José Luis Cipolletti,

Head Prosecutor, UFI n°1, Departamental Necochea

Public Prosecutor's Office of the Province of Buenos Aires

Avenida 75, 371, Necochea, PBA, CP: 7630 ARGENTINA

Dear Head Prosecutor,

I am writing to you from England. I am concerned to hear about the prosecution of **Pierina Nochetti** on charges of “aggravated damage”. She is alleged to have painted graffiti on a public wall with the question “Where is Tehuel?” **Pierina Nochetti** is one of many campaigning over the disappearance of a young trans man, Tehuel de la Torre, last seen on 11 March 2021 on his way to a job interview.

**Pierina Nochatti** is an artist, educator, mother of three children and the main provider for her family. She is also an employee of the local government, where she has already faced administrative reprisals for her activism during the 2022 Pride Parade. Noone else has been charged with painting graffiti on the same wall, which includes several hateful messages. I am concerned that she is being targeted for her activism in support of LGBTI+ rights, as well as for her gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. **Pierina Nochatti** is at greater risk of discrimination due to her identity.

Argentina is a party to various international human rights treaties that protect the right to freedom of expression. This includes the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the American Convention on Human Rights. **Restrictions to the right to freedom of expression need to be clearly established in law, and to be necessary and proportionate to a legitimate aim.** Charging someone for allegedly painting graffiti on a public wall seems to be an unnecessary and disproportionate sanction.

**I call on you to drop the charge of “aggravated damage” against Pierina Nochetti as it appears to be an unnecessary and disproportionate restriction on the right to freedom of expression.**

Yours sincerely,