

RESOLUTION NO. 47: SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINIAN WORKERS AND PEOPLE

(Original version in English)

The 31st World Congress of Public Services International (PSI) Meeting in Geneva on 14 - 18 October 2023

PSI and the global labour movement condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the occupation of Ukrainian territory after 24 February 2022. The Russian occupation, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian army, and the continued bombing of people and essential infrastructures like energy companies and government institutions in Ukraine, have caused widespread harm. The WHO has noted 1147 attacks on health care facilities since February 2022. The war has caused extensive environmental damage, including the blowing up by Russian forces of the Kakhova hydroelectric power plant, and the mining of large parts of the occupied territories. The Russian occupation and mining of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant heightens the threat of nuclear disaster, with consequences far beyond the borders of Ukraine. The Russian war of aggression has long-term economic consequences and has contributed to a global food and energy crisis with rising prices and high inflation, resulting in cost of living crises.

There are 5 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine and 8 million abroad. Many thousands of civilians and public service workers have been killed in Ukraine. Many tens of thousands have been killed and injured. Millions have lost their job in Ukraine.

The date of 16 October 2023, when PSI Congress will be taking place, will mark 600 days of war since the invasion started.

NOTING:

- that in the wake of the Russian invasion, there has been systematic repression in Russia of individuals and social movements that condemn the invasion, demand peace, and call for the withdrawal of the Russian troops. Our sister Federation the ITF has been labelled an undesirable organisation in Russia. Independent unions in Belarus were crushed in April 2022 and many of their leaders jailed.
- that appeals from Ukrainian unions for moral and material aid have met with an unprecedented response from public service unions across Europe and the world. This is an expression of solidarity and support, including by unions from neighbouring countries that showed genuine solidarity by helping with the shelter and care of refugees.
- that working people and our communities suffer most in times of war and armed conflict. We are committed to peace and to preventing conflict and war. PSI has a long history of supporting unions and workers in times of conflict. A victory for Putin in Ukraine would be a success for an authoritarian regime that threatens to wipe out the Ukrainian identity and culture. We cannot stand aside.
- PSI calls for the respect of workers' rights, the establishment of an effective social dialogue in Ukraine, and the adoption of a Labour Code that is based on ILO Standards and EU social legislation. The future of Ukraine cannot be a neo-liberal model imposed by transnational corporations and oligarchic circles in Ukraine. The European social model is the path and perspective of Ukraine.

Congress DEMANDS:

- an immediate end to the hostilities of Russia in Ukraine and the withdrawal of the Russian troops from all the occupied Ukrainian territories in accordance with international law and the UN Charter guaranteeing the sovereignty of Ukraine. Diplomacy must achieve this rapidly rather than an escalation of the war.
- the immediate release of peace and social activists, trade union prisoners and journalists in Belarus and Russia.
- that the reconstruction of Ukraine must have labour and union values at its centre and must contribute to social justice, democracy and an inclusive society. At the end of

martial law, full labour and trade union rights must be restored. We support the Ukrainian unions and social movements in their resistance to liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation of public services.

EXPRESSES:

- Its solidarity with the Ukrainian people and all working people who are suffering the consequences of the Russian invasion.

CALLS UPON

- European countries to continue providing shelter to refugees, as well help and humanitarian aid to people on the ground.

Congress ASKS the PSI Executive Board to:

1. express continued solidarity to all Ukrainian workers and trade unionists fighting for workers' rights and against fascism and the Russian aggression;
2. work with EPSU and the European trade union movement to achieve peace and security in the Ukraine and the European region; and
3. join EPSU in organising a mission to Ukraine and organise a conference of trade unions in Ukraine to look at the future, and ensure the unions are involved in the reconstruction of Ukraine.

Submitted by:

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All Ukraine Affiliates

Supported by the EPSU Executive Committee