

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

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Dearly loved Friends,

We hope what follows will give a flavour of the many and varied issues that the National Spiritual Assembly considers in its ongoing efforts to serve the community.

The progress of the Plan

Counsellor Shirin Fozdar-Foroudi joined the National Spiritual Assembly for a specially called one-day meeting to review the teaching work in recent months and the launch of the new Five Year Plan. It was a joy to reflect on the wonderful efforts that are already under way to meet the goals of the Plan, the new areas of learning that are being explored, and the progress that has been made.

Bicentenary Holy Days

With the two-hundred-year anniversaries of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh and the Birth of the Báb on the horizon, the National Assembly is currently considering how best to commemorate these special Holy Days. These consultations are informed not only by guidance from the House of Justice, but also by thoughtful suggestions received from some of the friends.

Communications from the National Spiritual Assembly

Based on guidance recently received from the Universal House of Justice, certain changes have been implemented regarding the ways in which the National Assembly, through its Offices at the National Hazíratu'l-Quds, communicate with the friends. You will notice gradually that certain communications will be sent from the 'Office of the Secretary' (formerly "Department of the Secretariat) and the 'Office of the Treasurer' (formerly "Finance Office"), under the signature of members of these offices. Such communications are written at the direction of the Secretary or Treasurer, or are of a routine nature conveying information or existing guidance. Of course communications, such as this one, will continue to be signed by the Secretary of the National Assembly conveying its guidance, direction and encouragement to the community.

Communications Strategy

In consultation with the Office of Public Affairs, the National Assembly is currently considering how it may wish to use social media platforms to communicate with the community. A task force has been put in place to explore this matter further. Following consideration about the National Assembly's modes of communication with the community, the *UK Bahá'í Downloads* website was recently redesigned and moved to a new address at <http://bahaidata.com>. We warmly encourage all the friends to register and make use of the many helpful resources it contains.

National and Unit Convention recommendations

The National Assembly is deeply grateful for the recommendations received from National and Unit Conventions. The process of considering these recommendations, including seeking the views of relevant committees and agencies where needed, is currently underway.

Faroe Islands

The Bahá'í Council for Scotland has been asked by the National Assembly to take responsibility for guiding the friends and institutions in the Faroe Islands in relation to the expansion and consolidation work.

Committee appointments

The National Assembly recently appointed the members of its committees and agencies for the year 173 B.E. We are, as always, extremely grateful to all the friends who offer their invaluable services as members of the various committees, which make such a vital contribution to community life.

National Service marking the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen

The National Assembly was honoured to receive an invitation to participate in the National Service of Thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral, marking the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. A representative for the Bahá'í community was chosen by the National Assembly to represent our Faith at this high-profile event.

Refurbishment of the apartment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá at 17 Royal York Crescent, Bristol

Progress is being made in the effort to restore the property at 17 Royal York Crescent to its condition at the time of the beloved Master's visits in 1911 and 1913. Following consideration by the National Assembly of how best to approach this and to ensure that the best advice is obtained, a Professor of Architecture at Bristol University, with expertise in local architecture in particular, has been approached for his advice and assistance. Following receipt of his report, the National Assembly will consider the next stage in the process.

With our warmest love,



Patrick O'Mara,
Secretary