



PEACE IN THE HUMAN FAMILY

Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on the occasion of the International Day of Families, 15 May 2022

The Day of Families raises our awareness of families and their needs. Such awareness, and, with it, policies directed specifically to families, is important if we are to achieve several of the goals of Agenda 2030. The family is a basic element of society and of a network of solidarity. Among families, all of us grow and develop, learn and teach – and change and build our communities and the world.

The word “family” is often used to speak of larger groups, of our communities, even of the world as a whole. It carries a sense of inclusiveness, where everyone can be protected and understood, where we can find ways of living together. For many speakers of Esperanto, that is what is meant by participating in the world and culture of Esperanto: so, to be part of “a great family circle” (as the creator of Esperanto, Ludvik Zamenhof, put it).

Despite recognition of the importance of families, and of their need for protection and advancement, many families are enduring great suffering. Wars and conflicts separate and disperse families, through death or flight. Health crises push families into mourning. Poverty drives families to homelessness.

Many families lack the right to use their own mother tongues, or speak languages that are not officially recognised. Children do not have the right to learn in the same language as their parents. Indigenous communities see their languages and cultures disappear. Refugee families are unable to access basic services because of language barriers.

Much remains to be done for families: gender equality, protection of women and children, social protection, education, health services, and many other essential affairs. Along with families across the entire world, we, members of the worldwide family of speakers of Esperanto, say again: we need peace, human rights, and development – and we stand ready to work with the United Nations to achieve them!