



***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on
the occasion of the International Day of Families, 15
May 2024***

Because humankind comes together in families, in various forms, it is essential that we consider the problems and needs of families if we are to construct a world of rights and development for all. From the rights of children, women, and older persons, to working conditions and environmental protection, families play an important role in promoting positive change.

Because families form the basis of society and provide for the coming generation economically and emotionally, family-directed policies are necessary, particularly for the more vulnerable. Such policies must recognize family structure and other characteristics, and support and improve the material, relational and individual well-being of families.

In 2024 we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of Families – an occasion for awareness of the effect on families of changes in technology, demography, urbanization, migration, and climate change. With respect to migration, for example, 1.9 million people migrated in 2018 for family reasons or with their family members.

A resolution of the 78th UN General Assembly calls on governments to develop new strategies and programmes on the needs of families. We believe such strategies and programmes must include language policies. Families are both preservers of languages and possessors of human rights. All families have the right to use and disseminate their own or adopted languages. As individuals, children have a right to learn in languages that use from birth, all have a right to public services in languages they understand, and, particularly, everyone has a right to participate in general public debate.

In truth, language barriers also hinder achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We should listen to the voices of all families in all languages to guarantee access to justice and information, to advance inclusivity and participation, and to leave no one behind.

The Universal Esperanto Association, through its use of the International Language Esperanto, aims both to guarantee worldwide language rights and to form a linguistic bridge between languages, peoples and families everywhere in the world.