



Universala Esperanto-Asocio

## **Message on the occasion of English Language Day – 23 April 2021**

Twenty percent of the world's population uses English as a first, second, or additional language. English is often characterized as *the* language of international communication, yet eighty percent of the global population does not use it or has minimal proficiency. Truly global communication requires a broad repertoire of languages to foster dialogue, disseminate knowledge, and promote sustainable development. Inclusive communication will be more important than ever as we face the shared worldwide challenge of building back after COVID-19. English is *one* linguistic tool that can complement but never replace other local and major languages of the world, including Esperanto, a language designed to promote peace and intercultural understanding. UN language days seek to raise awareness of multilingualism and linguistic diversity. On this English Language Day, UEA calls upon the UN community and civil society to reflect on the place of English in the multilingual ecology of the world's languages.

**Canadian Esperanto Association**  
**Esperanto Association of Britain**  
**Esperanto USA**  
**South African Esperanto Association**

23 april 2021