



***Message of the Universal Esperanto
Association on the occasion of the
International Day of Peace, 21 September 2024***

In 2024 we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, where we read that peace "requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation." Cooperation follows from mutual understanding: without such understanding, namely the ability to listen and propose, to tolerate and find common paths, progress is not possible.

At the heart of mutual understanding is human language. Languages are crucially important, not only for communication but also for establishing common values and principles. To achieve peace, we need the participation of all people and all their languages. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically condemns discrimination on the basis of the language one speaks. That means equal respect for all languages and their speakers, and the use of various common languages in specific circumstances, and building bridges between different languages in a spirit of equality.

As an organization advancing the International Language Esperanto with the goal of promoting solidarity, understanding and respect among the peoples of the world, the Universal Esperanto Association once again stresses the advancement of linguistic human rights as a path to peace. In its own work, UEA actively seeks common ground through a common language, as it again demonstrated in its 109th World Congress of Esperanto, in Arusha, Tanzania, in August. Almost a thousand Esperanto speakers from 65 countries came together to discuss, in the spirit of peace, the topic "Language, People and Environment for a Better World."

We draw attention to the fact that the topic of this year's European Day of Languages, on 26 September, is "Languages for Peace." UEA will participate in this dialogue. Along with other official NGO partners of UNESCO, we will also participate in "Sharing Dance for Peace" – one of many projects for peace organized by the Esperanto movement at the international, national and local levels.

The UN General Assembly has declared the year 2025 as International Year of Peace and Trust. UEA will participate fully and enthusiastically. Peace and Trust will also form the principal theme of next year's World Congress of Esperanto. Our world urgently needs peace, and such peace will come only through understanding and trust. In the present day, when we face wars, famine, pandemics and other challenges, let us unite to demand peace and also to build a peaceful world in the spirit of linguistic equality.