

Take Action: Two Days of Tweeting/Facebooking to say “No US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement!”

1. Update Your Facebook Status

Here is a sample message to cut and paste to your Facebook profile, but you can modify/personalize it however you want (Remember: Facebook has a 420 character limitation, this statement fits it). This statement also has a website at the end, which is key as we continue to build momentum and offer additional education to people about the FTA and why they want to oppose it, something which is too complex to put into a FB post, but the link will get them to the info they will want/need. When you post something like this to your wall on Facebook, it goes into the “news feed” for all of your friends, which means they get the information. It multiplies:

*I am appalled that the Obama Admin is preparing to send the dangerous US-Colombia FTA to the Congress for approval. Colombia is the #1 country for internally displaced persons. The FTA will worsen the lives of campesinos, Afro-Colombians, and indigenous persons . It lacks environmental, union, and human rights protections. Join me in taking action:
www.lawg.org/ftaresources*

2. Update the FB Walls for President Obama, your two U.S. Senators, and your U.S. Representative

You must first find President Obama, your Senators, and your Representative on Facebook. The easiest way to do this is to go to their official pages at www.whitehouse.gov or www.congress.gov There are links on each of their pages to their official Facebook profile. Go to their Facebook profile and hit the “like” button to become their “friend”. This will allow you to post comments on their walls. For security purposes, you cannot post a direct link, but you can usually comment on one of their existing links on their FB wall. Whatever the topic is, figure out a way to connect it to the US-Colombia FTA and comment away at your heart’s content. Tell them you are one of their constituents. Tell them if you voted for them in the past. Tell them that you won’t be voting for them against and will organize against them in the next election if they vote for this legislation. Ask them to put their vote “on the record”. Whatever is appropriate, respectful, but gets your point across. Be sure to tell them that you are a person of faith, if you are ordained, tell them that. Tell them you expect more from them. Here are some sample ideas. You can use #noColombiaFTA #voteno as some beginnings of hashtags for these tweets!

President Obama: I am so disappointed to see you change your mind and embrace the US-Colombia FTA. It is harmful and dangerous to the lives of millions of innocent Colombians. Please change your mind and do not send it to Congress.

Senator _____: As one of your constituents I ask that you vote no on the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. It is harmful and dangerous to the lives of millions of innocent Colombians. I am watching to see what you do.

Representative _____: I urge you to vote no on the US-Colombia FTA. It is complex legislation with too many loopholes that will allow continued destruction to people and land in Colombia. If you vote yes, you lose my vote, and the votes of many others.

3. Tweet to tell your friends about US-Colombia FTA



When you talk about the Colombia FTA use #NoColombiaFTA at the end of your tweets to build momentum. If you are participating in the fast, use #peacefast. Again, you can personalize however you'd like! Like Facebook, there is a website imbedded in this tweet to get people to our Colombia FTA page for more information!

Make this your Twitter Status (remember the character allowance in Twitter!)

*I pledge to help stop the dangerous U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement Want more info?
<http://bit.ly/k5mFPy> #NoColombiaFTA*

*****Follow the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship [@presbypeace](#) and LAWG's Colombia feed [@HRColumbia](#)**

4. Tweet @ Politicians

Tweet at President Obama: [@BarackObama](#)

Tweet at your two US Senators and US Representative (use the same method to find their Twitter name via www.congress.gov as you did for Facebook)

Examples:

@BarackObama Why are you sending the US-Colombia FTA to Congress? It will destroy lives and communities. Change direction! #NoColombiaFTA

@BarackObama You said “no” to the US-Colombia FTA in the election. Why did you change your mind? It is going to kill innocent people!

@YourSenator How will you vote on the US-Colombia FTA? I and thousands of others are watching. #NoColombiaFTA

The idea here it to think up as many creative tweets as possible and to just send them to the President, your Senators, and your Representative over and over and over again. Get friends to join you.

Note: This document was adapted from Presbyterian Peace Fellowship’s strategy modeled off of Rainforest Action Network, Social Media Strategy to get Palm Oil out of Girl Scout Cookies (www.ran.org).