



## **Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on the occasion of the International Day of Tolerance, 16 November 2023**

Tolerance is a value necessary to a culture of peace, democracy and human rights. We must indeed be able to live with one another in peace, decide collectively about public affairs, and guarantee that we all have the same rights. Tolerance is respect, acceptance, and esteem for the rich diversity of cultures, expressions, and ways of being human.

Tolerance is a fundamental element for a culture of peace and nonviolence. We can be different and yet live in the same society. As citizens, we are responsible for the life of all other citizens and must advance human rights, inclusion and nondiscrimination.

To support tolerance, governments must act through laws that inhibit intolerance and create secure spaces for all. However, a tolerant society is the result of education, information, and the actions of groups and individuals. In homes, schools, workplaces and institutions we must everywhere advance tolerance.

Difference often involves linguistic diversity. We must oppose not only discrimination on grounds of languages themselves but also on grounds of speech patterns and other linguistic expression. Linguistic tolerance is at one and the same time respect and awareness of language differences. Language rights are also important for social unity.

We welcome efforts to strengthen tolerance generally, and particularly in relation to languages, for example Unesco's International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032). As an association that links people of different languages across the world, we propose Esperanto as a path to dialogue and mutual understanding.