



***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on
the occasion of International Human Rights Day, 10
December 2024***

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in 1948, it constituted a promise-filled message to a world torn apart by a horrendous world war. The various states, with their various peoples, identified themselves with the principles presented in the Universal Declaration, as did many nongovernmental organizations. The Universal Esperanto Association declared these principles fundamental to the work of the Association.

Today, the principles of the Universal Declaration are too often ignored, with the result that whole populations suffer war, poverty, disease and homelessness, millions of refugees barely survive, and conflicts and wars proliferate, along with failures to observe basic human rights.

We urgently call on governments, international organizations and ordinary people throughout the world to strengthen and renew their efforts to guarantee basic human rights for all individuals and peoples.

In our Association, the Declaration of Human Rights is, then, fundamental to our activity. Our particular interest lies in international communication, in the right to self-expression and the right to be heard in a spirit as equal and inclusive as possible. For this reason, we study and advance linguistic human rights and the path to mutual understanding among different peoples.

Every year, our Association observes Human Rights Day, December 10, along with another important date: December 15, the birthday of Dr. L. L. Zamenhof (1859-1917), the founder of Esperanto. This year we also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the resolution of the UNESCO General Conference, approved in Montevideo on 10 December 1954, which recognized “the results attained by Esperanto in the field of international intellectual relations and the rapprochement of the peoples of the world.” The resolution launched what is now seventy years of cooperation between UNESCO and UEA.

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day 2024, we renew our pledge to advance human rights, to take action to minimize and remove language barriers in international relations, and to advance understanding and respect among the various peoples of the world. Without mutual understanding there is no way to avoid wars, no way to solve the problems of today’s world, and no way to create the conditions for a sustainable world in the future.