

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

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Advancing clusters along the continuum of development

Reflecting at its recent meeting with Counsellor Shirin Fozdar-Foroudi, the National Spiritual Assembly was greatly inspired by the efforts of the community to achieve the goal of establishing a programme of growth in every cluster across the UK, as well as by the energies being exerted in those clusters which have such a programme to intensify the expansion and consolidation phases of their cycles of growth. The Assembly was delighted to perceive how the Regional Councils, in collaboration with institute coordinators and Auxiliary Board members, are making focused efforts to support and accompany the many souls who are devoting themselves towards these ends. It was also encouraging to note that following National Convention, many friends are considering if their circumstances are such that they can pioneer to those clusters where a programme of growth has yet to start.

Messages from the Universal House of Justice

As you may be aware, in recent years an extraordinary series of letters was sent from the Universal House of Justice to the believers in the Cradle of the Faith on such subjects as family life, consultation, participation in the life of society, and the Bahá'í attitude towards material wealth. The letters have been shared with the community previously, and will soon be added to the UK Bahá'í Downloads website, admin.bahai.org.uk. We urge the friends to continue studying this outpouring of guidance from the Supreme Body and to draw on it within the context of their own lives, their families, the teaching work, and interactions with the community of interest. The National Assembly studies these letters regularly and is deeply inspired by them.

Services of all generations of believers

Whilst a particular effort is being made at this time to mobilise and release the potential of youth in order to meet the goals of the Plan, the National Assembly is ever-mindful of the essential and invaluable contributions that have been made, and are still being made, by older generations of believers. Not only do such believers continue to play an indispensable part in the work of the Cause, but the National Assembly felt moved at one of its recent meetings to extend its humble gratitude to them all for their contribution in laying the foundation for all that the community is capable of today. To honour the sacrifices and services rendered during previous Plans, the National Assembly has asked for a regular feature on the achievements of past Plans to be included in future editions of the *UKBahá'í* magazine.

Renewal of Iranian Passports

The National Assembly considered recent guidance concerning the process of renewing Iranian passports. In light of this, any Bahá'í seeking to renew their Iranian passport is kindly requested to contact the National Assembly in advance in order to receive this important guidance.

Births, marriages and deaths

After considering the views expressed by members of the community, the National Assembly decided to reinstate the publication of details of births, marriages and deaths in *UKBahá'í*. It is hoped that this information will be of value to the friends.

Dates of the National Spiritual Assembly's meetings

The following dates have been scheduled for the National Assembly's upcoming meetings:

13-15 June 2014	31 Oct – 2 November 2014	20-22 February 2015
25-27 July 2014	29 November 2014*	27-29 March 2015
30 August 2014* (Provisional)	(Provisional)	24-26 April 2015 (National Convention)
12-14 September 2014	12-14 December 2014	
	16-18 January 2015	

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly