

**NATIONAL CONVENTION 2014 RECOMMENDATIONS – 25-27 April 2014**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
Pioneering to the Islands of Scotland	<p><i>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly consider ensuring a ‘flow of pioneers and a concentration of material resources unexampled in British Bahá’í history’, as exhorted by the beloved Guardian in 1956, to the islands of Scotland. The Guardian promised that the growth of the Faith in these Islands will awaken the whole of Europe!</i></p> <p>In relation to this, it is inspiring to see the example of Tanna in the Ridván message, which shows the potential for growth in the islands</p>	<p>The National Spiritual Assembly initially referred this matter to the Bahá’í Council for Scotland. The Council affirmed the unique opportunities afforded by the Scottish Islands and indicated that it will continue to prioritise them appropriately in terms of available financial and human resources. The Council expressed gratitude for the loving support that the islands have received from the friends and the institutions throughout the UK over the years.</p> <p>The National Assembly consulted at length on this subject and sees that the most effective way at this time to develop the Bahá’í communities on the islands is to develop the capacity of those living there, Bahá’ís and their friends, to make their contribution to the spiritual and social development of their local communities. To this end, the National Assembly will ensure that resources continue to be poured into the islands. One example is the youth conference that is to take place on the Orkney Islands in the autumn, which will require considerable financial resources to support travel and other expenses that cannot be met.</p>
Homefront Pioneering	<p><i>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly encourage that in all clusters inspirational presentations take place appealing for pioneers to arise as soon as possible, and that arrangements be made to ensure prompt consultation with any who respond.</i></p>	<p>The National Assembly believes that it would be better to adopt a different approach to what is recommended. However, the National Assembly has asked the UK Pioneering and Travel Teaching Committee to consider how—in loving collaboration with the Bahá’í Councils—to raise the consciousness of advanced clusters about how to develop a reservoir of pioneers.</p>
Teaching Iranians in the UK	<p><i>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly consider creating a space for those Bahá’í friends who are especially involved in teaching Iranians across the UK, so that they can come together to systematically share, reflect and learn from each other’s experiences.</i></p>	<p>The National Assembly has shared the recommendation with the Training Institute Board with the advice that tutor encounters amongst those teaching Iranians be organized.</p>

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Convention related	<i>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly consider whether it might be more appropriate – and more in keeping with the guidance of the Guardian – to use the term “recommendation” rather than “resolution”.</i>	This is approved and guidance notes and deepening materials will be amended accordingly.
On-line Attendance at National Events	<i>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly facilitate participation in national events, such as Convention, via Skype or other online tools. This would help those who are otherwise excluded because of ill-health or financial constraints.</i>	The National Assembly has considered the recommendation and has concluded that it is inappropriate, as a matter of principle, to stream National Convention online. People who are unable to attend National Convention for health or other reasons can attend their unit’s delegate feedback session(s). Friends also have access to the Annual Report as a key source of information about developments in the community in the year leading up to Convention.
Web page for Bahá’í Children and Junior Youth	<i>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly create a separate website or set of webpages for children and junior youth, as nothing is currently available for those age groups on the main Bahá’í websites. Young Bahá’ís need an opportunity to explore the Faith using the medium of the web, which is an increasingly important part of their lives. Such a development will enable young Bahá’ís to further develop their identity. The website could include stories, games, quizzes, photographs etc. It will need a programmer, an educationalist and a webmaster. Then, after piloted, the National Spiritual Assembly might consider extending the project to the wider community of children and junior youth.</i>	The National Assembly is looking into the possibility of doing this.
Marriage and Year of Patience	<i>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly consider offering training to newly elected Local Assemblies on the process of overseeing Bahá’í weddings and the process of overseeing the year of patience, in order to more effectively support couples in either of these situations and for the Assembly to discharge its duty of facilitating consultation and reconciliation, as needed.</i>	A letter will now be sent to Local Spiritual Assemblies after Ridván providing the contents list from the revised Notes for Guidance and saying that they can request the Notes for Guidance from the National Office or download them from the UK Bahá’í Downloads website. Should they wish to study any of the materials pertaining to particular issues of concern to them, they may wish to invite their Auxiliary Board member to accompany them in this study. Included in these guidance notes are papers on marriage, divorce etc.