

Statement of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine

Monday, 02 December 2013, 14:39

The Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine resolutely condemns the violence against peaceful rally of Ukrainian citizens that took place on November 30 at the Independence Square in Kyiv.

The right to hold peaceful assemblies, rallies, marches and demonstrations is guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine and shall be unconditionally respected by all state bodies.

The freedom of assembly, the right to hold peaceful rallies are fundamental for the activities of civil society organisations in any country. It is the way to protect labour, social and economic rights in democratic countries.

These fundamental rights are supported by the International Trade Union Confederation and Pan-European Regional Council to which the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine is affiliated.

But, as the events happened on 30 November showed, the Law is written not for everybody. Young people suffered only because they believed in the Constitution and their statutory rights.

We urge authorities to ensure unconditional observance of the right of every person to hold peaceful rallies and freely express his/her opinion by the law-enforcement bodies and by every civil servant.

We call the leaders of all political parties to follow principles of democracy and respect to citizens' rights.

We call the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights to give an impartial assessment of the violation of the citizens' right to hold peaceful assembly, publicize it and refer to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for parliament reaction.

At the request of trade union members the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine provided a part of its premises for participants in the protest actions to get warm, receive medical assistance and have meals in the canteen.

Presidium of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine