



Happy International Mother Language Day!

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head.

If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” Nelson Mandela

Did you know that there are over 70 languages in use in the Caribbean? Although about 50% of the world’s population speaks more than one language, there is nothing like being able to express yourself in your mother language, or mother tongue.

Can you imagine your mother tongue no longer being spoken? Of the 7168 living languages currently spoken around the world, approximately 3000 are endangered. Let us actively pass down our mother language to younger generations to preserve it from extinction.

International Mother Language Day is observed annually on February 21 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The theme for 2024 is “Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning”. At the Cave Hill Campus, we should encourage greater communication in the mother tongue.

The UWI Cave Hill Translation Bureau joins the international community in celebrating International Mother Language Day 2024. The Bureau exists to facilitate spoken and written communication from a foreign into the mother language. The Bureau recently provided translations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into Jamaican Creole and Saint Lucian Creole for the United Nations. You can listen to these on YouTube, on the United Nations Caribbean channel. As we continue to serve local, regional, and international clients, let the Bureau help you talk to people in their own language. Contact us at 417-4405 or translationbureau@cavehill.uwi.edu.