



MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

MARCH 2024

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,
Goodwill Maritime Ambassador*



YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE TRADE UNION AND ITS WORK

On 14 March, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine organized a meeting with the cadets of the Odesa Maritime College of Technical Fleet of the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy".

The meeting aimed to acquaint the younger generation with the work of the MTWTU and its role in protecting the rights and interests of seafarers. The cadets received membership cards and communicated with an ITF inspector who shared her experience in protecting seafarers' rights.

The practical part, where cadets tested their skills on a virtual reality simulator representing themselves on a ship, was particularly interesting. Such meetings help future seafarers to understand their profession and their rights.



ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST: HELPING CADETS IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Amidst challenges faced by many Ukrainian families today, the ITF Seafarers' Trust in collaboration with the MTWTU and under the auspices of the IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador in Ukraine, Oleg Grygoriuk, has once again supported future mariners.

The ITF Seafarers' Trust paid for the contracts of cadets from the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy" who moved from the occupied territories of Kherson and Donetsk regions of Ukraine.

It is worth noting that in 2022, as part of a joint project, the ITF Seafarers' Trust, covered the tuition fees for 36 cadets from the NU "OMA", who are members of the MTWTU. They could not afford to pay for their education themselves.



INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

MTWTU & 3F: JOINT PROJECT

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and Danish 3F Trade Union realized a joint project aimed at raising awareness of trade union members about the current war in our country and improving their level of information.

Union members participated in informational meetings on "First Aid and Occupational Safety", where they received information on current changes in labor protection legislation and learned how to assist the injured. This information will help port workers to take care of their safety, life, and health.

CANADIAN FRIENDS FROM ILWU AND THEIR SUPPORT

Canadian port workers from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) expressed solidarity with their Ukrainian colleagues from the Danube region, who are currently working in extremely difficult conditions due to the war in Ukraine. At the initiative of the MTWTU, warm clothing was purchased for them, which was received by members of the Union — port workers from the Izmail and Reni ports.

“Solidarity among international partners is not just words, but concrete actions. Canadian port workers from ILWU always support their Ukrainian colleagues, standing with them in this difficult time,” noted MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk.

MTWTU sincerely thanks its Canadian friends from ILWU and its president, Rob Ashton, for their support.



SEAFARERS' WELFARE

SOLIDARITY FUND OF THE ITF-ETF CONTINUES SUPPORT AMID CHALLENGES

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, in co-operation with the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund, continues to support its members in difficult times by providing humanitarian aid, including food kits. These kits have been provided to Ukrainian unions and their members in the maritime sector, including seafarers, port workers, shore staff and maritime students



and teachers. This support was also given to seafarers who have finished their careers to show that they are always part of our big trade union family.

Our mission is to provide our union members and their families with the necessary support, and this goal is achieved through our international cooperation and recognition in the global maritime community.



SEAFARERS' EDUCATION

KHERSON STATE MARITIME ACADEMY

Due to the war, the Kherson State Maritime Academy temporarily lost its premises, but the educational process continued.

Currently, the Academy is temporarily relocated to Odessa and operates remotely.



However, first year students partially attended classes at the Maritime Union Center, where they were given specialized lectures, practical trainings on a virtual reality simulator and mentor meetings to familiarize them with ship operations.



KEY SKILLS FOR EMERGENCIES

Actions during air alerts, protection from missile and artillery strikes, handling explosive items, fire safety, and first aid. This knowledge can save lives.

On March 27, actions in emergency situations were discussed at a meeting with specialists from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine — leading inspectors Vasily Sopinsky and Andrey Mosiychuk. Doctor Elena Filippova, a lecturer at the Faculty of Continuing Maritime Education of the National University “Odesa Maritime Academy”, was also present.

The event was organized by the Marine Transport Workers’ Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) as part of a project with 3F for members of the MTWTU Youth Council.



SEAFARERS' SOCIAL LIFE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In anticipation of International Women's Day, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Welfare Fund "MORTRANS" congratulated the wives of seafarers on this wonderful holiday and gladly gave them a piece of good mood.

Handing the gifts, we wanted to express our gratitude for their resilience, patience, and unwavering loyalty.

In return, we received sincere smiles and wishes for victory for all of us.

During such challenging times, it is especially important to support each other, to give warmth and care, and it is such holidays that unite people, giving them a reason to rejoice and delight loved ones.



FOR MORE DETAILS

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