



## ***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2022***

Peace – the great dream of humankind. We must not cease from loudly declaring that we need peace. We must ask it of all the world's governments and we must practice it in our daily lives.

The world needs new declarations of peace from governments and conflicting parties – declarations that show their willingness to solve conflicts and disagreements by peaceful means, to protect civilians, and to co-operate for the general good of humankind.

Among many initiatives, we, along with the United Nations, call for a worldwide ceasefire. It is time for a common effort to restore peace, and to create new diplomatic paths and new opportunities to help the most vulnerable.

The Universal Esperanto Association constantly and insistently works for peace. The international language Esperanto is spoken across the whole world, creating friendship and understanding among people of various social systems and often from countries in conflict. We work with civil society organizations whose goal is peace. Our national associations, our local and web-based groups, our professional organizations arrange special programmes and conversations whose aim is peace – for example the International Esperanto Chorus, with Esperanto-speakers from across the world, who will perform this year in the celebration of the International Day of Peace organized by the Basque Government in official partnership with UNESCO, in Tolosa.

We should also remember that the chief causes of war are the domination of some peoples over others, and the existence of dominating and dominated groups. For that reason, the peoples of the United Nations decided, in the UN Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war through the practice of tolerance, the preservation of international peace and security, and the promotion of economic and social progress.

However, sustainable peace is not only peace among peoples but also peace among individuals. As the Constitution of UNESCO makes clear: because wars begin in the minds of people, it is in the minds of people that the defences of peace must be constructed – on the intellectual and moral solidarity of humankind.

To facilitate peace, we urge, through Esperanto, mutual understanding and mutual contact, to cultivate feelings of solidarity and esteem among peoples and among people. Through a peace-affirming language we must learn to build a peace-affirming life.