

For Immediate Release – February 13, 2026

Event Organizer: [Endangered Languages Project](#) (ELP)

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Link to Press Materials: [Press materials](#)

What: Public Launch Event for UNESCO Chair on Rights Education Among Indigenous and Non-Dominant Language Communities

Date: 21 February 2026 (International Mother Language Day)

Time: 3:00 PM HST | 5:00 PM Pacific | 8:00 PM EST | 2:00 AM Paris* | 6:00 AM Delhi* | 8:00 AM Bangkok* | 11:00 AM Sydney* [**February 22*]

Where: Online. Zoom registration is required at:

<http://bit.ly/IMLD2026>

This **International Mother Language Day, February 21, 2026**, we invite you to join the Endangered Languages Project for a free, virtual live event to celebrate the launch of **The UNESCO Chair on Rights Education among Indigenous and Non-Dominant Language Communities**. This event convenes partners, students, educators, policymakers, and community representatives to present ongoing work, share regional perspectives, and engage in collective dialogue on advancing rights-based language education.

Background: The UNESCO Chair on Rights Education among Indigenous and Non-Dominant Language Communities contributes to UNESCO's global mandate to promote linguistic human rights, intercultural dialogue, and equitable access to education. In alignment with the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Chair supports research, capacity-building, and community-led initiatives that strengthen non-dominant language communities worldwide.

Objectives of this UNESCO Chair position are to: highlight community- and student-centered contributions to rights education; share regional updates through interventions; facilitate dialogue that supports Indigenous and non-dominant language communities; and strengthen international collaboration during the [International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#) (IDIL 2022-2032).

Programme: UNESCO Director General for Education, Ms. Stefania Giannini will deliver UNESCO's Opening Message. The **UNESCO-Co-Chairs on Rights Education among Indigenous and Non-Dominant Language Communities** will be introduced — [Dr. Shannon Bischoff](#), [Professor Mary Encabo Bischoff](#), and [Dr. Candace Galla](#). The Opening Session will be facilitated by **Dr. Bischoff** to discuss Chair initiatives of access to education through online courses, open-access journals, and higher education. **Dr. Galla and Dr. Bischoff** will facilitate **Project Snapshots by Indigenous Activists and Allies** around the world, including: Pon Nya Mon, Sarojini Birua, Racquel Sapien, Daryn McKenny, Jaime F. Mejia Mayorga, Zach Andrews, and Lily O'Quinn Bishop. **Professor Encabo Bischoff** will facilitate a discussion on **Building Indigenous, Ethnic, Non-Dominant Higher Education** with speakers from the Myanmar College Consortium (MCC). An interactive discussion and Q&A session between the speakers and audience will follow.

CTA: Would you be interested in covering this UNESCO Chair on Rights Education launch event?

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