

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

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## From the table of the National Spiritual Assembly

### Ridván 2012 Message

The National Spiritual Assembly was deeply inspired by its study of the Ridván 2012 message at its recent meeting. The message contains so many profound images and thoughts that inspired its consultations throughout the weekend and will undoubtedly do so for many more. The image of *'Abdu'l-Bahá, standing before an audience several hundred strong, lifting a workman's axe and piercing the turf covering the Temple site at Gross Pointe, north of Chicago*, caused the Assembly to reflect on the mighty undertaking that the early American Bahá'í community engaged in to build the Mother Temple of the West. The architect had a vision of what the Temple would be, but he did not know how to build it. The technology did not yet exist. And so it took many years to overcome the challenges that the project presented. Inspired by the vision of the architect, the community and those engaged by it in the construction of the Temple, had to learn the skills necessary to build the Temple using the architect's plans as a guide. Is this not similar to the mighty undertaking which the Bahá'í community is currently engaged in, in building the new civilisation envisaged by its Architect, Bahá'u'lláh?

The Assembly also reflected on the greatness of the Mission of Bahá'u'lláh and the vast scale of the transformation that is taking place and has yet to take place in society as a result of it!

Still today, can anyone claim to have glimpsed anything but an intimation, distant and indistinct, of the future society to which the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh is destined to give rise?

How wonderful it was to read of the decision of the Universal House of Justice to build two Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs in the Republic of Congo and Papua New Guinea, as well as beginning the process of consultation concerning the erection of the first local Houses of Worship in five clusters across the world! Inspired by this and a Convention Resolution that encouraged the Assembly to set a goal for contributions to the newly established Temples Fund at the Bahá'í World Centre, the National Assembly decided to make a donation of £9,000 from the National Fund to the Temples Fund and is considering what further contributions will be made from the National Fund over the coming months.

### Centenary Celebrations of the Visit of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

The National Assembly took time to consult on the forthcoming Centenary celebrations for the second visit of the Master to these shores, from 13 December 1912 to 21 January 1913. It is the prayer of the Assembly that these celebrations will continue to bring hearts even closer to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and be inspired by His Example. As the House of Justice wrote in relation to this period:

We should, therefore, reflect not only upon what the Master achieved and set in motion but also on the work that remains undone to which He has summoned us... During this precious period of remembrance, then, let each and every one of His faithful lovers rise and act in His

Name. Let them offer their share, no matter how humble, to the progress of the Plan He ordered – that priceless and everlasting bequest.

No doubt local communities will be considering how to celebrate this second visit of the Master in such a way that the friends in their communities will be inspired in this way.

Similar to last year, there will be an open day or weekend at the National Haziratu'l-Quds, the date of which will be announced in due course. Some of the precious items in the National Archives will be on display during this time. In addition, the National Assembly will also be arranging a booklet recounting on a daily basis the events of the Master's second visit which will be made available to all the believers in due course.

## **Huqúqu'lláh**

The National Spiritual Assembly had a joyful and fruitful meeting with the Regional Board of Trustees of Huqúqu'lláh for the United Kingdom and Ireland. This provided the Assembly with a special opportunity to grow closer to this mighty Law of Bahá'u'lláh and to deepen its understanding of its significance.

One of the purposes of the consultation was for the Assembly to understand how it can support the efforts of the Institution of Huqúqu'lláh to promote the Law throughout the United Kingdom. It reflected on its own role in doing this, and how it might facilitate other institutions such as local Spiritual Assemblies in playing their vital part in collaborating with the Representative of Huqúqu'lláh in their locality in promoting a deeper understanding of the significance and importance of this Law.

This was delightful consultation and the National Spiritual Assembly appreciated very much the time given by the Board to enable the Assembly learn how it can play its part in this important endeavour.

## **Guardian's Resting Place Endowment Fund**

The National Spiritual Assembly is delighted to inform the community that the Goal set last year for the newly established Guardian's Resting Place Endowment Fund of £130,000 was achieved. The purpose of this fund is that it will build up over time and will eventually provide a capital sum, the income from which will provide for the upkeep of this precious holy place that we are blessed to care for in the United Kingdom.

## **Receipting Policy of the National Spiritual Assembly**

The National Spiritual Assembly gratefully receives contributions from believers for international, national and local funds, as well as payments for Huqúqu'lláh. In recent years, the National Assembly's policy has been to issue receipts for these contributions and payments on an annual basis up to 5 April, the end of the tax year. On request, of course, receipts can be issued for individual contributions or payments and the Finance Office would be happy to facilitate this.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly



Patrick O'Mara,  
Secretary