

Message on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March 2019

The Universal Esperanto Association salutes the world's women, and particularly the members of the worldwide Esperanto community, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2019. In its role as an international language promoting direct and unfiltered dialogue among the citizens of the world, Esperanto is uniquely positioned to help women everywhere communicate with one another across the barriers of distance and language, to exchange views and ideas, and to organize for action on behalf of women's rights.

We recognize that there is much to be done. Despite significant progress in Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is concerned with education, women's education lags behind men's. Too many children lack access to education, and this is particularly true of girls. Of those children who have access to education, too many girls drop out of school early, before they are able to develop their own particular skills or prepare themselves for careers.

At the same time, the UEA recognizes and honours the leading role women play in movements for linguistic and cultural revitalization, and for the protection of the domestic sphere from oppression and discrimination. Such efforts are an essential part of the struggle to establish a world where many cultures and languages can coexist in harmony – a topic of special importance in this International Year of Indigenous Languages, and particularly important for our Association in its efforts to achieve linguistic equality.

Accordingly, we express our solidarity with movements to end discrimination against women and girls, and to build a sustainable future in which all people are treated with equal care and respect, irrespective of language, culture, gender, and other forms of diversity.

Office of the Universal Esperanto Association at the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.
212-687-7041