



Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU)

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To: Sharan Burrow,
the General Secretary of the ITUC,

Dear Sister Sharan Burrow,

On behalf of the members of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, I want to express gratitude to you for your support during the war in Ukraine.

As is known to the whole world, Russia viciously attacked Ukraine and began a full invasion from all sides. Ukrainians are now fighting for independence, freedom and democracy.

With great indignation, the Ukrainian trade union read the communiqué and statement of the FNPR in support of Putin's war in Ukraine.

We emphasize that this statement is written in the best traditions of Putin's propaganda, which the whole world heard again when the President of Russia declared war on Ukraine.

All those whom the FNPR called “Nazis and banderovtsy” are in fact ordinary workers, officials, in particular, medics, miners, and transport workers etc. The trade union members were among those who first met the occupier in Ukraine. Also, they continue to work at important enterprises, hospitals, transport and other objects under Russian bullets, air force attack, cruise missiles, and “GRAD” rockets.

We have not considered the FNPR a sister trade union for a long time and we remember their call for and support for the annexation of Crimea in 2014. It should be recalled that our Ukrainian independent trade unions were banned and their leaders were kidnapped, tortured and killed in the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

We emphasize that in Ukraine, Russia is grossly violating international humanitarian law: it attacks civilian facilities, infrastructure, hydroelectric power plants, thermal and nuclear power plants, hospitals, kindergartens and schools. The Chernobyl nuclear power plant was seized, and workers, members of the FPU and KVPU, were taken hostage. This is the threat of a global nuclear catastrophe. There is also a threat that Russia is attacking hydroelectric plants, which will be an instant catastrophe with thousands of victims.

We did not consider the FNPR a sister union, but now we cannot stay with them in one global organization. We demand the immediate exclusion of the FNPR from the ITUC in connection with the support of the war in Ukraine, support for the war crimes of the Russian leadership and complicity in the spread of criminal propaganda at the next meeting of the General Council of the ITUC.

In solidarity,
Mykhailo Volynets,
Chairperson of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU)