

Statement of the NUJU Steering Committee

(official position the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine regarding the stop of broadcasting of three TV channels)

1. The right of the state to legally protect the information space from fakes and propaganda is indisputable, especially in the conditions of a hybrid war against Ukraine. At the same time, the NSDC sanctions instrument and the closure of the media should be based on public evidence and follow the procedures established by law.

2. The NUJU does not protect the editorial policy of any media, including “Medvedchuk's TV channels”, but advocates for the legally guaranteed rights of Ukrainian media and Ukrainian journalists, and is therefore concerned about the out-of-court restrictive measures.

3. In accordance with its statutory tasks and powers, the NUJU protects the media in conflicts with the authorities: it is journalists who help society realize public control over its activities. In recent years, the NUJU has drawn the attention of the authorities to cases of violations of the rights of the media "Pryamiy", 1 + 1, RFE/RL, Ukrinform and others. But freedom of speech does not give journalists reasons to abuse it, no matter where they work. When any media allows itself to question the national statehood and territorial integrity of Ukraine, to justify the armed aggression against it - the competent public authorities must give an assessment on time, without waiting for the "favorable political moment".

4. We condemn the spread of hostility and calls for violence through journalists and media workers. The owners and top managers are primarily responsible for editorial policy, and permanent supervisory and regulatory state body the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine must respond appropriately to identified violations. At the same time, representatives of the journalistic community should be aware of the level of responsibility in working with words and facts, in preparing materials and programs, following to generally accepted standards of the profession, without resorting to manipulations that turn journalism into a tool of propaganda.

Extrajudicial restrictive measures are in themselves a dangerous precedent. This tool can be used to put pressure on other broadcasters or to use similar sanctions, for example, against “1+1” media group (in which Medvedchuk owns shares) or “Poroshenko's TV channels” - " Pryamiy" and "Channel 5" which, according to one high-ranking official, often show "agents of Russian propaganda."

5. Freedom of speech in Ukraine provide a wide discussion on socio-political issues, but on the basis of law. The Union of Journalists has no doubts about the European choice of Ukrainians, which we defend every day in the face of armed and

informational aggression. There is no doubt that Russia is an aggressor country that has occupied part of Ukraine. There is no "civil conflict" in our country, but there are territories temporarily out of the control of the Ukrainian authorities, which are ruled by the same aggressor, and there is massive Russian propaganda, provocations and threats to the information security of the state. Under these conditions, every journalist and professional, creative association make their choice. The choice of the NUJU is obvious - steady respect to professional standards and the Code of Ethics of Ukrainian journalists is a necessary condition for forming a true picture of events for the audience and saving trust to the media.

6. Among the 19,000 members of the NUJU are representatives of different generations, bearers of different linguistic, cultural and religious traditions, colleagues with different life and professional experience. Each member of the Union, according to their own beliefs, evaluates both modern reforms and events of the past differently. In the diversity of opinions and judgments - our strength, not weakness. The values common to all of us strengthen the unity of the organization and leave behind the brackets situational differences of opinion, which is quite normal for a healthy community. We are different and at the same time united.

7. Independent, uncensored media, freedom of speech, freedom of expression - the distinctive feature of any democracy. We call on the authorities to respect this freedom, taking care to reliably protect Ukraine's information space.

The Statement was adopted following the online meeting of the NUJU Steering Committee on February 8-9, 2021.