



## ***Message of the Universal Esperanto Association on International Women's Day, 8 March 2026***

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2026, the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA), an organization in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, salutes women and girls across the world and reasserts its commitment to gender equality and women's rights, in collaboration with other civil society organisations and international partners.

This year's theme for International Women's Day, proposed by the United Nations, is Rights, Justice, Action: For ALL Women and Girls. It emphasizes that equality requires concrete action. To achieve true justice for all, we must remove all barriers to equal justice: discriminatory laws, weak or ineffective legal protections, and damaging practices and social norms which undermine the rights, security and dignity of women and girls.

Gender equality and full participation of women in all spheres of life are essential for justice and sustainable development. Without real access to justice, education, information and decision-making, rights are merely paper declarations.

UEA also stresses the importance of linguistic justice. If women and girls are to participate fully in political, economic and cultural life, they need equal access to language resources – including education in the mother tongue and access to additional languages for international communication. Language inequality reinforces other forms of inequality. Through the International Language Esperanto and its worldwide network of speakers, the Esperanto movement contributes to a more inclusive international dialogue and a stronger voice for worldwide civil society, including women and girls.

UEA calls on all relevant authorities to act decisively and responsibly so that all women and girls – without exception – can enjoy full rights, equal protection and concrete opportunities to develop their potential.