

## Statement on the Lahore Declaration on Language Sciences and the Developing World

As English continues to grow as the language of global communication and commerce, the TESOL field recognizes the cultural impact that language has on individual, social, and economic development. In recognizing this impact, TESOL International Association has a long history of advocating for English language teachers and learners and speaking out on the issues that affect them, as illustrated by the [association's credo](#):

- Professionalism in language education
- Interaction of research and practice for educational improvement
- Accessible, high quality instruction
- Respect for diversity, multilingualism, and multiculturalism
- Respect for individual language rights
- Collaboration in a global community

TESOL International Association has also demonstrated its commitment to language teachers and learners through numerous position statements on the issues of language rights, multilingualism, international education, the role of research in policy, opposition to discrimination, and rights for nonnative speakers in the field of TESOL.

In so far as the Lahore Declaration comports with these values, TESOL International Association supports the spirit of the declaration and its call for the use of language research “that both forwards our understanding of how language works and functions in society and of how these understandings of language can be used ethically and appropriately to create better societies.”

*TESOL International Association Executive Committee  
November 2013*