



## **MESSAGE FROM KEVIN QUIRK, PRESIDENT OF FIT, ON INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY 2020**

### **Happy International Translation Day 2020** *Finding the words for a world in crisis*

Dear friends in translation, terminology and interpreting!  
Dear members of the FIT family!

#### **Happy International Translation Day 2020!**

FIT's designated theme for this year's International Translation Day celebration is "Finding the words for a world in crisis".

As translators, terminologists and interpreters – or indeed as ordinary human beings – you will undoubtedly have felt the effects of the spread of the coronavirus throughout the world at some time during this year.

COVID-19 knows no boundaries, does not respect international borders and makes no distinction as regards who it may affect. In short, we are all in this together, and we need to counter the effects of the coronavirus by coming together and supporting one another. For this reason, I am very glad that so many associations are part of the FIT family.

I believe it is essential that we make our voices heard, and that we raise the profile of our profession at all times. Our job as translators, terminologists and interpreters is to bridge the language gap and promote mutual understanding. Indeed, we have been acknowledged for precisely this by a most supreme body, the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted a resolution in 2017, recognising "the role of professional translation in connecting nations, and fostering peace, understanding and development".

The resolution also enshrines and celebrates the importance and the irreplaceability of professional translation in international human endeavours.

In the difficult times we are in, it is important for all of us to support the essential work carried out by translators, terminologists and interpreters in helping to combat COVID-19 and to return the world to a more normal state. Examples of this include:

- 1) In the front line, by community interpreters working in emergency wards and intensive care units, communicating vital information to those infected and to their next of kin.
- 2) By sign language interpreters providing simultaneous interpreting at press briefings.
- 3) By conference interpreters at virtual meetings of medical experts discussing possible vaccines and other forms of treatment.
- 4) By translators working to translate medical research, user instructions and information for those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their next of kin, and
- 5) By terminologists creating important glossaries for the medical industry.

We are in this together and we stand together. We are the ones who are “finding the words for a world in crisis”.

For now, on such an important day as today – International Translation Day 2020 – I wish you all a very happy day filled with fine celebrations! After all, if we don’t celebrate the important work we do, no one else will!

**Happy International Translation Day 2020  
to all members of the FIT family!**