



***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association to the United Nations on the occasion of World Refugee Day, 20 June 2023***

We stand in solidarity with refugees, of all kinds, in all places, and at all times. We honour them, remembering their condition and suffering, and also their strength and courage. All refugees should be able to find a country that welcomes and accommodates them – that recognizes their humanity and invites them to participate and cooperate in the development of society.

According to the United Nations, in any given minute twenty people flee from war, persecution, or terror. The right of refugees is the right to find safety – a right that we all share. This right is an unconditional human right "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" – in the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The 108th World Congress of Esperanto will take place in July and August in Torino, Italy, and its theme will be ***Immigration: The confluence of human values***. Through this topic, the Esperanto community will explore the ways in which people from various cultural backgrounds and various mother tongues live together. We believe that such confluence of human values contributes powerfully to the healthy and humane development of societies.

We must acknowledge the rights of refugees and immigrants, and understand their role for the social improvement of all. In today's increasingly diverse societies, the ability for mutual understanding is essential to build common goals and at the same time respect difference. For this reason we use the International Language Esperanto, which allows worldwide dialogue on worldwide problems in a truly worldwide forum, for example in our congresses and gatherings. Such use of a global language to explore global questions represents a confluence of values, a capability for impartial discussion and the communal solution of world problems, thereby expressing the values of the worldwide human community.

Let us strengthen our common humanity and decide on a path of solidarity and human values, to prevent abuse and to create a better world for all.