



## ***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on World Children's Day, 20 November 2022***

For the sake of our children we must build a world of peace, dignity, equality and sustainability. Every child, from every region of the world, has an equal and indivisible right to health, education and protection.

More than other people, children suffer from poverty, conflicts and wars, displacement, violence and discrimination, and climate change.

Children's rights go beyond national borders. Thus, to guarantee the rights of children worldwide collaboration is needed. We call on the governments of the world to carry out the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other agreements and guidelines of the UN's Children's Fund (Unicef) and of UNESCO

Children have language rights. They should not suffer discrimination on account of their language: they have a right to use and advance their mother tongue. They have a right to be educated in that language and in other additional languages for their healthy development. They have a right to the aid of translators and interpreters in public services.

Education in the mother tongue is important for inclusion and quality in learning. Children who begin their learning through another language are hindered in their effective learning ability. According to a recent Unesco report, although in several countries new efforts are being made to advance cultural and linguistic diversity, some 40% of the world's population begin their education through languages that they do not speak or understand.

The current International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032) reminds us that inclusion of indigenous languages in educational systems is essential to strengthen indigenous languages and cultures. Recent research by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shows that, although indigenous languages are legally protected in several countries, current public policy conditions hinder indigenous language use and favour monolingualism in a national language, even in countries with large language minorities.

Through the international language Esperanto, we publicize and advance the goals and principles of equality and inclusion for all children. We draw particular attention to the possibility of using Esperanto to accelerate language learning and as a means for debate and action on the rights and well-being of children everywhere in the world.

**The Universal Esperanto Association firmly favours the rights of children everywhere!**

---

**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](http://www.esperantoporun.org).**