

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

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FROM THE TABLE OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

At each of its meetings, the National Spiritual Assembly considers a wide array of topics and issues concerning the ongoing development of the Faith in the UK, as well as matters concerning administration, individual cases, and many other issues besides. In so doing, the National Assembly carefully considers the correspondence received from individuals in the community and various Bahá'í agencies and, where possible, draws upon guidance from the Writings as well as the letters of Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, and the Universal House of Justice. The National Assembly sometimes also invites certain agencies of the Faith to join its consultations, such as the Office of Public Affairs coordinating team or the Training Institute Board for the United Kingdom. And in a great many cases, the National Assembly has the great bounty of being able to consult with Counsellor Shirin Fozdar-Foroudi.

We are pleased to share with you below a small selection of the items the National Assembly has been addressing in recent months, and hope that this conveys a sense of the multi-faceted work that the Assembly is currently undertaking.

Training Institute Seminar: The National Assembly took time to reflect on feedback from an excellent seminar on tutoring study circles organised by the Training Institute Board.

External representation: From time to time, the National Assembly is called upon to decide who should represent the Bahá'í community on various organisations at the national level, and a number of such decisions were recently made.

Badí' calendar: Consideration was given to the implications of the new guidance from the House of Justice regarding the implementation of the Badí' calendar, including ways in which to ensure that future calendars and diaries with Bahá'í dates are correct and accurate.

Land surrounding the Guardian's Resting Place: Following guidance from the Universal House of Justice, the National Assembly is overseeing steps to further develop and beautify the land in the vicinity of the Resting Place of the beloved Guardian.

Regional youth conferences: The possibility of holding regional youth conferences was discussed, and guidance was shared with the Bahá'í Councils accordingly.

Formation of Local Spiritual Assemblies: There are occasionally reasons why a community is not able to form a Local Assembly even if it has 9 or more adult believers. The National Assembly was therefore pleased to consider tailored plans to assist certain communities to form Local Assemblies next Ridván.

Bahá'í artists: The distinctive contribution that Bahá'í artists make, and the way in which the fruits of their endeavours can best be made available to the community, remains a subject of ongoing consultation for the National Assembly.

Properties: The National Assembly attended to a number of property matters, including maintenance issues and the use of local Bahá'í Centres.

Discourse work: In consultation with the coordinating team of the Office of Public Affairs, the National Assembly considered how to advance efforts to contribute to discourses on prevalent issues in society at the national level.

Publishing: The National Assembly considered certain matters related to Bahá'í publishers, which provide such an essential service for the Cause, and steps are now being taken to increase the National Assembly's collaboration with those publishers.

The list above is but a small taste of the matters that are brought to the attention of the National Assembly, and which it is the Assembly's pleasure to deliberate upon in an effort to serve the community and to advance the work of the Cause.

We take this opportunity to remind the friends that at each of the National Assembly's meetings, time is set aside to offer prayers on behalf of the friends in the UK, for the institutions and their services, for the Bahá'ís in Iran, and for the wellbeing and development of all humanity. It remembers too those friends who are known to have passed away and their families, the newly enrolled, those recently married and youth who have just turned 15 and 21 years of age.

The National Assembly is also delighted to offer prayers for any individuals who request it. Thus, if any members of the community would like to add names to this list, they may do so by writing to nsa@bahai.org.uk, including a brief indication of the reason for the prayer request.

With our warmest love,

National Spiritual Assembly