up on the recommendations of the Truth Commission.

The European Parliament also emphasises the need to move towards negotiated solutions to the armed conflicts still ongoing in these territories, stressing that any negotiation process must be conducted in full compliance with international humanitarian law and with safeguards to ensure the safe participation of civil society.

The letter also expresses deep concern at the continuing killings and threats against social leaders, human rights defenders, community representatives and signatories to the peace agreement, and stresses that their effective protection is an essential prerequisite for democracy and peace-building.

At OIDHACO, we view this statement as a very significant political signal at a decisive moment for Colombia. **"We believe the European Parliament's commitment to peace and the protection of human rights defenders and community leaders is of fundamental importance,"** said Maïté Verheylewegen, President of OIDHACO.

She also pointed out that **"Colombian society continues to face the consequences of armed conflict, which lead to lockdowns, displacement, asylum, deaths, the recruitment of children and teenagers, suffering, hatred, and so on. The path to peace is not an easy one, but it is the only way; more war means more deaths"**.

OIDHACO reiterates its call for the next Colombian government to prioritise the full implementation of the 2016 Agreement; to strengthen forums for dialogue and negotiation by demanding that armed groups respect international humanitarian law; and adopt urgent and effective measures to guarantee the lives, safety and work of those who defend human and environmental rights, as well as those who lead social and peace-building processes in the territories. It also urges the new government to make progress in formulating and implementing public policies aimed at human security and the protection of life, ensuring continuity and strengthening processes of collective and territorial development, in constant dialogue with communities, community-led initiatives and social organisations.