



Universala Esperanto-Asocio

Zamenhof Day 2021: Message of the Universal Esperanto Association

Every year on December 15 we celebrate the birthday of L.L. Zamenhof, the initiator of Esperanto. We celebrate not only his role in the publication of the international language, but particularly his humanitarian principles. Through his efforts, Esperanto is not only the most widely used planned international language, but also an effort to promote understanding among people of different cultures.

The world is experiencing a crisis of trust. Global, multi-dimensional crises undermine our ability to come together to solve common problems. But, faced with crises, we must remember that we are a single humankind and that we are equal in dignity and rights. We must draw closer to one another and recognize one another. To do so, we will be helped by conscious attention to language, to cultural diversity, and to the ways in which we communicate with one another.

The call of UN Secretary-General António Guterres for a new multilateralism, in his report *Our Common Agenda*, is a call for trust, legitimacy and action. This will be possible only through everyone's cooperation. We must build sustainable, inclusive societies and economies, based on human rights and human dignity for all. This must inevitably include working for international inclusiveness, building bridges among groups isolated by language barriers, and cultivating an awareness of our common global ties.

World citizenship, human rights, intercultural dialogue and solidarity – these are foundations on which to reinvigorate and reconfirm multilateralism. But everything begins with understanding that builds trust. In this spirit, we use Esperanto as a means for cooperation, for building agreements, for international understanding, for communication among individuals and peoples, and as an instrument for peace.

In the first World Congress of Esperanto, in 1905, Zamenhof greeted the vast worldwide human family and invited everyone to a new future just beginning. He said, “In our gathering there are no nations, weak or strong, privileged or underprivileged; no one is humiliated, no one is made uncomfortable; we all stand on the same equal foundation, we are all fully equal in our rights; we all feel ourselves to be members of a single nation, members of a single family.” In 2021, the International Year of Peace and Trust, these words remain as relevant as ever and represent the most human side of the work of our Association.

In memory of Zamenhof and his dream of world unity, the Universal Esperanto Association is proud of its relations with the UN, UNESCO and other international organizations. A common sense of responsibility, the essence of multilateralism, is the principle on which we build a better world for all.

Universal Esperanto Association Office for Liaison with the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. [1] 212-687-7041. www.esperantoporun.org.