

## **Position Statement on Language Rights**

It is TESOL's position that indigenous and immigrant people within a country have a right to retain and use their own native languages in public and in private without interference on the part of any governmental agency, regulations, or statutes.

TESOL advocates that the governments and the people of all countries have a special obligation to affirm, respect, and support the retention, enhancement and use of indigenous and immigrant heritage languages of those members in its society who wish to maintain and express themselves, without fear of reprisal, in diverse public and private settings.

Approved by the Board of Directors October 2000