



Korea Sewol Rally - Message from PSI, 7 June 2014

My name is David Boys and I am the Deputy General Secretary of Public Services International, a Global Union Federation representing more than 20 million public sector workers around the world.

First, let me convey the deepest condolences of PSI members to the victims of the Sewol ferry accident and their families. We are truly shocked and saddened to see such needless suffering.

Policies of deregulation, privatisation and excessive outsourcing, which put profits before people, are the main causes of the Sewol tragedy.

Yet, the government and businesses are pushing the same policies in healthcare, public transport, water and energy.

Our children should NOT be made to pay the price for these misdirected policies.

It is time that Korea joins the family of nations that turn their wealth back towards protecting their citizens.

In fifty years, Korea has achieved remarkable economic advances.

But I want to be clear – these advances were made because of the daily sacrifices of millions of Korean workers who accepted harsh conditions in order to build the nation.

Korea must turn its back on this sort of development

And turn down a path where social and labour protections are available to all.

Korean society is rich enough that there isn't a need need to privatise all of your public services.

Korea has the resources to ensure quality public health and social services for all.

It is possible to provide retirees with decent pension provisions.

Public education, public transport, public water and energy can and should be available to all.

Korean businesses can afford the rules and regulations which ensure that our children are protected.

In fact, Korea can't afford to go down this road of privatisation, deregulation and selling everything on the market.

It will create too many social tensions, too much inequality.

So, please, join the trade unions and civil society groups in making your voices heard by your government and corporate leaders.

If anything comes out of the tragedy of Sewol, let it be the determination to build a more safe, more just and more equal Korea.

The unity of purpose, the determination and courage to make these changes.

PSI supports your call for a real investigation into the root causes of the Sewol tragedy and for fundamental solutions to these problems.

The PSI family of unions from around the world stand with the workers and people of Korea.