

UNIT CONVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS - December 2014

Unit	Subject	Recommendation	Response
EU22 – City of Westminster	Five Year Plan	That the believers throughout the UK be encouraged to pray together at every Nineteen Day Feast for the fulfilment of the remaining Goals of the Five Year Plan.	This recommendation inspired an interesting consultation at the table of the National Assembly. As an outcome, the friends were called by the National Assembly to prayer and action during the Fasting period.
EU22 – City of Westminster	Five Year Plan	That the list of pioneer Goals be made available at Nineteen Day Feasts to facilitate consultation on ways and means of assisting in their fulfilment.	The National Spiritual Assembly will make a list of the goal clusters available to Local Spiritual Assemblies and Groups
EU22 – City of Westminster	Five Year Plan	That a cluster-wide Reflection Meeting be held in Greater London once a year so that the believers have a sense of the development of the Cluster as a whole.	This recommendation will be passed to the Bahá'í Council for England for its consideration.
EU22 – City of Westminster	Five Year Plan	That the Central Sector Teaching Committee (in London) set up a flow of regular and systematic communication with the Assemblies and believers in the sector.	This recommendation will be passed to the Bahá'í Council for England for its consideration.
EU40 –Loughton	Elections	Lovingly request that the NSA consider producing AV material on the importance of Bahá'í Elections to share with the community.	We are pleased to say that materials of this kind have already been prepared for the use of the friends. Two short videos, “The Nature and Importance of Bahá'í Elections” and “Beacons of Guidance” (on the election of the Local Assembly), may be accessed at: https://vimeo.com/117425435 and https://vimeo.com/117420742
EU44- Bedfordshire	Five Year Plan	To encourage the friends, that if they are taking their holidays in parts of the country where assistance is needed in the clusters, to inform the Councils that they are available to assist those communities during their stay and inform them what they can offer.	The spirit of the recommendation is appreciated, however the National Assembly does not feel that this is the

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			most appropriate way of recruiting travelling teachers.
EU59 - Leicester	Teaching	That the NSA consider providing some prepared interactive talks and resources about the Bahá'í Faith that could be personalised at a variety of target audiences e.g. Women's Institutes, Infant, Primary, Secondary Schools and service groups such as Rotary, Lions etc.	The National Spiritual Assembly feels that the production of such a resource is not a priority given the limited demand for such materials.
EU59 - Leicester	Youth	The NSA to offer guidance on careers young people could pursue that will assist the Faith	The National Assembly cannot be prescriptive in this matter. However, the following quotation may be of assistance to any of the believers considering this question: "Every Bahá'í has a duty to work and earn his living, and in choosing a career a Bahá'í should consider not only its earning capacity but also the benefit of the work to his fellowmen." (From a letter of the Universal House of Justice, dated 3 January 1982)
EU73- Yorkshire West	Five Year Plan	That a point of contact for each goal community/cluster, be appointed so that Travel teachers, Pioneers, visitors and Year Service volunteers to Goal areas, have a clear set of aims and understanding of what resources/skills are needed. This would enhance the effectiveness of input and make the best use of limited resources in the most appropriate way and focus on the exact needs, eg devotionals, children's classes etc. The point of contact should provide a direct link to projects, monitor progress, determine future needs and give feedback and guidance for subsequent volunteers.'	The Regional Council or the Auxiliary Board members responsible for the priority clusters may be contacted if information is required on the needs of the cluster.
EU77- Northumberland	19 Day Feast	That Unit Convention humbly asks the National Spiritual Assembly to consider sending a short 19 Day Feast letter to focus and enrich the Feast consultation as well as individual and community lives. This may be particularly helpful to Baha'is who feel isolated.	From time to time the National Assembly has identified themes for the friends to reflect upon and has written to the Nineteen Day Feast accordingly. We will certainly continue to do this. In

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			<p>addition, however, it is hoped that the friends will also choose their own themes and materials for study, especially as we are blessed to receive many messages from the Universal House of Justice throughout each year.</p>
NU81- North Down	Summer School	<p>Is it possible for the summer school committee for Northern Ireland to be allowed some latitude in the subjects offered at the school, in order to tailor the programme to the participants?</p>	<p>The National Assembly consulted with each of the Regional Councils last year to seek their views on the needs of the community, as it is felt that they are best positioned to determine this. In light of the feedback received, guidance was offered as to the themes to be focused on at each of this year's schools.</p>
EU50- Warwickshire, South Solihull	Unit Convention	<p>A question was asked for the attention of the NSA regarding item 4 in the agenda for unit convention (reading from the guidelines). The guidelines were interpreted as the need to read three pages (pgs 2-4) to the whole Convention, and therefore took a little time. It was asked whether these notes could be shared in advance, rather than taking up time at the Convention meeting itself.</p>	<p>The National Assembly feels that it is useful to review the guidance at the Convention itself, however the guidelines have been reviewed to ensure that only the points that are of relevance to those attending are read out.</p>
EU50- Warwickshire, South Solihull	Five Year Plan	<p>For the friends in South Warwickshire, where there are no LSA's, questions were raised about how plans can be agreed? Is there any guidance available for Groups from the NSA?</p>	<p>The relevant cluster agencies can no doubt assist in planning activities in relation to expansion and consolidation. Guidance is available from the National Assembly on the functioning of Groups. Groups are written to every year at around Riḍván and are encouraged to form a formal Group for consultation and planning</p>

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			purposes. Guidance is made available to them at this time.
WU94-Cardiff	Training Institute	That the Training Institute should appoint a Ruhi Co-ordinator for Wales and oversee our area as it is lacking at present. We would find that the encouragement from a local co-ordinator would activate and encourage the community in this regard.	A regional coordinator for the Institute is already in place for Wales and a cluster coordinator is in place for South Wales. A Training Institute Board for Wales has now also been established.
EU61-Lincolnshire	Five Year Plan	That some form of creative media such as a YouTube video be made that extols the virtues of Lincolnshire to young persons or families seeking a re location to assist in establishing the programme of growth. The video or Journal article could mention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i The well regarded university ii The excellent natural environment iii the availability of cheap housing iv job opportunities on the Humber Bank with the energy park development v road links to the A1 and M180 	A video has been made available that highlights each of the goal clusters. If the friends in Lincolnshire or any of the goal clusters wish to do something special to highlight their own cluster, they are more than welcome to do so.
EU61-Lincolnshire	Unit Convention	Can clarification be offered about the collecting of ballot papers for area convention by named persons. At the moment in areas as large as Lincolnshire having one named person in the City of Lincoln means that it impractical to collect short notice ballot papers that are too late for posting from outlying towns several hours drive away. This year 3 ballots were not allowed under this rule, exacerbating what was one of the lowest returns for many years. Could it be possible to appoint one person in each sizeable town in Lincolnshire who could if required bring any late ballots to the convention. It is appreciated that transparency and probity is required but unless the convention areas are made smaller, the huge remote rural areas will always suffer under this rule. (these areas represent 17 out of the current 19 goal areas)	The National Assembly encourages the friends to post their postal ballots to the appointed address in good time and not to leave it until it is too late to do so. If it proves not possible to do this, then the voter should contact the appointed person and make an arrangement for the postal ballot to be hand delivered to the appointed person. It should thus not prove necessary to appoint special individuals to collect late ballots, a practice that the National Assembly would wish to discourage.

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EU65-Yorkshire South	Communications	To provide ways of sharing stories and experiences about what is happening around the UK. For example study circles which people could join. To tap into a National resource where we could learn about what other communities are doing.	This is the aim of the newsletters/magazines that are produced by the Regional Councils. The National Assembly is aware that all of the Regional Council are striving to produce a useful regular newsletter/magazine.
EU48- Oxfordshire, North EU36- Bromley and Lewisham	Five Year Plan	<p>That the NSA and the Councils encourage LSAs and groups to meet with their ATCs, to work together to provide better communication, and to establish clarity on the names and duties of committee members and Training Institute coordinators, together with information on current activities.</p> <p>We suggest that the NSA request for Local Spiritual Assemblies to provide their community members with contact details for members of the all relevant local and cluster wide institutions.</p>	These recommendations are worthwhile, and no doubt an appropriate pattern of action will evolve as the Plan unfolds. This is a theme that is already being closely considered by the National Assembly, which is working with the Regional Councils to encourage the advance of this process. Paragraph 21 of the 28 December 2010 message of the Universal House of Justice provides important insights in this matter: referring to the activities associated with the training institute, it commented, "As the [Local] Assembly consults on such tangible matters and learns to nurture the process of growth lovingly and patiently, its relationship with the Area Teaching Committee and the training institute gradually becomes cemented in a common purpose."
EU71- East Lancashire	Five Year Plan	That the NSA should consider inviting a Year of Service person to our Unit to assist with activities.	This suggestion will be passed to the Regional Council for England for its consideration

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EU71-East Lancashire	Unit Convention	It would be helpful if it could be indicated in the Notes for Guidance for the Unit Convention where the money collected in the Fund Box at Unit Convention should be given....to the NSA, LSA or some other fund.	The friends donating should be able to earmark their donations as they wish. This will be noted in the Notes for Guidance.
SU-87-Dundee & surroundings	Five Year Plan	A resolution was agreed to ask the NSA to consider whether there is a need for greater balance between core activities and proclamation as wider proclamation can be an effective gateway into the institute process since individuals may be limited in how many members of the public they can reach.	Purposeful proclamation, seen as a gateway into the Institute process, is a coherent aspect of our expansion and consolidation processes. However, it needs to be carried out in proportion to our resources to consolidate the new friends and contacts we meet through the proclamation effort.