

Join or support a European coalition of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working to improve human rights, promote democracy and the search for peace in COLOMBIA.

Who we are

The International Office for Human Rights - Action on Colombia (OIDHACO) is a network of more than 30 European CSOs (both development and human rights CSOs) dedicated to providing information, doing advocacy and networking at the European Union (EU) and United Nations (Geneva) level. OIDHACO seeks to contribute to the construction and strengthening of democracy, rule of law and peace with social justice in Colombia.

Some of our achievements

Since its creation in 1995, OIDHACO has contributed to putting the human rights situation in Colombia on the agenda of the EU (European Parliament, Commission, Council and Member states). OIDHACO influenced the position of the EU on "Plan Colombia", and succeeded in getting the EU to reaffirm the priority it gives to the search for a negotiated solution in Colombia and to distance itself from any military assistance to this country. OIDHACO has contributed to EU public statements on human rights in Colombia and has led high level public events to raise awareness within the principal EU institutions.

At the UN level, OIDHACO played an important part in the process which led to the creation of a local Office of the UNHCHR in Colombia. More recently, it played an active and acknowledged role in the success of the Universal Periodic Review of Colombia.

What we need

Since the enlargement of the EU, our network has remained limited to the "old member states". This situation restraints our legitimacy and our advocacy capacity since many decisions in the EU Council are taken on a consensus basis, with many of the new member states being reluctant to engage in actions or take positions to further protect human rights and promote democracy in Colombia.

In the medium term we hope to welcome new members or observers from the new member states. We hope these organisations may be able and interested in organising advocacy and awareness raising activities on Colombia.

In the short term, we would appreciate very much any kind of support in terms of organising meetings, inviting Colombian representatives who are travelling to Europe, sending on key messages proposed by OIDHACO to your governments, contacting MEPs from your country, etc.

If you are interested in our work but you think your organisation does not have the capacity at this stage to commit, we can maintain you informed by sending you our newsletter.

What we offer

- Expertise on the situation in Colombia and in advocacy work on Colombia at the EU/UN level.
- Speakers from OIDHACO or from Colombia if there is an opportunity to raise the issue in a public event in your country.
- Tools for advocacy work (briefings notes, policy papers, campaign tools...)
- Connection with Colombian and European CSOs networks working on Colombia
- A wide range of contacts in the EU institutions and the UN in Geneva, regarding the work on Colombia.

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