

## UNIT CONVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS - January 2017

Unit Name	Subject	Recommendation	Response
<p><b>TWO SHIRES [Unit 23]</b></p>	<p>National Convention</p>	<p>That the National Assembly should consider automatically paying expenses of delegates to the National Convention so that there is no stigma or embarrassment attached to those who need that assistance. The National Assembly should provide an easy method for delegates who do not want the assistance to optionally re-donate it back to the Fund.</p>	<p>In its message of 4 August 2016, the Universal House of Justice gives clear guidance on the procedure that should be followed to enable delegates to fulfil their duties: “Everything possible should be done to ensure that delegates, once elected, attend the National Convention, where they carry out their responsibilities as summarized in the 16 May 2013 letter from the Universal House of Justice. In some countries there may be formidable obstacles preventing full attendance, but the National Assembly can learn over time to facilitate maximum participation. For instance, the long distances some delegates must travel in order to attend the National Convention may create a financial burden they are unable to bear. In general, in such cases, if a delegate is unable to pay his or her own travel costs, the believers from the electoral unit from which the delegate comes should be encouraged to defray such expenses. If funds are unavailable from this source, delegates may approach the National Assembly to seek assistance; however, it would not be wise for an Assembly to apply a policy of fully reimbursing all the delegates. This would not prevent it, of course, from considering the situation of each delegate and deciding whether it could assist with his or her participation at National Convention. Those delegates who cannot attend should nevertheless exercise their spiritual obligation to vote for the membership of the incoming National Assembly.”</p> <p>Additionally, the National Assembly is subsidising the accommodation costs of all delegates staying at National Convention. If a delegate feels they cannot afford even the subsidised cost, they may seek further assistance from the National Assembly. If they can afford the full cost of accommodation, they are free to contribute the difference to the Fund.</p>

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<p><b>GREATER LONDON – SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST [Unit 29]</b></p>	<p>Sharing of learning</p>	<p>To follow up from the previous National Convention resolution to continue looking at how learning at the national level is being disseminated with the local and wider communities.</p>	<p>The National Spiritual Assembly is conscious of the encouragement and inspiration that can result from the sharing of news and experiences from around the country, which itself learns about through its accompaniment of the Regional Baha’i Councils and Training Institute Boards, and the Assembly members’ personal participation in Plan-related consultations and activities. The National Assembly is continuing to look at how it can share stories and experiences through NEWS and the <i>UK Bahá’í</i>, and through other means, and encourage the Bahá’í Councils through their own regional publications.</p> <p>The Counsellor and her auxiliaries are also constantly alert to developments, and learning is shared through the guidance given to communities and Assemblies.</p>
<p><b>NORTH EAST ENGLAND [Unit 10]</b></p>	<p>Sharing of learning</p>	<p>That the National Spiritual Assembly consider the creation of a national on-line forum/space for sharing learning between active junior youth animators/children’s class teachers/study circle tutors/devotional hosts.</p> <p>(Note: At present learning is shared at a community/cluster level but at times this feels limited when core activities are nascent. For example, there are currently various informal Facebook and WhatsApp groups for animators across the north of England. We suggest the forum be available for all those interested to view but contributions be limited to those who are actively involved in the activities.)</p>	<p>This has been referred to the Training Institute Boards for their thoughts on this and the National Spiritual Assembly is awaiting their responses.</p>
<p><b>NORTH EAST ENGLAND [Unit 10]</b></p>	<p>Local Spiritual Assemblies</p>	<p>(a)That the National Spiritual Assembly provide training materials for Officers of Local Spiritual Assemblies, namely Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. This covers specific tasks and duties relevant to each</p>	<p>The National Assembly is looking at what training materials might already be available, prepared by institutions in other countries, and will consider if such materials might be useful for the United Kingdom context.</p>

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		<p>Officer for each UK region, to include a timeline of major tasks for the year.</p> <p>(b)That the National Spiritual Assembly recommend to all Local Spiritual Assemblies that all members of their Assembly be trained in these duties.</p>	
<p><b>STARS OF THE WEST and HAINSWORTH [Unit 07]</b></p>	<p>Communications</p>	<p>Convention noted with concern that it is now ten months since the last appearance of “CommuniQué”, the Northern Ireland Bahá’í newsletter, and that this failure to produce a newsletter comes against a background over the past few years of long periods of time without it appearing.</p> <p>While other media such as the e-announce list bahaini are being used they cannot meet all the needs, and the lack of a newsletter leaves the community without a journal of record for significant developments while also depriving the community of detailed reports of activities, photographs, the sharing of resources and guidance, and the feeling of a united Bahá’í community in the Province. This in addition to the fact that not everyone can access electronic communications.</p> <p>Convention therefore asks the National Spiritual Assembly to once again address with the Bahá’í Council what is clearly an ongoing problem with this aspect of its work, so that the community can once again benefit from a regular, helpful, and informative newsletter.</p>	<p>The Bahá’í Council in Northern Ireland is aware of this and an issue of <i>CommuniQué</i> appeared in July 2017 and it is their aim to bring it out quarterly.</p>
<p><b>WEST YORKSHIRE [Unit 12]</b></p>	<p>Unit Convention</p>	<p>It was noted that families placing their postal ballots in individual envelopes and then placing them in the second outer envelope were not writing their names on the individual envelopes which of course is in accordance with the guidance given on the back of each ballot. However; in multi occupancy in a household it might create a problem determining</p>	<p>The issue of identifying the voter on the inner and outer envelopes, and the inclusion of a whole family’s ballots in one envelope has been resolved by the National Spiritual Assembly following seeking guidance from the Universal House of Justice.</p> <p>Regarding the second recommendation, the guidance</p>

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		<p>what envelope belongs to which member of the family.</p> <p>When determining reserve representatives; in case of two people achieving the same amount of votes, the guidance says to write both names down and another election by those attending the unit convention is not necessary. However, it is not clear which name should be written as the first reserve and which name should be written as the second reserve.</p>	<p>says, in the example of a unit with five delegates, if there is a tie between the individuals who received the fifth and sixth highest number of votes, the tie would need to be broken to see who is the fifth delegate and who should be the first reserve. Likewise, the tie for sixth and seventh places would need to be broken to determine who will serve as the first reserve and who will serve as the second.</p>
<b>GREATER LONDON – NORTH AND EAST [Unit 28 Sub Unit 2]</b>	Bicentenary anniversaries	<p>To enquire whether the National Spiritual Assembly is preparing any resources for use and adaptation by local communities in preparation for the bicentenary. For example, a hashtag, an AV presentation, a landing page enabling people to search for local celebrations, or any other national campaign (eg offering “200 hours of service”).</p>	<p>The National Assembly has been addressing the whole matter of the bicentenaries and a number of lines of action are under way. The UK Bahá’í Bicentenaries Facebook page has been created to share a range of resources and news of community initiatives. Booklets about Bahá’u’lláh and compilations have been prepared and a 15-minute film for use in a variety of spaces including schools is nearing completion.</p>
<b>GREATER LONDON – SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST [Unit 29]</b>	Bicentenary anniversaries	<p>To prepare a collection of materials for the upcoming Bicentenary of the birth of Baha’u’llah and the Bab which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A 1 page document outlining the significance of the Bicentenary to be shared with the wider community.</li> <li>b) Additional materials such as small booklets to be shared with the public and or media.</li> </ol> <p>To create materials suitable for promoting the Baha’i Faith particularly in relation to the upcoming Bicentenary in schools. The format of which would be preferably digital and in a language easily understood by children.</p>	<p>A range of booklets have been produced including a special bicentenary introductory booklet, a small biographical booklet on Bahá’u’lláh adapted from one produced in Ireland, and a compilation on His Life and Mission. The Office of Public Affairs is preparing a statement on the relevance of Bahá’u’lláh’s message to British reality today. OPA has also produced a sheet outlining the significance of the Bicentenary.</p> <p>Re: video. See above. Further materials for use in school assemblies and RE classes are also under review.</p>
<b>HERTFORDSHIRE [Unit 26]</b>	Bicentenary anniversaries	<p>That the National Spiritual Assembly provide an on-line space on which individuals and communities can submit their creative ideas for the Bicentenary celebrations. Other Bahá’í communities could then</p>	<p>A UK Bahá’í Bicentenary Facebook page has been established to share ideas and activities happening throughout the United Kingdom.</p>

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		access these ideas for consideration for their own celebrations.	
<b>NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE</b> [Unit 11]	Bicentenary anniversaries	<p>Would it be possible for the National Spiritual Assembly to gather information as to how different communities are preparing for the forthcoming Bicentenary Celebrations – including in particular what activities they have organised before and after the celebration – and to publish these for the benefit and inspiration of others?</p> <p>Is there any authorised material relating to the Bicentenary Celebrations which could be made available at the National Convention, so that both delegates and other participants could purchase it for their communities?</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>Bahá'í Books UK was asked to make a special feature at National Convention of titles related to the life, station and mission of Bahá'u'lláh, and his Writings, that could be of use to communities in the Bicentenary.</p>
<b>GREATER LONDON – NORTH AND EAST</b> [Unit 28]	Resources for Bicentenary	<p>In the support of outreach activities in the wider community, professionally prepared material (packs) be provided to share and communicate.</p> <p>More guidance on how LSAs can help the friends engage with the wider community/local groups.</p>	<p>Many of the initiatives outlined above have been created in response to the need for resources to be used by the friends.</p> <p>The National Assembly has been regularly sharing ideas and encouraging the friends with various lines of action in relation to outreach during the bicentenary period.</p>
<b>GREATER LONDON – NORTH AND EAST</b> [Unit 28]	Social media	<p>Guidance on how to engage without being seen to be partisan or politically involved.</p> <p>Guidance for posting Baha'i activities on social media. What forums can we use to deepen on these areas?</p>	<p>The National Assembly has sent out a compilation on politics to all Spiritual Assemblies to use as they see fit with their communities. It is also addressing the use of social media as one of the areas it would like to be learning about in the coming years.</p> <p>Guidance on all aspects of engagement with the internet and social media is freely available from the Bahá'í Internet Agency.</p>