



Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on the International Day of Non-Violence, 2 October 2022

The aim of the International Day of Non-Violence is to advance the principle of non-violence as a pathway to a culture of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding. Non-violent conduct is linked to respect for human rights, acceptance of fundamental freedoms, democracy, and development for all.

The United Nations links states, which are nonetheless communities of individuals. The idea of non-violence is based on the fact that action by a government, if it is not to be violent, requires the consent and cooperation of the people. The member states have accepted the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements for the building of peaceful societies.

For this reason, and in the context of this International Day, the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA) calls for worldwide observance of human rights, of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, of the right to peaceful association and the right to participate in the government of one's country. These are means by which the various countries become true communities in which everyone, despite diversity and difference, is free and equal – and cooperates in society.

It is not by chance that this Day was selected to coincide with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, October 2. The activities of that world renowned leader defined non-violence as political action in pursuit of social change without disrespect for the highest rights to life, liberty and security. It is a road to inclusion and justice.

UEA advocates that all members of civil society across the world should be able to require of their governments that those governments carry out the agreements that they have accepted. UEA also calls on all individuals to cultivate non-violent conduct in their daily lives. As speakers of the international language Esperanto we seek education for, and public awareness of, non-violence, because non-violent conduct is learned through positive community and cooperation, through open acquaintance and free assembly. Through Esperanto we facilitate relations among people for various goals – from peace to citizenship, from education to science, from ecology to solidarity.

We advance linguistic justice, so that speakers of all languages have the right to meet in peace and find international support to express themselves firmly about their wishes, their expectations of their governments, and the kind of society they want. With Esperanto we propose a bridge between languages to increase understanding and respect among all people.

People come first. That is the way to a better world for all, in which we can find solutions to the many problems that afflict our planet.