

MIXED SEX ACCOMMODATION

Guidance from a letter of the Universal House of Justice dated 10th August 2000 to the Continental Board of Counsellors in Europe:

“With respect to Bahá’ís living in the same residence with a person of the opposite sex, such an arrangement would by no means be automatically considered unacceptable. It is not uncommon, for example, for a person to let out bed-sitting rooms in his or her house to students, vacationers, or others. Similarly a man or woman may employ a housekeeper or servant of the opposite sex. What is considered proper in such arrangements varies from country to country. The laws and principles of our Faith, on the other hand, are meant to apply across all cultures, and what Bahá’ís would consider immoral is people who are not married living together as husband and wife, and indulging in sexual relations.

“Beyond this, however, even if the relationship between a Bahá’í man and woman is entirely innocent, it is vitally important that they should not live together in a way that would give the wrong impression. If there is any doubt about the perceived morality of a particular situation they should unhesitatingly avoid it and seek alternative arrangements in order to preserve the good name of the Faith. In following the standards of the Faith, the friends must be not only righteous, but also wise. Naiveté can do great harm, especially in the present unstable condition of social morals in the world at large.”