



Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on the occasion of the International Day in Commemoration of the Victims of the Holocaust, 27 January 2023

Memory of, and teaching about, the victims and survivors of Nazism are not only moments of mourning and respect. They are also important reminders about present-day victims of persecution and disinformation. More than ever, we need to oppose hate speech, antisemitism and other prejudices, and prevent genocide.

We particularly remember the family members of Ludvik Lazar Zamenhof, the creator of Esperanto, and the many other persecuted Esperanto speakers who lost their lives. Almost all direct family members of Zamenhof perished: only one grandson survived those terrible years. Nazi Germany opposed Esperanto because its founder was Jewish and also because of its ideals of globalism and human rights.

The Universal Esperanto Association mourns those believers in internationalism and international understanding who, either because of their race or their physical state, or because of their political and social convictions, died at the hands of the Nazis. We honour the memory of the many Esperantists who perished in this way and we recognize the self-sacrifice and courage of those who defied the forces of terror to save the few who, under constant threat of murder, survived.

Our Association takes human rights, as they are defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as general principles and essential conditions for our activities. As a movement that strives for mutual understanding and co-operation, we solemnly pledge, faced with the example of the Holocaust, to do our best to resist injustice wherever and whenever it occurs.

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.