



Universala Esperanto-Asocio

## **International Day of Non-Violence 2021: Message of the Universal Esperanto-Association**

October 2, the International Day of Non-Violence, was so declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. October 2 marks the birth date in the year 1869 of the great practitioner of non-violent protest, Mahatma Gandhi. Since 2007, the UN annually remembers the huge influence of the non-violence movement on the advancement of humankind in our era.

The Universal Esperanto Association, an organization whose fundamental belief is the effectiveness of peaceful communication and the communication of peace, reminds the international community, and most particularly the United Nations, that without a systematic effort to face the problems of the world by peace, trust, and a willingness to find common ground through interaction and dialogue for the common good, humankind will not succeed in overcoming the problems of our planet. Our world needs a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding – and the avoidance of violence.

Non-violence requires courage to strive for human, civil, and social rights. It constitutes a courageous refusal in the face of the violent acts practised by the powerful. Because just means lead to just solutions, we should use peaceful means to achieve peaceful goals.

Non-violence is civil action, an expression of the will of the people, not of governments or the military. Thus, if the UN is to mirror the will of the people, we need for the UN to be more and more attentive to the people. That is the road for achieving justice and positive change. So that no one is left behind. So that we achieve true worldwide citizenship.

The relations between Esperanto and non-violence are historic. On this day, when we remember Mahatma Gandhi, his struggles and philosophy, we also remember his support for the idea of a world auxiliary language. The fourth president of the Universal Esperanto Association, Edmond Privat, of Switzerland, led a European movement to support the activity of that great thinker and activist.

The ideas and the example of Gandhi remain fresh, challenging us to reconsider the paths to sustainable development, climate action, peace, and human rights. They invite us to face these challenges through truth and courage. They invite us to equality in dignity and rights, and refusal to allow anyone to treat people unequally.

The Universal Esperanto Association, as a civil society organization, supports non-violence as a road to social justice. Through Esperanto UEA supports international dialogue and solidarity. Let us stand together and work together for a better world for all.