

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

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Visit to the Guardian's Resting Place

At least once a year, and usually during the first meeting after its election, the National Assembly visits the Resting Place of Shoghi Effendi for prayers. With great joy the Assembly visited the Resting Place during its May meeting and remembered in its prayers each and every believer, the teaching work and the achievement of the goals of the Plan.

Riḍván 2015 Message of the Universal House of Justice

No doubt you have studied this joyous and encouraging message. At the first opportunity during its May meeting the National Assembly studied it together with Counsellor Shirin Fozdar-Foroudi. The lens through which it was studied was to try to understand and reflect on its implications for the functioning of the National Assembly, how it might impact upon its work, and how it guides and directs the community. This effort was richly rewarding, as it will surely be for all individuals, communities and institutions that study it, through the lens from which they are operating.

Universal House of Justice letter dated 29 April 2015 regarding progress of the construction of the House of Worship in Chile

Studying this letter was also deeply inspiring and resulted in the National Assembly deciding to contribute £9,000 to the Chile Temple Fund on behalf of the UK Bahá'í community. Inspired by the House of Justice's comment on "the swiftly advancing construction", the National Assembly also decided to commission an article paralleling the various stages of the construction of the Temple with the processes of growth.

Many, many subjects consulted upon

The National Assembly meets every 5 to 6 weeks and consults for about 17 hours on each occasion. It covers many subjects and these vary from meeting to meeting. Here is a short selection:

- A considerable amount of time was spent consulting with Counsellor Shirin Fozdar-Foroudi on the goals of the Plan leading to the announcement of the goal of doubling the number of core activities during the last year of the Plan.
- All of the recommendations of the delegates to National Convention were considered at the first meeting following National Convention.

- The support of Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education students in their relations with UK universities.
- Identifying plenary speakers for Summer Schools.
- Matters pertaining to the loving care and support of individual believers and Local Spiritual Assemblies.
- A number of committee and agency appointments were made.
- Initial plans for National Convention 2016 were considered.
- The delegates' training events, which were held earlier this year, were reflected upon and, in light of this, some changes were made to ensure better planning for next year.
- A number of employment matters were considered.
- An ongoing review of the vision of Summer Schools, including the role of plenary sessions and speakers.
- Practical arrangements for the Assembly's forthcoming meetings, including number and timing of meetings.

Plans for a weekend of special consultation and study

The National Assembly decided with the Counsellor to put aside a special weekend to consult and learn together about the subjects of protection and the spiritual health of the community. This will take place in September.

Intensive Training

The National Assembly greatly values the gatherings for intensive training in the sequence of Ruhi courses that take place each summer. They add a wonderful impetus to the work of the Plan, infusing the community with new energies and capacities, and we are delighted to note that intensive training at the national level is open to adults this year. The friends are warmly encouraged to register here: <http://www.bahaievents.org.uk/wp/welcome/intensive-training-summer-2015/>

Such is the significance of intensive training, the National Assembly decided that three of its members (a third of the Assembly!) should be excused from its next meeting in order to attend, both for personal progress through the sequence and to accompany others, particularly from the community of interest.

Studying the letters of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís in Iran

At the past two meetings, a further two letters in this series were read and consulted upon:

1. Letter dated 2 April 2010 on the subject of social justice and wealth.
2. A Naw-Rúz 2015 letter, which was recently shared with the community on NEWS.

Studying this series of letters as an Assembly is a joy and assists in developing a common vision for the work of the Faith within the Assembly. Words are inadequate to express how rich this experience is, so we encourage you to delve into them yourselves!

With our warmest love,

National Spiritual Assembly

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM