



## ***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on International Education Day, 24 January 2024***

Education, along with the transfer of knowledge, enriches human society in multiple ways – from individual well-being and citizenship to economic growth, reduction of inequality and social unity. It allows people to understand their cultures and fully participate, economically and politically, in society. Through education for all, we achieve individual aspirations and find ways to live better.

UNESCO's theme for 2024 is "Learning for Lasting Peace." To oppose violence on the basis of discrimination, racism and hate, which feed conflicts and generate new wars, we must strengthen our dedication to peace through education.

Education plays an essential role in society. It is a human right and a public responsibility. Good education develops knowledge and cultivates in the learners values, attitudes, capabilities and practices that allow them to become agents of peace in their communities. Ongoing peace requires the realization of human rights, democratic rule, dialogue, solidarity, and cooperation.

For full realisation of these goals, a multilingual education is essential: literacy in the mother tongue; learning and regular use of several languages, including those in use in the country in question; intercultural understanding through languages internationally known; and lifelong learning. Multilingualism contributes significantly to an international understanding and to learning the art and science of living together.

We particularly favour such learning by way of Esperanto. The International Language allows for the advance of a sense of solidarity among people of different backgrounds, along with understanding and respect among nations and communities. Esperanto opens the way to vast cultural riches, and to an international society linking people from numerous countries. Our Association works hard to bring people together in peace. We are also allied with other organizations with similar goals. Esperanto speakers, for example, meet each year in the World Congress of Esperanto (the first congress was in 1905). In 2024, for the first time, the congress will take place in Africa, in Arusha, Tanzania.