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UNITED AND DETERMINED, UKRAINIAN HEALTH WORKERS WILL WIN
Solidarity message to your 19 September 2017 All-Ukrainian Protest

Public Services International (PSI) stands with the Health Workers' Union of Ukraine (HWUU) as you organise a national demonstration across the length and breadth of Ukraine on 19 September. This comes up after a year of deputation and lobbying to convince the Ukrainian government to stop neoliberal reforms in the health sector which impinge on the right to health of the citizens, and violate the labour rights of health workers and the HSWUU.

These reforms, which your union has stood up against in the interest of the public, have led to reduced funding for public healthcare delivery and effectively, cuts in the remuneration of health workers. As you have observed in several letters to the government, they do not comply with the Ukrainian constitution. Further, elements of this body of reforms, which dwell on the reorganisation of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine and a cut in the number of beds available at public health facilities, have been upturned by a court of law. The government has however refused to implement the court's ruling.

This is very bothersome, reflecting a dangerous trend of the subjugation of public institutions as well as the public interest to the *for-profit* interests of big business and the ideologues of the profit-motive in government, across the world. Neoliberal reforms in general and in the health sector in particular put profit first over people. They are thus inhumane. They have also been shown time and again to be ineffective, at great costs to the public.

Your struggle for reforms that put people over profit in Ukraine is our collective struggle for a better world, which engenders sustainable development. PSI thus joins you, in the most categorical of terms in demanding:

- Increased 2017 budgetary allocation of not less than 3.9 billion UAH towards achieving satisfactory funding of healthcare services delivery;
- Adequate remuneration of health workers and the immediate payment of arrears of salaries, as well as ensuring a unified approach to the proper remuneration of public services workers, with effect from 1 September 2017;

Public Services International is a global trade union federation representing 20 million working women and men who deliver vital public services in 150 countries. PSI champions human rights, advocates for social justice and promotes universal access to quality public services. PSI works with the United Nations system and in partnership with labour, civil society and other organisations.

- Payment of job prestige allowance to healthcare workers of public and municipal healthcare institutions;
- Formulation and implementation of people-centred health reforms through social dialogue, and in line with fundamental rights as enshrined in the Ukrainian constitution, and international covenants which the Ukrainian state has ratified, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ICESCR;
- Immediate implementation of the court's annulment of the Ukrainian government's Resolution No. 442 of 10/09/2014 and Resolution No. 1024 of 25/11/2015, which effected reorganisation of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Services, and cuts in hospital beds respectively, as a clear demonstration of good faith and respect for the rule of law by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU);
- Commencement of the work of the conciliation commission charged with resolving the one-year labour dispute between the HWUU and the CMU, and the initiation of negotiations towards arriving at a sectoral collective agreement, through a new bargaining round.

PSI stands by you on these demands and as you stand together, in the national manifestation of 19 September. An injury to one, is an injury to all. But we rest assured in the knowledge that, when we dare to struggle, we dare to win.

PSI thus wishes you success in bringing pressure to bear on the Ukrainian government to accord all Ukrainians a better future through reforms that ensure health for all, and for due respect and recognition to be given to the HWUU as a major social partner in defence of health workers, and in fostering such a better future.

In solidarity,



Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary