



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



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

FPU/KVPU Statement on the second anniversary of the beginning of Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine

24 February 2024 marks two years since the start of the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, which has turned into the largest war in Europe since the Second World War.

The full-scale invasion in February 2022 was a continuation of the crime against peace, fundamental principles and norms of international law when Russia temporarily occupied the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and some areas in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine in 2014.

Russia has demonstrated the true face of the "Russian world": aggression, barbaric murders, rape, terror, nuclear blackmail, acts of genocide and other heinous crimes that are beyond the imagination of any human being. The only reason for all this is the attempt to revive the "Russian Empire".

The Russian regime's war of aggression has destroyed the lives of millions of Ukrainians, levelling their homes and workplaces to the ground and forcing them to seek safety and refuge in other regions of Ukraine and beyond. Continued missile and artillery shelling and destruction of Ukrainian towns and villages, civilian energy and transport infrastructure, residential and maternity homes, kindergartens and schools, stadiums and hospitals, theatres and museums, trade union buildings, and industrial facilities have caused grief and pain to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians. Ukraine's economy has suffered a huge blow. The cost of post-war reconstruction of Ukraine as of the end of 2023 is \$486 billion, according to a joint estimate by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission and the UN.

Defending itself and the entire democratic world from the Russian aggressor, sacrificing the lives of its best sons and daughters every day for freedom, democracy and the rule of law, Ukraine has withstood and not only stopped the Russian invasion, but is successfully holding it back.

Currently, the parts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and Kherson regions temporarily occupied by Russia, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, are awaiting their liberation.

We are sincerely grateful to the International Labour Organisation, in particular ACTRAV, International Trade Union Confederation and European Trade Union Confederation and all national trade union centres that have stood shoulder to shoulder with Ukrainian trade unions, providing humanitarian, political and financial assistance to Ukraine, Ukrainian internal refugees and all those who have found refuge in your countries.

The painful second anniversary is also an opportunity for all those who believe in freedom and reject violence to reaffirm their commitment to support Ukraine's brave defenders and to remind them that the war is not over and that Ukraine needs help.

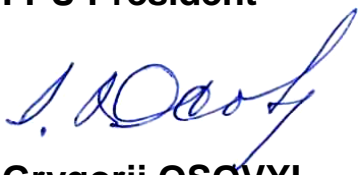
At this critical juncture in the war, we call on our international friends to step up their comprehensive and critically needed support for Ukraine to accelerate peace after the aggressor's defeat.

Only by defeating the russian aggressor, can we ensure a just and lasting peace in Ukraine and Europe and prevent such aggression from happening again in the future.

Ukraine will continue to move towards victory over the Russian aggression, as well as continue its path to full membership in the EU and the NATO.

We pay tribute to the bravery and heroism of Ukrainian men and women in the defence and security forces who are defending Ukraine.

FPU President



Grygorii OSOVYI

KVPU President



Mykhailo VOLYNETS