



Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on International Translation Day, 30 September 2024

Of all forms of unfair discrimination mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the most underestimated is discrimination on grounds of language. In world affairs, in science, in culture, and in all other forms of human relations, the rich diversity among languages functions at once as a source of knowledge and expression and as a barrier to worldwide communication.

Likewise, the relative prestige of certain languages, and their distribution, favours certain languages over others in given circumstances, and, as a result, often produces unfair discrimination.

The principal facilitator, and equalizer, of communication among languages, and thus of communication among people, is currently translation. Translation is an essential path for building a fairer world, bringing people together, advancing dialogue, and creating understanding and cooperation.

Translators and interpreters carry knowledge from one language to another, disseminate science and culture, and, at an individual level, save lives, enable peace, and help our weaker and persecuted brothers and sisters – often under difficult, even life-threatening, circumstances.

As the resolution on International Translation Day asserts, respect for cultural and linguistic diversity is an essential condition for advancing a spirit of openness, equality and dialogue. The work of translation is an important support for the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The work of the Universal Esperanto Association, which supports the idea of a second, international language for all people, parallels that of translation: UEA consistently reasserts the importance of mother tongues, and reminds the international community that we must also consider the language aspect of the three pillars of the UN: Peace, Development and Human Rights. Much as these three goals come together, languages are an essential element in listening to, and uniting, all humankind.

On this day, we again give our support to multilingualism as a core value of the UN, salute the international organizations of translators and interpreters, and reassert our goal of advancing, particularly through the International Language Esperanto, understanding and esteem among the peoples.