

Introducing the Winners of the Fifteenth St Jerome Translation Contest

The role of translation in dialogue and peacebuilding has been firmly cemented through the ages, across time and space. The General Assembly of the United Nations reaffirmed this notion by inextricably linking the role of translators and other language professionals to the Organization's multidisciplinary global mandate. For the past 15 years, the United Nations has been celebrating language professionals on the feast of St. Jerome, the patron saint of translators.

Organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the fifteenth St Jerome Translation Contest was launched on 30 September 2019 as part of its #PowerOfLanguages campaign to celebrate [International Translation Day](#). The Contest brought together translation professionals, amateurs and students from across the world, united by a zany text carefully selected to test their linguistic prowess and eloquence in telling other people's stories in a different language. The Contest underscores the value of multilingualism and diversity by mirroring how translation conveys to the world ideas that would otherwise be lost in silence.

Participants had the option to choose between an article in either [English](#) or [French](#), both overflowing with cultural peculiarities that have historically complicated translation, and instigated many debates, theories and books. The translations were rendered in the six official languages of the United Nations plus German.

The Contest judges included academics from universities beyond the scope of those that have signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations on the training of language professionals, and United Nations professionals from various duty stations. They made constructive and humorous observations, and commented on the challenges they faced in selecting winners from the large pool of quality translations.

The true winner, however, is the translation profession, as reflected in the wealth of talent revealed by the Contest. This ancient profession emanated from the inexorable need for communication between individuals and societies. It remains an eternally fluid discipline, which endeavours to meaningfully articulate and disseminate knowledge, across geographical borders and cultural boundaries, to ensure common ownership by all.

The list of winners and the remarks from the judges are available at <https://languagecareers.un.org/dgacm/Langs.nsf/page.xsp?key=Outreach-StJerome-SJTC15>.

