

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2023

DEAR ALL!

Ruthless events have befallen our country, shattering the fate of its citizens. The unjustified war started by Russia inflicted a significant blow on all aspects of the nation's life, forcing many of our citizens to flee in search of a safe place and adapt to new realities.

Ukrainian seafarers also suffered significant damage, losing their jobs - due to the introduced martial law, they lost the opportunity to leave Ukraine and start working on foreign-flagged ships.

Despite the constant threat of rocket attacks, power outages, and other infrastructure failures, the MTWTU team continues to work for the benefit of the Union members. We fight for the well-being of their families by providing them with financial assistance, humanitarian aid and legal support on various issues and organizing social events. Regularly, the leadership of the MTWTU takes part in conferences drawing attention to the need for providing seafarers with the right to leave the country during martial law and informing about the problems faced by our Trade Union members during these tough times.

We express huge gratitude to all those who support our organization and the people of Ukraine in word and deed. We will be glad to hear any feedback on our activities and are grateful for any help you are kindly willing to provide.

Your sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk
Chairman MTWTU,
Vice President IFSMA,
IMO Goodwill Ambassador



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNION SOLIDARITY FUND

Our international partners are proving that they support Ukrainian transport workers not in word but in deed. After the UNION SOLIDARITY FUND meeting, 25 generators, portable chargers and solar panels were handed over to the MTWTU member organizations. It is through the support of foreign partners that we can continue to help our seafarers and port workers.



SUPPORT FOR MTWTU MARITIME TRANSPORT WORKERS

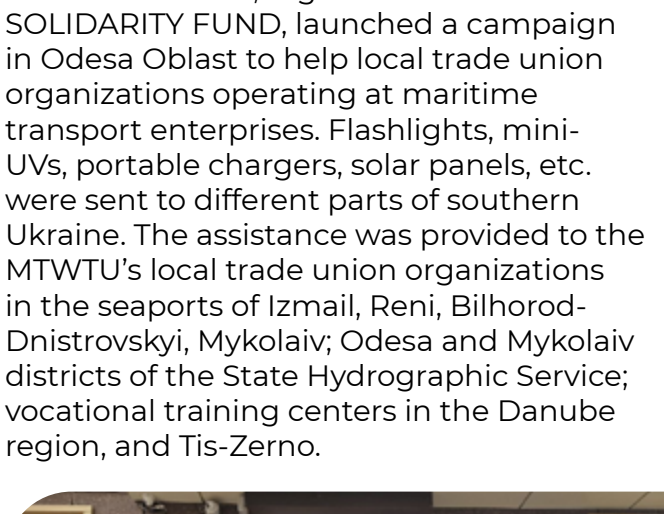
The MTWTU and the UNION SOLIDARITY FUND are currently providing a thousand food packages and a hundred hygiene kits to employees of shore-based organizations, MTWTU members.

Support was received in Kyiv, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Izmail, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi, Reni, and Chornomorsk. The participants of the action are mainly minimum wage workers and families of workers who are defending the country.

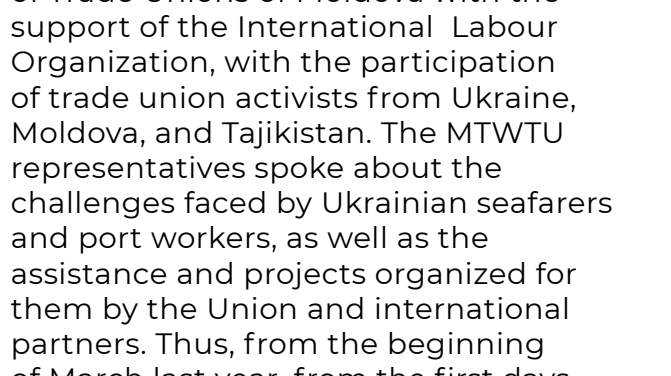
We will remind you that last year, MTWTU, together with the UNION SOLIDARITY FUND, distributed more than four thousand boxes to seafarers: grocery, hygiene, and children's stationery kits.



SOLIDARITY ACTION IN SOUTHERN REGIONS



The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, together with the UNION SOLIDARITY FUND, launched a campaign in Odesa Oblast to help local trade union organizations operating at maritime transport enterprises. Flashlights, mini-UVs, portable chargers, solar panels, etc. were sent to different parts of southern Ukraine. The assistance was provided to the MTWTU's local trade union organizations in the seaports of Izmail, Reni, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi, Mykolaiv, Odesa and Mykolaiv districts of the State Hydrographic Service; vocational training centers in the Danube region, and Tis-Zerno.



SOCIAL PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS

On February 20-21, a seminar on the exchange of experience in the field of social protection of migrant workers was organized by the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova with the support of the International Labour Organization, with the participation of trade union activists from Ukraine, Moldova, and Tajikistan. The MTWTU representatives spoke about the challenges faced by Ukrainian seafarers and port workers, as well as the assistance and projects organized for them by the Union and international partners. Thus, from the beginning of March last year, from the first days



of the war, the MTWTU organized the evacuation of seafarers' families to the border of the Republic of Moldova.

HELPING UKRAINIANS WHO LOST THEIR HOMES

The MTWTU and the International Labour Organization are implementing a joint project aimed at supporting Ukrainians who were forced to leave their homes due to the war. All project participants live free of charge at the Izmail International Seamen's Club. Everyone is provided with accommodation and breakfast, and can use all the specially equipped facilities of the club.



YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH CADETS

Forming a new generation of maritime experts and leaders is the main goal of IMO Goodwill Ambassador, MTWTU Chairman, Oleg Grygoriuk. That is why the MTWTU has resumed weekly meetings with cadets in Odesa and Izmail. At the events, young people talk about their plans for the future and how they expect to succeed in their profession. In turn, the Goodwill Ambassador advises the cadets on the best way to start and tells them about real-life cases of seafarers. In addition, the youth has a chance to discover how to protect their rights and who can lend a helping hand when needed.



STUDIES AND LIVES OF UKRAINIAN CADETS AT THE LITHUANIAN MARITIME ACADEMY



Navigators, mechanics, and electrical engineers, who, for half a year, have been studying at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, have quickly adapted to the new university and country.

Currently, 24 cadets are on practice voyages, gaining the necessary experience; from the 1st of September, they will join the educational process. Other cadets already have the required qualifications, so they started offline training in January.



SEAFARERS' EDUCATION

MARITIME ENGLISH WITH THE UNION

English is the language of communication at the international level. However, each profession has its own specific lexicon. To help seafarers feel confident on board, the MTWTU, together with the Japan Seafarers' Union, is resuming maritime English seminars.

Two groups of seafarers and cadets have joined the project at the Maritime Union Center. Moreover, online seminars will be held once a week for those seafarers who are currently on a voyage.

Since the project's inception, more than 400 seafarers have improved their English, and more than 130 have completed the three-month course.



SEAFARERS' WELFARE

EVERYONE FEELS WAR IN THEIR OWN WAY

MTWTU continues conducting meetings with a leading psychologist for seafarers and their families. This time, participants discussed how to control their emotions and understand themselves during the war.

The participants discovered effective practical advice and recommendations on how to react to different situations properly.



For more details, contact the MTWTU office at +380482 42 99 01 or via email at office@mtwtu.org.ua.

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