



Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on International Women's Day, 8 March 2023

On International Women's Day 2023, the Universal Esperanto Association greets women everywhere. We will continue and increase our work for women's rights and for the situation of women and girls across the world, in cooperation with other civil society organizations.

As early as 1946, the United Nations Economic and Social Council set up the Commission on the Status of Women, with the goal of following and documenting the state of women's rights worldwide. The UN also set up UN Women, the organization that works for gender equality and the full empowerment of women.

Gender equality and the full participation of women in all spheres of life are essential. We must advance that equality everywhere. This year's theme for the observance day – Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality – draws attention to the effects of the “digital divide” on economic and social inequalities. For full development and social participation, women and girls must be able to access digitized spaces. Internet violence is indeed violence, and not to be tolerated.

We draw attention to the fact that, to achieve a more inclusive internet, we need a more linguistically diverse internet. This vast quantity of knowledge will be useful only if people can understand it. Inclusivity is important for facilitating all the various relations between people, regardless of nationality, race, gender, religion, politics or language

The International Language, through its worldwide network of Esperanto speakers, provides an opportunity for truly international communication and comparison concerning the situation of women everywhere in the world. We particularly value those who use Esperanto as a voice for worldwide civil society.

Furthermore, for the full inclusion of women, linguistic justice is a necessity, so that women can:

- **Participate equally in society**
- **serve in leadership positions in all spheres and settings**
- **enjoy social security, decent work and economic freedom**
- **have full and equal access to education**
- **be free of all violence, and**
- **help in the creation of a better world for all.**