

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

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refer to: GC-26649

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From the Table of the National Spiritual Assembly

Chile Temple

The National Spiritual Assembly was deeply moved to read the letter of the Universal House of Justice dated 16 February 2012 to all National Spiritual Assemblies concerning development of the Chile Temple which has been shared with the community. The picture created in the letter of the building and of its construction is truly remarkable. It promises to be an astonishing structure which will be of profound spiritual significance for the peoples of South America.

Drawing inspiration from these developments, the National Spiritual Assembly decided to contribute £9,000 from the National Fund to the Chile Temple Fund.

Sale of merchandise at national events

The National Assembly is happy to extend the opportunity to the friends who may wish to promote or sell items at National Convention which can be regarded as being of service to the Faith.

Friends who may be interested are requested to contact the National Office. All items must go through the normal review process in order to ensure the dignity, suitability and appropriateness of them. Given that there are limited spaces available, we hope the friends can appreciate that there will be a selection process to decide on those items that can be displayed and the National Assembly has put in place an arrangement for this purpose.

Strengthening the Educational Process

The National Assembly is keenly concerned to ensure that the Institute Process throughout the United Kingdom is strengthened thus ensuring that the necessary advances are made in clusters by developing the capacity of souls to engage in those activities which are at the heart of our efforts to build communities that reflect the vision of Bahá'u'lláh. To this end, at its February meeting, it met with the recently appointed Training Institute Board, together with the Counsellor. Also present was Clare O'Brien, the resource person from the Junior-Youth learning site in Ireland and Talieh Mann, Auxiliary Board member and also the National Institute Coordinator. During this three hour consultation, achievements were shared, challenges were raised, and learning was reflected upon.

One of the challenges that the institutions need to learn more about is how to encourage a greater number of youth to consider offering a year or more of service and to begin preparing for this in the few years leading up to the year itself. This requires the positive support and encouragement of parents and the development of the understanding that not only is this vital for the health and growth of the Bahá'í community, but also for the spiritual, social and intellectual development of their children. The National Assembly is currently engaged in further analyses and consultation on this important theme.

Unit Convention Boundaries

Under the guidance and direction of the Universal House of Justice, the National Assembly has been reviewing the current boundaries of Unit Conventions in order to ensure that the allocation of delegates to each Unit is in proportion to the number of adults in the Unit. Since Unit boundaries were last changed, there have been a number of Units where the Bahá'í population has either increased or decreased to a significant enough extent to warrant some revision to their boundary. Suggested amendments are at the final stages of approval and the community will be informed of them in time for next year's Unit Convention.

We will each and every one of you a happy and joyous Naw-Ruz!

National Spiritual Assembly

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick O'Mara', with a horizontal line underneath.

Patrick O'Mara
Secretary