

NOTE FOR GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

STRIKES

According to the Bahá'í Writings, industrial problems will never be solved by strikes.

“The question of socialisation is very important. It will not be solved by strikes for wages... In the utmost moderation they (the governments) should make the law... The rights of the working people are to be strongly protected... otherwise the labour problem will lead to much destruction...”

(‘Abdu'l-Bahá quoted in “Foundations of World Unity” p.43)

At the present time, however, no rigid rules have been laid down with regard to Bahá'í participation in strikes. As long as a Bahá'í, by taking part in a strike, does not show allegiance to a particular political party, or is not actively involved in initiating or promoting a strike, participation is very much a question of conscience.

“... As you know, ‘Abdu'l-Bahá in general disapproved of strikes. Briefly stated, the Bahá'í attitude is that when the law recognises strikes as legal, as when called by a properly constituted authority such as a trade union, the Bahá'í teaching neither requires nor forbids an individual to participate in the strike, but leaves him free to decide for himself what is the proper course of action in the particular circumstances.”

(From a letter dated 7 September 1969, written by the Universal House of Justice to the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles).