



***Message of the Universal Esperanto  
Association on the occasion of the  
International Day for Tolerance, 16 November  
2024***

The Universal Esperanto Association greets the United Nations on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance 2024. Tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference: it implies respect, acceptance and esteem for human diversity. It requires (in the words of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon) “investment in people and in the fulfilment of their full potential through education, inclusion and opportunities”: it needs action, education, promotion. Tolerance is firmly linked to human rights: in tolerant societies “fear, distrust and marginalisation are supplanted by pluralism, participation and respect for differences.”

On this path, what is important is not just communication but true dialogue, where we all listen to one another. Languages are the basis for such dialogue, and thus linguistic equality and active efforts to overcome language differences are fundamental for mutual understanding. To advance tolerance and human rights, it is essential to respect language rights and differences, and find paths to linguistic equality.

When we learn other languages, we express acceptance of other people and create conditions for dialogue. Dialogue implies in turn not just self-expression but also listening: two-directional, equal dialogue is a fundamental element of tolerance and of positive collective action.

Through the International Language Esperanto, which in itself favours equality in dialogue, we advance tolerance and respect among different peoples. In this way, we seek a more just and more harmonious society in the spirit of the United Nations and of all those who seek peaceful collaboration to address the challenges of our world of today.