

Universal Esperanto Association

Council of Human Rights, Forum on Minority Issues

5th period of sessions, Geneva, 27 and 28 of November 2012

Madame President, Ladies and Gentleman,

We will read the Esperanto text with a Spanish translation.

We are Stefano Keller and Cesco Reale and we represent the Global Association for Esperanto, an international, neutral, and just language, used in interethnic communication by citizens of more than 100 countries.

The Universal Esperanto Association works for the protection of linguistic rights and minority languages, to facilitate communication between peoples and to promote cultural diversity.

In this respect, both the “Declaration about the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities” is proclaimed, as well as Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: “without any distinction to race, color, sex, language, religion (...) or any other condition.”

Today it is very common to see in many countries the habitual disdain towards sexual, racial, and religious discrimination, among others.

Nonetheless, the perception of linguistic discrimination still does not form part of the habitual mentality, which does not identify it as an injustice.

We will give you just one example: quite often in job announcements, only native speakers are requested including for jobs not exclusively related to languages. But, would you accept an announcement seeking only whites or only men?

Thank you for your attention.