

Esperanto and the UN

Newsletter of the Universal Esperanto Association's
Office of Liaison with the United Nations

Number 64, May-June 2023



Universala Esperanto-Asocio



UEA Celebrates International Women's Day 2023

As noted in our March issue, on International Women's Day, March 8, the Universal Esperanto Association issued a special message, which was communicated to the United Nations and UNESCO and widely publicized across the world. "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," the message declared.

"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."

The message drew attention to the fact that, to achieve greater inclusivity, "we need a more linguistically diverse internet." This vast source 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."

UEA stresses linguistic unity in diversity on the UN's International Day of Families

"Respect for basic human rights requires that we, as individuals and as states, support the family, and also present it as a model of respect, trust and understanding," according to the message published by the Universal Esperanto Association on the occasion of the UN's International Day of Families, 15 May 2023. The message, directed both to the Association's membership and externally to the United Nations and

UNESCO, emphasizes the fact that we must strengthen families and increase their prosperity, and at the same time maintain a workable balance between world population and world resources.

The UEA is in a good position to assist in delivering that message: “The Universal Esperanto Association has members and member-organizations across the entire world – people particularly aware of the fragility of our planet and the importance of world communication to solve world problems. At home we speak many languages, but we form ‘one family circle’ (in the words of our founder) because we possess a common ‘family’ language.”

“Our aim,” the message concludes, “is to dedicate that international language to the solving of problems of war and peace, of human rights, and of human trust.”



Esperanto events circle the world

Universal Esperanto Association’s newly established Eventa Servo (eventaservo.org) provides a calendar of Esperanto events around the world. Increasingly popular with event organizers, it lists dozens of events a day, on every continent, from national and international conferences down to local meetings and virtual gatherings. We selected two dates at random: on February 28 the list of events happening on that day included Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, India and Nepal ; on March 4 it included Canada, Czech Republic, DR Congo, France, Germany, Nepal, UK, and USA.

The Esperanto Youth Organization TEJO held three international in-person gatherings in Europe in March and April : a seminar in Toulouse, France (March 10-20) ; a youth festival in Palmi, Calabria, Italy (April 5-11), and a weekend organized by the German branch of TEJO in the Sächsische Schweiz region near Dresden. TEJO’s annual congress is scheduled for Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, from 5 to 12 August.

Passport Programme

Passport Service, an international programme run by TEJO (the international Esperanto youth organization), providing free overnight accommodation for Esperanto-speakers, experienced a slowdown during the pandemic, but, according to recent figures, less of a slowdown than might have been expected. Over four thousand inquiries about accommodation were received in 2022, though it is not known how many of these resulted in stays of one night or more. There are plenty of indications that Esperanto remains popular among young people and that, if anything, the pandemic led to an increase in the number of learners of Esperanto. <https://www.pasportaservo.org/pri-ni/>

Esperanto advances in Africa: UEA's world congress to meet in Tanzania in 2024

At the invitation of the Esperanto Association of Tanzania, UEA will hold its 2024 World Congress in Arusha, Tanzania. This will be the first time the congress has met on the African continent. Normally, World Esperanto Congresses, of which this will be the 109th, attract between 1000 and 2000 participants from across the world. Precise dates are still to be determined, but the likelihood is that the one-week event will take place in July or August.

Esperanto continues to advance on the African continent. The 8th African Congress of Esperanto was held in Senegal in December. A new national Esperanto association has recently been established in Congo-Brazzaville, while in the Democratic Republic of Congo preparations are continuing to send a delegation from the national UNESCO Commission to the World Congress of Esperanto in Torino, Italy, in July. Meanwhile, a delegation of five French Esperanto speakers, accompanied by ten local Esperanto speakers, spent a month in January and February in various cities in Togo and Benin promoting the teaching of Esperanto in schools under the auspices of the Zamenhof Institute.

Echoes of Mother Language Day continue

Although more than two months have elapsed since the UN and UNESCO's Mother Language Day (February 21), news continues to reach us of activities associated with the celebration. The Esperanto youth organization TEJO organized "Youth and Language," a series of events to celebrate the contribution of young people to the advancement of language rights. Participants enjoyed short courses, lectures, quizzes and other activities on languages of Asia, Europe and the Americas. Meanwhile, an article on Esperanto and constructed languages appeared in the online science section of the Russian news bureau Tass, with a history of Esperanto, efforts to promote it in international organizations beginning with the League of Nations, and the phenomenon of native speakers of Esperanto. This was just one of numerous articles appearing in the press across the world.

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