



# ESPERANTO DAY

26.07.2018



Fair  
communication



Learn  
Esperanto:  
[www.lernu.net](http://www.lernu.net)

About languages: [www.lingvo.info](http://www.lingvo.info)

About interethnic communication: [www.esperanto.net](http://www.esperanto.net) | [www.uea.org](http://www.uea.org)

*26th July,  
Esperanto Day*



*26-a de julio  
Esperanto-Tago*



**July 26 – Esperanto Day – The day of linguistic justice.**

**Why Esperanto Day? Why is it important for the world right now?**

On July 26, 1887, the first teaching manual in the international language Esperanto was published. Esperanto is intended for use in relations between individuals of different languages who can thus speak with one another on an equal basis so that communication among them is just and fair. No one party would feel superior to the others.

***• We propose that the world should celebrate the 26th of July as a day of linguistic justice and therefore of just and fair relations among ethnic groups, cultures, and peoples.***

Fair communication means communication in which all participants have the same linguistic means of expression. It is clear that in a situation in which some people can speak in their native tongue, while others have to use a foreign language, there can be no equality. Clearly, if one language or several languages are preferred over others, the implication is that these languages are more important than others, and that those for whom they are native languages are in control. Such choice becomes a means of excluding people from political participation, education, access to commerce, and many other aspects of everyday life. It reinforces socio-economic inequalities among groups.

There are language rights and there are human rights with linguistic content. Freedom of expression and the right to use a given language are inseparable.

Experience around the world shows that multilingual policies can enlarge opportunities for people in many ways. What an egalitarian world needs is a trilingual formula, already recommended by UNESCO, which gives public recognition to the use of three languages:

- Mother tongue. People want and need to be able to use their mother tongue when this is neither the local nor the international language.
- A national / regional language. A language for local contact facilitates communication between different language groups - such as Swahili in East African countries, where many other languages are also spoken.
- One international language. In this age of globalization, all people must have the right to use a neutral international language, putting everyone on the same level in international communication.








Countries need to recognize all three as official languages, or at least to recognize their practical use and their use in education. There are many versions of such trilingual formulas, depending on the country. While it is possible and even desirable for a State to remain "neutral" on ethnicity and religion, this is impossible with a language. The world's people, as well as civil society in the individual countries, need a common language to promote mutual understanding and effective communication, but at the same time have the right to use their mother tongue.

The international language, Esperanto, offers a neutral tool which ensures linguistic human rights at the international level.

*"Of all the planned world languages Esperanto is today the best known and most used"* says the internationally known linguist *Tove Skutnabb-Kangas* ([www.tove-skutnabb-kangas.org](http://www.tove-skutnabb-kangas.org)). *"According to me,"* she adds, *"it will bring many benefits, if people will consider it seriously. ... Esperanto need less time to learn than any 'natural' language, because it is a regular and logical and without exceptions. Yet one can say everything one wants to say in Esperanto."* Furthermore, it prevents the hegemony of the current great powers. These powers are at present identified with the English-speaking world, and thus English has become so powerful worldwide. But, what does the future hold, say fifty years from now?

*"Strengthening the rights of speakers of all languages is a cause that Esperanto contributes to substantially."* - adds another well-known linguist, *Robert Phillipson* ([www.linguistic-rights.org/robert-phillipson](http://www.linguistic-rights.org/robert-phillipson) - [www.cbs.dk/en/staff/rpibc](http://www.cbs.dk/en/staff/rpibc)).

- *It is time to stop following the great powers of the moment: we must start to put in place a situation of equality among all the peoples of the world.*
- *Esperanto is a way to achieve fair and just communication.*

	<p><b>Esperanto Association of Britain (EAB)</b>  <a href="http://www.esperanto.org.uk/">http://www.esperanto.org.uk/</a></p>
	<p><b>Australian Esperanto Association (AEA)</b>  <a href="http://aea.esperanto.org.au/">http://aea.esperanto.org.au/</a></p>
	<p><b>Canadian Esperanto Association (KEA)</b>  <a href="http://www.esperanto.ca/">http://www.esperanto.ca/</a></p>
	<p><b>New Zealand Esperanto Association (NZEA)</b>  <a href="http://en.esperanto.org.nz/">http://en.esperanto.org.nz/</a></p>
	<p><b>Esperanto-USA</b>  <a href="http://www.esperanto-usa.org/">http://www.esperanto-usa.org/</a></p>
	<p><b>Universal Esperanto Association (UEA)</b>  <b>Universala Esperanto-Asocio (UEA)</b>  <a href="http://www.uea.org">www.uea.org</a></p>
	<p><b>Linguistic Rights</b>  <a href="http://www.linguistic-rights.org/esperanto-tago">www.linguistic-rights.org/esperanto-tago</a></p>
<p><b>Information about Esperanto</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.esperanto.net">www.esperanto.net</a></p>
<p><b>lernu!</b> free courses and information on Esperanto, the living language useful for easy communication.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.lernu.net">www.lernu.net</a></p>
<p><i>The world's most popular way to learn Esperanto online, for free, in just 5 minutes a day!</i>  <a href="https://en.duolingo.com/course/eo/en/Learn-Esperanto-Online">https://en.duolingo.com/course/eo/en/Learn-Esperanto-Online</a></p>	

Esperanto Day Posters: © Peter Oliver/UEA and translators from different countries  
Text: UEA/ZPI and translators  
(ZPI: UEA, Department of Public Information) | [Stefano Keller](#), 2017-2018