

### **Graffiti threatens safety of Northern Ireland journalist Leona O'Neill**

The UK government was deeply concerned to hear reports of threats and intimidation against the journalist, Leona O'Neill, in February 2020 in Northern Ireland. We take all threats against journalists very seriously. The Police Service of Northern Ireland, which operates independently of government, works tirelessly to prevent crime and harm to individuals, protect the vulnerable and detect those who commit crime and bring them before the courts. Keeping people safe is their priority. Journalists play an essential role in our societies and must be able to carry out their work free from the fear of violence. We welcome the vocal response of the local community who have rejected those who would threaten and intimidate and have demonstrated their solidarity with Leona O'Neill.