

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2017 RECOMMENDATIONS

| Subject | Recommendation | Response |
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| Convention Consultation | National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly consider methods in which delegates can be enabled to be focused in their presentations without the three minute rule. It is challenging to create a well formulated contribution that gives a story or example, plus transferable insights and learning whilst not preventing delegates from listening to consultations. | The recommendations gave rise to a rich consultation on the processes of consultation at National Convention. The National Spiritual Assembly feels that the current structure and processes of Convention have been working well and that any changes needed are qualitative. These will be addressed through the training of delegates and other preparatory processes. The National Assembly continues to believe that the three-minute rule allows time for the maximum number of delegates to speak; this rule is always put to the delegates for their approval at the beginning of Convention. The Universal House of Justice has said that it is not permissible to use alternative methods of organising Convention. |
| Convention Consultation | National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly considers alternative methods of organising the convention consultation that uses processes such as reflection. This is to enable universal participation, and allow for focused consultation sharing key insights and learning. | |
| Universal Participation | <p>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and consider the role of women in the Faith and to investigate whether there is an underlying issue with why there is consistently fewer women elected as delegates? 2. To consider how the Baha’i community can become more conscious of the “diversity” of individuals elected onto institutions. 3. The National Assembly would also include the number of Women and Men that serve as delegates each year. | <p>This recommendation was raised in full consultation with the Counsellor. It was decided that the delegate training materials will be reviewed to see whether one or two questions could assist reflection on the diversity among those we vote for. Further materials will be prepared for use at Feasts, in the form of a Power Point presentation, to raise the consciousness of the friends and help them prepare themselves for the sacred task of voting for their delegates.</p> |
| Assisting youth in Higher Education | <p>National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly creates mechanisms (or promotes existing mechanisms) that assist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The institutions to encourage youth to attend institutions of higher learning where their specific experience or desire to serve the faith could best be fulfilled. 2. To then consider how we can support these students so that if they choose a more isolated space they can be accompanied to establish Bahá’í societies or engage in the teaching work in ways that allow them to serve the Faith. | <p>Following consideration of this recommendation, arrangements have been made to enhance the UK Pioneering and Travel Teaching Committee’s existing ‘Period of Service’ programme by putting in place a point of contact for youth. This point of contact will, in summary, be available to consult with youth on a range of matters connected with pioneering, including the opportunities for service and how this might cohere with tertiary studies or training. The Committee would also ensure that youth pioneers are</p> |

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| | | connected to the local institutions and that they are receiving the necessary support in their services. |
| Bicentenary materials | National Convention requests that the National Spiritual Assembly produce a statement about the bicentenary that can be given to persons such as bishops, leaders of religion, university deans etc. | The National Assembly carefully considered this recommendation in consultation with the Office of Public Affairs' coordinating team and the Counsellor. It was felt that believers who have relationships with prominent and public figures should certainly engage them in further conversation about the life and mission of Bahá'u'lláh. If these contacts themselves could be invited to make statements about Bahá'u'lláh to be circulated it would be wonderful. However, it was felt that such prominent people should be seen also as individual souls who have the capacity to respond on a personal level to the power of the word of God. To this end, the National Assembly has prepared a range of resources, including booklets, which could be presented to not only prominent people but all friends and family members. Further, the Office of Public Affairs is preparing a statement which will relate Bahá'u'lláh's teachings to UK reality at this time. |