



**Confederation of Free
Trade Unions of
Ukraine (KVPU)**



**All-Ukrainian Union
of Workers'
Solidarity "VOLYA"
(VOST "VOLYA")**



**Federation of
Trade Unions of
Ukraine**



**Independent and Self-
Governing Trade Union
"Solidarność"**

17.08.2022

**To: Sharan Burrow
the General Secretary of
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)**

Cc: ITUC affiliated organizations

Request for the expulsion of the FNPR from the ITUC

Dear Sharan Burrow,

Russia's assault on sovereign Ukraine began in 2014 with the annexation of the Crimea peninsula. Despite the general international discord and disdain for such actions by the Putin regime, its acolytes were left unscathed and allowed to sit at the tables of various international organisations and bodies. This was the case with the Russian Federation of Trade Unions (FNPR) led by Mikhail Shmakov, which openly supported the annexation of Crimea, humiliated Ukrainian trade unions and attempted to dominate other trade union organisations in the region.

This year, in February, open warfare was started again by Russia, raining fire upon and destroying not only the falsely contested eastern regions of Ukraine, but also the homes and lives of all Ukrainians throughout the country, forcing the displacement and migration of millions of its citizens, destroying homes, demolishing futures, killing many thousands of people in a blind fury of hatred and desire for destruction. Again, the FNPR, as a cog in Putin's war machine, has served him well with its full support expressed so openly in various statements full of hate speech, multiplying Russian war propaganda, spreading lies and threats against anyone who dares to oppose 'Russian peace'.

It is not the role of trade unions to engage militarily, but we must take our own stand, challenging injustice and opposing aggression. Ultimately, it is working people, trade union members, who pay the highest price for any war pipe dream of power-hungry dictators and their propagandists and supporters. But it is the role of trade unions to work for a peaceful world, to abide by the principles enshrined in the statutes of our international organisations seeking peace, security and protection for our members - but never at any cost. We should all have known better what the dangers of conniving

with the always authoritarian Russia are. We should all have known better how a policy of appeasement towards Putin would end.

There is no room for double standards. There is no place for warmongers in the ranks of the international labour movement. There is no bank to launder Russian blood money and no pipeline worth the lives of millions condemned to live in the shadow of Russian domination and die at the hands of various Putin henchmen, including the FNPR. We note that the FNPR was suspended from the ITUC due to an alleged violation of the principles enshrined in the ITUC Constitution. Since then, the FNPR has not changed its behaviour. On the contrary, it has maintained and further intensified its war rhetoric. Moreover, it has started the process of forcibly taking over Ukrainian trade unions on Ukrainian territory in violation of all standards.

Hereby, the undersigned organisations, affiliated with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), just prior to the 5th ITUC World Congress in Australia, formally request the ITUC and its member organisations to expel the FNPR from the ITUC.

In solidarity,

Mykhailo Volynets

Oleksandr Dzhulyk

Grygorii Osovyi

Piotr Duda

**Chairperson
of the Confederation
of Free Trade Unions
of Ukraine
(KVPU)**

**President
of All-Ukrainian
Union of Workers'
Solidarity "VOLYA"
(VOST "VOLYA")**

**President
of the Federation of
Trade Unions of
Ukraine
(FPU)**

**President
of the National Commission
of Independent and Self-
Governing Trade Union
"Solidarność"**