

UKBAHÁ'Í

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**Glimpses from the London
Youth Conference**

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Martyrdom in Iran

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From the Universal House of Justice

"To every generation of young believers comes an opportunity to make a contribution to the fortunes of humanity, unique to their time of life."

"the moment has come to reflect, to commit, to steel themselves for a life of service from which blessing will flow in abundance"

"youth whose consciousness of the failings of society impels them to work for its transformation, not to distance themselves from it;"

"youth whose integrity and uprightness are not undermined by dwelling on the faults of others and who are not immobilized by any shortcomings of their own"

"youth who, whatever the cost, will refuse to pass by inequity in its many incarnations and will labour, instead, that "the light of justice may shed its radiance upon the whole world."

"Although your realities are shaped by a broad diversity of circumstances, yet a desire to bring about constructive change and a capacity for meaningful service, both characteristic of your stage of life, are neither limited to any race or nationality, nor dependent upon material means."

"In an age consumed by self interest, in which even spiritual affiliation is weighed in the scales of reward and personal satisfaction, it is heartening to encounter individuals from their mid-teens to their twenties—those upon whom the sights of an aggressive materialism are decidedly trained—who are galvanized by the vision of Baha'u'llah and are ready to put the needs of others before their own"

London Youth Conference

From the Universal House of Justice

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All images from London Youth Conference



Glimpses from the London Youth Conference

Myself, and many others who have attended the London conference are privileged to have been a part of such a spiritual and uplifting event. This is just one conference out of 114 with the same aim: community building. The material we studied has changed me for the better. I have not only developed more confidence but I have the ability to speak up amongst many people and express different viewpoints freely without being judged. This experience has given me a more intellectual and spiritual approach to life. Going to the conference at first I was scared and nervous of being alone, I didn't know what to expect, but after seeing how many people were present at the conference I realized that I could never be alone. I now know more about the Bahá'í Faith and I would like to declare that I am now a Bahá'í and more than proud. The aim of the Conference was for the youth to come together to reflect on how we could contribute on creating a better society. This has had a massive effect on me and I am now in the processes of finishing the Ruhi books, taking children's classes, helping out with Junior Youth groups and I want to involve my friends in a Ruhi book one. After I shared my experience among my friends they seemed eager to join the Bahá'í activities. For this day forward I will be involved in more Bahá'í activities; I will put service first and I am applying to go to Haifa in the Holy Land. Thank you so much to the Universal House of Justice, without whom none of this would have happened.

Ennis

As I arrived in the conference's location after 14 hours of travelling, I wasn't so sure about the whole thing but I knew this would be fun. When I woke up next day in the morning, as I stepped out of my dorm I strongly felt like this conference would be something to remember.

I found myself surrounded by over a thousand people, aiming and expecting to reach the same goals as animators. I have met so many amazing people throughout the whole conference!

The peculiarity of my story is that I had never heard about Bahá'u'lláh until about four weeks before this conference and yes, I had some reservations as I knew nothing about it and I had my own religion already.

One day as I was walking by the streets in Ennis, County Clare, I was stopped by a Bahá'í lady who briefly told me about the Faith. We exchanged mobile numbers and she promised to contact me but we both lost each other's numbers. Out of a coincidence we met again in the same place two days later; we exchanged numbers again and she gave me her address as well - I thought "how nice of her".

Two days after, she took the initiative of giving my number around to two Bahá'ís who got in touch with me. Since that day we all have become good friends and they were the ones who told me about this conference.

I have learnt immensely in those three days of the conference, one of the highlights for me was that choosing between work/study and service is a false choice, you can do both at the same time if you really want to.

As I am in university, it will be quite hard to hold my own junior youth group as I have very little time. However, I will invest my free time to support other animators around my area. Furthermore, I am looking forward to start studying Ruhi book 1; I will try to squeeze it in my daily schedule or even in the weekends with the help of my Bahá'í friends. My aim in the future is to actually contribute in my community somehow by paying service to the junior youth, as they're our future.

Northern Ireland

Arriving on Saturday morning, I was greeted by an impromptu devotional, taking place at the entrance to the

auditorium. The sense of peace and tranquillity that overcame all those present represented a stark contrast to the hustle and bustle normally associated with such a thoroughfare. Filled with beautiful prayers and music, contributions were made from all parts of the UK and beyond, bringing together the individual regions as a collective whole.

The plenary sessions throughout the conference also sought to foster mutual support and friendship through the media of music, dance, the visual arts, and reflective prayer. Once again, the atmosphere of positivity permeated the room. The encouragement, shown by all, for those on stage was extremely reassuring in an age when many are quick to pass judgement and criticise. What soon became apparent through the stories shared was the fantastic work going on in communities all over the UK. The reassurance that we are not alone in our efforts towards community building is invaluable in maintaining the positivity and commitment necessary to succeed. The insights and reflections of other attendees provided another highlight, revealing how each one had been deeply touched by the conference and the messages it contained.

So, what next? The conference can be seen as a catalyst of change in our community – the ideas explored as part of the weekend sparked much discussion and planning. As a result of this renewed enthusiasm, several activities are being put in place, including a new Junior Youth group, Children's Classes, Study Circles and Devotional gatherings, as well as increased support for existing activities. Since returning, many of the youth have continued to meet regularly to plan these activities and deepen their bonds with one another.

Upon reflection, the Youth Conference has changed my perspective on the concept of service, reinforcing the importance of living each day with a 'spirit of service' and not dichotomising our lives into distinct compartments. I also learned how mutual support is critical to the success of all community building activities, and that very little



is accomplished through the actions of one person alone. The Youth Conference has instilled in me a sense of hope and a belief that we will succeed in building better communities - together.

Reflections of a volunteer

As one of the volunteers at the conference, the majority of my time was spent helping at the registration desk and managing equipment for the dedicated media team, though I occasionally caught some of the plenary sessions. Having recently passed the age of eligibility to attend the conference workshops, I found myself viewing the occasion from an interesting vantage point: from the periphery peering in. With over a thousand excited youth descending by the busload during registration on Day 1, among them sizeable numbers of seekers who had in some way been touched by the Institute process, I wondered to myself how the conference would unfold.

In summary, the feelings evoked throughout were both heart-warming and affirming: the bonds of true friendship that clearly existed among participants, the common vocabulary used in describing their aims and objectives, the joy and devotion that shone through in the artistic performances and moments of prayer, and finally the constant stream of touching testimonials given by Bahá'ís and friends of the Faith alike on the main stage -- all within an atmosphere of true equality, oneness and gratitude to Bahá'u'lláh.

I compared the abundant fruits of this conference to the various youth conferences I had attended as a participant. While all were special in their own ways, I felt they had rightly made way for a more focused and impactful forum that examined closely how to make constructive change and empowered participants with the necessary tools to do so.

I also paused to reflect on the Divine Processes underway, on the perseverance and sacrifice of

those friends engaged in community activities and serving in neighbourhood projects, the mistakes made and confirmations received along the way -- all in a humble spirit of learning to engage with the wider community. Given what I had the bounty of witnessing, I left with a deeper appreciation of the imperative of obedience to the Plan of the Universal House of Justice.

Certainly, the tremendous surge of enthusiasm generated by this and all the other conferences can only accelerate further the community-building endeavours taking shape worldwide.

Further Glimpses

At the closing plenary session, a number of youth went up onstage to share their reflections:

"I'm from a tiny island on the North-West of Scotland. My experience at this conference has been wonderful, I hadn't met anyone beforehand and you've all been so kind, so thank you very much. I only heard about the Bahá'í Faith about a month ago. After my first junior youth meeting someone said 'Why don't you who know nothing about junior youth group come to this massive conference?' And my natural reaction was of course, 'Yes!' I came here as an atheist, but what I've learned here over the past few days, it doesn't matter that if you follow the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith, all that matters is that you go with a pure intention and that you want to serve humanity and that you follow the teachings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and that you are essentially a Bahá'í and follow the Faith. Everyone here was relaxed without the feeling of being judged at all. So what I think we should learn from here is that we should always strive to be spiritually enlightened and for spiritual excellence."

"I was a bit anxious the first morning, and I couldn't really put it into words as to why. I was thinking as we read the Universal House of Justice letter that I'm a full time student, how can I serve? On the first session we talked about the

false choices, and I thought to myself what a coincidence, all of a sudden I realized that it wasn't a choice between the two, and that through pursuing knowledge, that was a form of service, and that I will apply that now and in the future in the path of Bahá'u'lláh. That moment was so freeing that now I can go on in life without that burden, and I can dedicate my whole self to this and be the true person, the human, that can best serve the world at this current stage. After that first day, it was the biggest transformation – I had two amazing days left."

American Youth from Belgium: "I started the Ruhi process with studying Ruhi Book 1 and came to the firm conclusion that I believed in Bahá'u'lláh around three months ago. The most challenging thing to my Faith, which this conference really helped me to overcome, is that we could build a spiritual and material civilization. I was the type of person that used to get really discouraged just by looking at history, but by looking at that spirit of unity reflected in all these spaces in this conference has been a divine confirmation. Coming to the first plenary instilled within me a profound sense that this is our planet, that we will build this civilization, that this juncture in history is where we will make this transformation, and I encourage us all to make this happen."

I found myself surrounded by over a thousand people, aiming and expecting to reach the same goals as animators. I have met so many amazing people throughout the whole conference!





From the Universal House of Justice

To the Bahá'ís of Iran - Martyrdom of 'Ata'u'llah Ridvani

29 August 2013 / 10 Asmá' 170 B.E.



To the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in Iran

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The news of the murder of 'Ata'u'llah Ridvani has brought us profound grief. This heinous act fills every heart with sadness and revulsion, and the perpetrators of this outrageous crime and those who ordered it stand condemned by all human standards. Those who, in the name of religion and for personal gain and ambition, seek to sow the seeds of hatred and division and who, with words and actions aimed at incitement, make such a crime possible also bear responsibility and carry a heavy burden for this dreadful deed. We know, of course, that the majority of the Iranian people condemn this inhumane act, abhor injustice, and express their rejection of every attempt to divide the people of their country.

'Ata'u'llah Ridvani's highest desire was to serve his native land and the world of humanity. His life was dedicated to

love and friendship towards all, and in his daily interactions he strove to reflect every human virtue. He faced threats and cruelties with bravery and dignity, and was well known among the people for his kindness and compassion. He was the exponent of amity and concord, and transcended prejudice and estrangement. And for treading this path, he gave up his life and quaffed the cup of martyrdom. Thus he attained the presence of His Beloved in the realms above, drank from the chalice of God's good pleasure, and inscribed his name upon the Guarded Tablet.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to 'Ata'u'llah Ridvani's dear wife, his children, and his other bereaved relatives, and assure them of our ardent prayers at the Sacred Threshold for the progress of his luminous soul, and for the descent of the confirmations of God upon every member of that distinguished family. The illustrious life of that departed soul again bears testimony to the clarity of the exalted vision of the Bahá'ís of Iran, to their valour in the face of cruelty and persecution as they pursue their noble goals, to their readiness to bear an oppression born of ignorance and prejudice with a spirit of constructive resilience, and to their determination to seek justice with patience and fortitude. For divine bestowals to be showered upon you all, we supplicate the Lord of bounty, the Sovereign of the kingdom of eternity.

[signed: The Universal House of Justice]

To the Bahá'ís of Iran - Remembrance at Convention

23 August 2013 / Asmá 170 B.E.

To the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in Iran

Dearly loved Friends,

The arrival in the Holy Land of over a thousand delegates representing Bahá'í national communities throughout the world to attend the Eleventh International Bahá'í Convention was characterized by

such enthusiasm and majesty as to bring tears of joy. The gathering of these servants of Bahá'u'lláh—men and women from different ethnic and racial backgrounds—reflected the diversity of the human race itself, demonstrated a new phase in the penetration of the Faith in local communities and among multitudinous peoples of all continents, and told of the confirmations of the Concourse on high and the results of the untiring efforts of the followers of the Blessed Beauty to build the Kingdom of God on earth. The election of the members of the Universal House of Justice took place in an atmosphere of purity, spirituality, amity, and love, devoid of the corruption often associated with elections in this material world. In each of the sessions, in the course of the consultations about the worldwide accomplishments of the Bahá'í community, the discernible effects of the spiritual forces released by your sacrifices were evident. A beautiful bouquet of roses kept the memory of the beloved friends in the Cradle of the Faith ever fresh in everyone's mind. On the second day of the Convention, having listened to expressions of your earnest love for the Blessed Beauty and your dedication to the progress of His Cause, a group of delegates from Africa sang an inspiring song as a tribute to you. As the delegates visited the Holy Shrines, they offered heartfelt prayers on your behalf, and throughout the Convention, their remembrance of you evoked in their hearts these sentiments expressed by the Master: "Gathered in fellowship are we, in the holy court are we, dwellers of Paradise are we; would that thou wert here, would that thou wert here!"

The convocation of this International Convention occurred near the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of the former members of the Yárán, who served the Bahá'ís of Iran by managing the affairs of the community, and the second year of the arrest of those friends who had been selflessly engaged in teaching useful arts and sciences to Bahá'í youth who, on instruction of the authorities, have been deprived of higher education because of their beliefs. The imposition of these regrettable restrictions is emblematic of the oppression and

injustice inflicted upon all the Bahá'ís of Iran, a persecution without any justification that has intensified over the past twelve months, encompassing even young infants and the frail elderly. This hostility, born of ignorance and prejudice, also affects many other brave people of that country and is responsible for the incarceration of some of the most outstanding and capable citizens of that land on baseless pretexts. The perpetrators of this tyranny, oblivious to the good pleasure of God and the welfare of the people, appear to have no concern for the harmful social, economic, psychological, and spiritual consequences of their actions for their homeland and noble countrymen.

Hatred and prejudice blind the inner eye and impair judgement. The futile aim of the authorities in intensifying the persecutions is to demoralize the Bahá'ís and to quench the divinely kindled flame. They are, however, heedless of the fact that no matter how strong the storm of enmity, it will never extinguish the lamp lit by the Hand of Divine Power; on the contrary, the stronger the forces of opposition, the more they will stoke the fire of the love of God in receptive hearts. These uninformed oppressors, not obtaining the desired results from their wide-ranging attacks, now also resort to other means of exerting pressure and coercion. They join forces with the traditional enemies of the Faith, imagining that by sowing the seeds of doubt in the hearts of the friends, they can foment dissension and discord within the community. When they see that your discourse on community building attracts and influences your friends, acquaintances, and neighbours, they desperately resort to circulating distortions of the truth and spreading fallacious arguments, hoping that by stirring up false controversies over matters of religious doctrine, they will, as they did in the past, be able to replace constructive and purposeful discussions with disputation and contention.

However, everyone, even the oppressors, admits that, notwithstanding the intensity of the hardships and the innumerable

obstacles placed in your way, you are as firm and steadfast as a rock in facing adversity, for you consider it a bounty to bear trials and tribulations in the path of God. You know that, in the words of the Centre of the Covenant, "the pure souls have never been concerned with their own rest and comfort. Nay, rather, they have relinquished the sweet nectar and accepted the vicious sting so that all peoples may be illumined." You pursue your path with patience and calm and hold before your eyes these words of the beloved Master: "For 'Abdu'l-Bahá, captivity is like unto freedom and the prison-cell a heavenly mansion. The bondage of chains and fetters is as pleasant as a stroll among flowers in a luminous garden. The lowly mat is as a lofty throne, and the depths of the pit even as the heights of the celestial realm." Moreover, you know well that establishing the Kingdom of God in this turbulent world is no easy task. It requires unshakeable faith, complete reliance on God, high endeavour, an indomitable spirit, constant striving, and infinite patience and long-suffering. You are aware of God's method and look upon your efforts as seeds sown by the divine Husbandman in His field. Cultivating and gathering the crop require hard work, time, patience, and sacrifice, but through the bounties of God, an abundant harvest is assured. You remain confident that just as the seed, which through the outpourings of the rain and the exertions of the gardener gradually grows into a mighty and fruitful tree, so too your selfless efforts and the labours of other Bahá'ís around the globe—vividly apparent at the Convention—will, at the appointed time, through the blessings of the Abhá Beauty, yield wondrous fruits; hearts will be enlightened, this darksome earth illumined, and the oneness of humanity ultimately realized.

Praised be God that you, valiant labourers in the field of servitude, have excelled in the arena of faith and service and drawn words of praise and admiration from friend and stranger alike. We supplicate in the Holy Shrines that divine confirmations may surround each and every one of you.

[signed: The Universal House of Justice]

Passing of Hushmand Fatheazam

14 August 2013 / 14 Kamál 170 B.E.



TO: To all National Spiritual Assemblies

We have learned, with profound sadness, of the passing of our dearly cherished, greatly esteemed former colleague Hushmand Fatheazam. Tenderness of spirit, profound knowledge, noble humility, and tireless endeavour characterized his highly valued services rendered over the course of many decades, whether as a member of the Universal House of Justice for forty years beginning in 1963, as Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of India, or as an enkindled pioneer, avid proponent of teaching among the masses, and inspired author. His wholehearted and resolute defence of the community of the Greatest Name was unwavering, and his determination in the face of adversity unyielding. Gifted with a unique eloquence in Persian prose and verse, he leaves a remarkable legacy of deploying the power of that language in service to the Cause. Beyond a distinguished record of consecrated exertion in the path of the Blessed Beauty, he will also be remembered for his manifold outstanding personal qualities, for his delightful humour, and for his kindly and radiant heart that exuded an all-embracing love.



We extend our deep condolences to his dear wife, Shafiqih, and to his bereaved sons and other family members and assure them of our ardent supplications at the Sacred Threshold that his illumined soul may reap a rich reward in the Abhá Kingdom. The friends throughout the world are called upon to hold memorial meetings in his honour, including befitting commemorative gatherings in all Houses of Worship.

The Universal House of Justice

From the National Spiritual Assembly

Frontiers of Learning DVD - available in Farsi

12 August 2013 / 12 Kamál 170 B.E.

We are pleased to announce that a limited number of copies of the Frontiers of Learning DVD dubbed in Farsi are now available on request. Please contact the National Office by email: nsa@bahai.org.uk or telephone: 020 7584 2566 if you would like to request a copy.

Referendum for Scottish Independence Guidance

13 August 2013 / 13 Kamál 170 B.E.

Please see below a letter from the National Spiritual Assembly concerning the referendum for Scottish independence, which was recently distributed to all the believers in Scotland.

Though addressed in the first instance to the Bahá'ís in Scotland, the guidance contained therein is of relevance to all the believers in the UK. At the request of the National Assembly, we are therefore sharing it with you for your study and reflection, together with the enclosed letter of

2 March 2013 from the Universal House of Justice concerning the Bahá'í attitude towards politics.

To all the believers in Scotland

In recent months, the National Spiritual Assembly has received enquiries from believers in Scotland seeking guidance regarding the appropriate Bahá'í response to the current debate arising from the referendum for Scottish independence, which is understood to be scheduled for 18 September 2014. The National Assembly therefore sought guidance on this matter from the Universal House of Justice, and we are pleased to share with you its response as follows:

"The question of independence for Scotland is plainly a political issue, and Bahá'ís should refrain from discussing the matter, especially within the Bahá'í community. Believers are, of course, entirely free to decide for themselves whether to participate in the referendum and how to vote, taking care that their doing so does not lead to an impression of aligning with a partisan perspective.

Their abstaining from taking sides on the issue of Scottish independence should not be interpreted as Bahá'ís being uninterested in the affairs of their society. Rather, their approach to the advancement of society is derived from the teachings enunciated by Bahá'u'lláh, at the heart of which is the cardinal principle of the oneness of humankind."

(From a letter dated 16 July 2013 written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United Kingdom)

To assist in further understanding the Bahá'í approach to the advancement of society, the Universal House of Justice has commended to the believers in Scotland a careful study of its letter dated 2 March 2013 to the Bahá'ís of Iran.

It is hoped that the foregoing will answer any queries you may have regarding the Bahá'í attitude towards the referendum.

Bahá'í Council for Scotland - Change of membership

23 August 2013 / 4 Asmá 170 B.E.

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to inform you that it has accepted a request from Mrs. Venus Alae-Carew to be relieved of service on the Bahá'í Council for Scotland for personal reasons. We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to Mrs. Alae-Carew for her stalwart services which have contributed so much to the work of the Council.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. John Parris as the new member of the Bahá'í Council for Scotland.

Please do continue to keep the Regional Bahá'í Councils in your prayers, as the National Assembly always does, that they may be strengthened and supported in all their vital exertions towards the work of the Plan.

London Youth Conference

29 August 2013 / 10 Asmá 170 B.E.

At this very moment, youth from across the country are making their way to the Youth Conference in Warwick, a precious gift bestowed by the Universal House of Justice and one of 114 such conferences taking place across the globe at its divine behest. They will be joined by youth from our sister communities in the Republic of Ireland, Iceland, Malta, and Gibraltar. All those attending will have a unique opportunity to learn together, steel themselves for heroic, life-long exertions in the path of service, and bend their energies towards reviving the fortunes of a society that is at once broken and bewildered. We look forward with tremendous excitement to this auspicious gathering, which will surely help tap the "reservoirs of energy and devotion that the youth possess" and enhance the capacity of Bahá'í and like-minded youth, and through them the capacity of the

community as a whole, to fulfil the spiritual mission of this Day.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that over 1,000 people have registered to attend the conference with approximately one fifth coming from the community of interest, which is a truly wonderful achievement! We ask the friends on these islands to join us in fervent prayer over the spiritually charged coming days, as we beseech the Blessed Beauty to aid the youth in their efforts and grant them His celestial confirmations.

Youth Conference

2 September 2013 / 4 Asmá 170 B.E.

The National Spiritual Assembly was overjoyed and humbled to witness the youth conference that took place over the last three days at Warwick University! In a spirit at once exultant and purposeful, and with an energy matched by a fervent commitment to action, around 1,000 souls from Iceland, Ireland, Malta and the United Kingdom came together from an exceptionally diverse mix of backgrounds to engage in "earnest discussions that lift the heart and awaken the mind to the possibilities of what could be". The conference was particularly blessed by the presence of two representatives of the Universal House of Justice, Counsellors Uta von Both and Shirin Fozdar Foroudi. The materials provided for study by the Universal House of Justice gave all present an opportunity to develop a unity of vision as to the contribution which their generation is now called upon to make, the responsibilities they hold—especially towards those younger than them—and of the actions they can take to help to build the materially and spiritually prosperous world envisioned by Bahá'u'lláh. In addition to the palpable spirit of love, unity and friendship that grew throughout the weekend, it gave us particular pleasure to hear the testimonies of the many participants who are either new to or investigating the Faith at this time, which exhibited a profound understanding of the task at hand and enthusiasm to realise its aim.

The wave of conferences taking place across the world during these months can be followed on the Bahá'í World News Service (<http://news.bahai.org/community-news/youth-conferences/>).

The seeds sown during the conference must now be nurtured and cultivated. Notably, many of the participants have already made plans for action or will be doing so in the coming days. It is, therefore, a vital responsibility for the community—parents, individuals and institutions alike—to welcome the youth on their return; to accompany them, encourage them, and consider how best to support them in the realisation of their plans; to learn with them in their devoted endeavours; and to do their utmost spiritually and practically to enable the youth to fulfil their high destiny. We have every confidence that the community will arise to support the youth in this way, and look forward with eager anticipation to seeing the fruits of this effort.

Sri Lanka Collaboration Goal

2 September 2013 / 14 Asmá 170 B.E.

As you may be aware, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United Kingdom is one of a number of National Assemblies selected by the Universal House of Justice to participate in the international financial collaboration programme. This means it is entrusted, at the direction of the House of Justice, with periodically assisting our sister National Assemblies around the world in financial undertakings, such as the acquisition or renovation of properties.

In recent days, the House of Justice has called upon this community to assist with the renovation of the Bahá'í Training Institute building in Kadugannawa, Sri Lanka, and to provide a contribution of US\$26,000 towards this goal. We will be joining our fellow Bahá'í communities of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sarawak, Singapore and the United States in offering support to Sri Lanka in fulfilling this important project. The community

is greatly blessed to be assigned this opportunity to show loving support to our Bahá'í brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka.

Contributions to the International Collaboration Fund can be made in the following ways:

By post to:

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, Finance Office, 27 Rutland Gate, London, SW7 1PD

Or by bank transfer:

Bank Name: Nat West
Sort Code: 60 04 04
Account No: 18188443
Account Name: NSA - Fund account.

If using this method, please also send an email to finance@bahai.org.uk providing your name, details of the amount, and the date of the transfer, and indicate that your contribution is for "The International Collaboration Fund".

Submitting Items for Pre-publication Review

10 September 2013 / 3 'Izzat B.E.

The National Spiritual Assembly would like to remind the friends of the necessity of submitting for pre-publication review any Bahá'í literature, articles or audio-visual items which are to be sold or circulated widely. The purpose of review is to ensure that the Faith is not misrepresented and to ensure the dignity and accuracy of the presentation of the material. There are two principal points of contact for the Review Panels, depending on the nature of the materials:

Literature:

Mrs. Natasha Wilkinson, 2 Boundary Lane, Norwich NR7 0TB. Email: nsw9@btinternet.com

Audio-visual items, including video and digital presentations, music (where words are an integral part



of the production), recorded talks, storytelling, poetry, visual images, jewellery, clothes and souvenir items:

Mrs. Margaret Appa, The Mill House, Ecclesden Lane, Angmering BN16 4DQ. Email: margaretappa@gmail.com

It is hoped that the above information will be of assistance to you in your efforts to serve our beloved Cause through your writing and artistic endeavours.

From the Table of the National Spiritual Assembly

16 September 2013 / 9 'Izzat B.E.

Visit to the Guardian's Resting Place

The members of the National Assembly undertook their annual visit together to the Resting Place of the beloved Guardian, at which prayers were offered for the whole community, for the sacred endeavours in which the friends across the country are engaged and, in particular for the success of the endeavours of the growing movement of youth across the regions of the United Kingdom.

Youth Conference

Significant attention was given in recent months to preparing for the London Youth Conference and to realising the vision of a movement of youth that has been given to us by the Universal House of Justice. From the registration process to details about the programme; from the gathering of media materials to the issue of child protection—all such aspects have required the National Assembly's careful consideration. We are deeply grateful to the beloved Counsellors Shirin Fozdar-Foroudi and Uta von Both, who represented the House of Justice at the gathering itself, for their loving assistance in so many aspects of the planning. The National Assembly has also been touched by the many and varied contributions that so many friends have made towards the organisation of the conference, and wishes to express its warm appreciation to all who were involved in

this way.

Subsequent to the National Assembly's last meeting, it has shared a report on the Conference itself with the community in a separate communication.

The House of Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdad

The devastating news that the Bahá'í World received in June of the destruction of the Most Great House, the House of Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdad, compelled the National Assembly to send a special letter of condolence and support to the believers in Iraq in recognition of their steadfastness during these times of tests and trials and the pain and anguish they must particularly feel from this loss.

In studying this letter, the National Assembly was also deeply affected by the thought that this sacrifice by Bahá'u'lláh of His Most Great House would release spiritual forces that we cannot truly appreciate. The Universal House of Justice wrote in this connection:

So deplorable an act, coming on the eve of the unprecedented worldwide convocation of Bahá'u'lláh's young followers and their friends, calls to mind that mysterious interplay of crisis and victory through which His indestructible, irrepressible, inexorable purpose will finally be consummated.

Meeting with the UK Pioneering and Travel Teaching Committee

A fruitful meeting was held with the UK Pioneering and Travel Teaching Committee. This included a particular focus on how to encourage youth to offer a Year of Service, and to assist them to see how such a special offer of dedicated service would lend significant impetus to the work of the Plan and at the same time enrich their own lives. As a result of this consultation, gatherings are being arranged for youth in the Lower VIth form and their parents to explore this issue, and invitations were recently distributed accordingly. These meetings will take place on 12 October in London and on 24 November in the North of the UK.

The letters of the Universal House of

Justice to the Bahá'ís in Iran

The National Spiritual Assembly continues to reflect on the letters that the Universal House of Justice has addressed in recent years to the Friends in the Cradle of the Faith. In August the Assembly considered the letter dated 11 June 2009 which praised the "radiant spirit" with which the friends in Iran have been managing the affairs of the community and the way in which they had arisen to support one another under all difficulties. The Assembly's consciousness was also raised about the inequitable situation facing every corner of the globe in relation to the extremes of wealth and poverty. Deeply moved by its study of the letter, the National Assembly decided to offer a special contribution of £9,000 to the Universal House of Justice to use in whatever way it feels appropriate.

Reflections from the Arts Gathering

Time was given to reflect on the two-day Arts Gathering that was held at the National Bahá'í Centre in March, and the National Assembly was delighted to note the tremendously positive feedback from that event. The development of the arts and creative capacity is without doubt a theme close to the hearts of many individuals and, indeed, local communities. It was wonderful to take stock of the resources within the national community who are both striving for excellence within their creative field and are eager to learn about the infusion of the arts into the pattern of community life arising through the application of Institute course skills and service components.

Restoration of the House of Worship for Europe

The National Spiritual Assembly of Germany invited a representative of this National Assembly to attend the this year's Summer Festival at the House of Worship and shared news on the restoration works which have been carried out as a result of the generous donations of the friends and Bahá'í communities throughout Europe. The work included the installation of a new heating system, the renewal of the natural stone floor, and most recently the installation of glass panels which

separate the prayer hall from the inner gallery.

Now, in the year preceding the 50th anniversary of the European Mother Temple, two major works are still to be accomplished—a new exterior painting of the building and the restoration of the nine outer doorways—and it is our hope that the friends will arise to support the European Temple Fund so that these goals may be achieved in time for this special anniversary.

University Bahá'í Societies

A new constitution for Bahá'í societies in universities, together with guidance notes on its use, has been developed and was approved by the National Assembly. The new constitution takes into account recent developments in the approaches, methods and instruments now employed by the Faith to build materially and spiritually flourishing communities. A copy of the new constitution was shared with all Local Spiritual Assemblies and Groups, with the request that they circulate the materials to any university students in the area or any students who are about to go away to university.

Agencies of the National Assembly

As always, the Assembly also consulted upon a great many matters concerned with administration, properties, use of the Funds, legal issues, personal concerns and so forth. In a great many of these cases the Assembly is assisted by its excellent agencies, but decisions or guidance are still required from the Assembly itself. We are profoundly grateful for all that the agencies do to aid the Assembly in its work.

UK Bahá'í Review

18 September 2013 / 11 'Izzat B.E.

The Office of Public Affairs periodically produces the UK Bahá'í Review, a publication that covers recent developments in the life of the Bahá'í community in the United Kingdom as well as globally. The September 2013 issue of the Review is now available and can be accessed here: <http://admin.bahai.org.uk/uk-bahai-review/>.

The UK Bahá'í Review is written primarily for our national external affairs contacts (eg government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of civil society organisations, think tanks and inter faith bodies, media professionals, etc.), but it may also be of interest and use to Bahá'ís across the country and the believers are therefore free to share it with their friends and contacts as they wish.

Receipting policy for all contributions to the National Spiritual Assembly

23 September 2013 / 16 'Izzat B.E.

The Finance Office of the National Spiritual Assembly would like to remind the friends that, with the exception of payments to Huqúqu'lláh, which are acknowledged monthly, all contributions to any National Fund will be receipted only in April, at the end of the administrative year. However, should anyone, for any reason, want their contributions to be receipted more frequently, this can be arranged. Please contact the Finance Office at finance@bahai.org.uk if you have any questions or would like to request that your contributions be receipted monthly or quarterly.

Bahá'í Council for Wales – Change of Membership

1 October 2013 / 5 Mashíyyat B.E.

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to inform you that Mrs. Amy Behi has recently relocated outside of Wales, and is therefore being relieved of membership on the Bahá'í Council serving that region. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Behi for the devoted services that she has offered and wish her all joy and happiness in her new home.

Given that the Bahá'í Council for Wales will be appointed again in November, which is relatively soon, the National Assembly has advised the Council that it should continue to function until that

time with its remaining four members.

The friends everywhere are warmly encouraged to offer their prayers on behalf of the Bahá'í Councils in the UK, that they may be divinely assisted in all the essential services to the Cause.

Passing of Redwan Moqbel

11 October 2013 / 15 Mashíyyat B.E.



The passing of dearly loved Redwan (Ridvan) Moqbel, a former member of this Bahá'í community, on 9 October in Winnipeg, Canada, has brought great sadness to the National Spiritual Assembly.

Redwan was a warm hearted, wholly devoted, steadfast servant of the Blessed Beauty, whose indomitable faith and consecrated spirit were a source of inspiration to countless souls all over the world. Gifted with a rare eloquence and a delightful sense of humour, he rendered many highly valuable services to the Cause, including membership of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1992 and of the Auxiliary Board for protection. Following his move to Canada for professional reasons, dear Redwan continued to serve the Faith with



distinction, including a spell as an Auxiliary Board member in Alberta as well as membership of the Executive Committee of the Association for Bahá'í Studies in North America. One of the greatest joys of his loving and tender heart was to encourage the services of the Bahá'í youth-awakening them to the truths of the Revelation, rallying them behind the Plans of the Universal House of Justice, accompanying them in their humble efforts to serve-and he continued to do this until the very last days of his precious life.

The National Assembly extends its deepest condolences to Redwan's dear wife Shar, his beloved children Sam and Marianne, and to all members of his bereaved family, and will offer prayers for the progress of his illumined soul in all the worlds of God.

Message from the Universal House of Justice - Passing of Redwan Moqbel

13 October 2013

The Universal House of Justice was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of consecrated follower of Bahá'u'lláh Redwan Moqbel. His many years of highly valued service to the Cause, beginning in the days of his youth in Iraq, later in Scotland, and then in England and Canada, and in such varied capacities as a National Spiritual Assembly member and officer, an Auxiliary Board member, and an illumined teacher and outstanding speaker, are recalled with profound admiration.

Especially notable were his abiding love of God and keen intellect--capacities that enabled him in the course of a distinguished career in medical science to touch the hearts and inspire the minds of colleagues and students. Kindly convey to his wife, Shar, his children, and friends the heartfelt condolences of the House of Justice and assure them of its ardent supplications at the Sacred Threshold for the progress of his noble soul in the divine realms.

European Bahá'í Conference 2014

17 October 2013 / 2 'Ilm B.E.

We are pleased to share with you the announcement concerning the forthcoming 18th European Bahá'í Conference on Justice, which is scheduled to take place over 21-23 February 2014 at the Conference Centre De Poort in the Netherlands.

Registration: www.depoort.org (places are limited & will be allotted on a first come, first served basis)

Further information: ebcj.justice@gmail.com

Persian Carpets to be Sold for the National Fund

22 October 2013 / 7 'Ilm B.E.

Two Persian (Kashan) carpets have been generously donated to be sold for the National fund:

1. A 4x3m red carpet that is 12-13 knots per inch or 5 knots per centimetre, and is valued at £1,500.
2. A 4x3m blue carpet that is 15 knots per inch or 6 and 1/2 knots per centimetre, and is valued at £1,750.

Please write to the Finance Office (treasurer@bahai.org.uk) or by post to 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PD with your offer for one or both carpets. The highest offer will be accepted and the money will go to the fund.

Dayspring Magazine

24 October 2013 / 9 'Ilm B.E.

The UK community is very fortunate to have available the "Dayspring" magazine, which is for children aged 5 to 12 and aims to nurture a love of God and mankind in their tender hearts. It is produced three times a year under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly, and is a truly wonderful resource for the community.

Please note, in case you are not already aware, that current and previous issues of "Dayspring" can be read and downloaded from the website dayspring-magazine.org.uk. A link to that website and the latest copy can also be accessed through the Bahá'í Downloads website, admin.bahai.org.uk, by clicking on "Dayspring" under the publications tab on the menu bar.

For details about subscribing to "Dayspring", please open the latest edition of the magazine via one of the websites above and scroll down to the information on page 2.

Religious Education in schools

There are new contact details for matters relating to Religious Education in schools. The email address remains the same – opa-re@bahai.org.uk and it is best to use email when possible. However, if you need an immediate reply to a question regarding RE, please ring Elizabeth Jenkerson at 01962 850167 or 07966 308870. May we remind the friends to notify us if contact details for Bahá'í SACRE members change.

Have you moved recently?

Every month many issues of Baha'i UK are returned to us because of out-of-date contact details. The only way to reduce the number of undelivered issues is by making sure to contact the National Office, every time you change address. Tel 0207 584 2566 Email nsa@bahai.org.uk



Edinburgh Bahá'í Centre receives over 400 visitors for Doors Open Day.

On the 28th and 29th of December 2012 the Edinburgh National Bahá'í Centre welcomed approximately 400 members of the public as part of the annual Edinburgh Doors Open Day.

The visitors, some of whom had turned up over an hour early, were given a tour of the building's architecture and history. Many were eager to hear about the building's

present use and the vision of the Bahá'í Community.

As part of his architecture course, one lad had been assigned to study our Bahá'í Centre. He received an especially detailed tour, and was able to offer insights of his own into our architecture, which was very helpful indeed.

Among the guests was an elderly lady who had worked in the building in the 1970s. There was also a descendent of the Milne family who lived in the centre in the 1800s, one of whom had inscribed the etched date 2nd May 1863, on the top floor window so many years ago.

Downstairs children played and visitors relaxed and chatted in the feast room, which was set up as a makeshift Cafe, where tea and baked goods were served.

Photos | Edinburgh Bahá'í centre open day







در جامعه ایجاد اختلاف و نفاق نمایند. زمانی که گفتمان های شما را در زمینهٔ جامعه سازی برای دوستان، آشنایان و همسایگان تان مؤثر و جذّاب می یابند به تحریف حقایق و کژ نمایی واقعیّات می پردازند و به تلاشی مذبحوحانه برای انتشار شایعات دروغ و مباحث سفسطه آمیز دست می زنند تا چون ایّام گذشته با پیش کشیدن مسائل خشک مذهبی، گفتگوهای مفید و صمیمانه را با مجادلهٔ لفظی جای گزین کنند.

آنچه همگان حتّی معاندین متعصّب به آن اذعان دارند اینست که علی رغم شدّت مصائب و کثرت موانع، شما عزیزان در مقابله با مشکلات همچون کوه ثابت و راسخید زیرا تحمّل صدمات و مشقّات در سبیل دوست یکتا را موهبت کبری می دانید و آگاهید که به فرمودهٔ مرکز میثاق "همیشه نفوس طّیبه در بند و راحت و آسایش خویش نبودند بلکه محض نورانیّت عموم از نوش گذشتند و تحمّل نیش فرمودند." با صبر و سکون به راه خود ادامه می دهید و بیانات مولای حنون را مدّ نظر دارید که می فرمایند: "عبدالبهاء را سجن آزادیست و زندان ایوان روحانی و کند و زنجیر گردش و گل گشت در حنیقهٔ نورانی. حصیر سریر است وچاه اوج ماه." به علاوه به خوبی می دانید که استقرار ملکوت الهی در این جهان پر آشوب کار آسانی نیست. ایمانی راسخ، توکلی کامل، همتی بلند، روحیهٔ ای شکست ناپذیر، تلاشی مستمّر و صبر و تحمّلی بی پایان می خواهد. بر سنّت خداوندی واقفید و کوشش های خود را چون بذری می دانید که دهقان ملکوتی در کشت زار خود می افشاند. حصول ثمر و جمع اوری خرمن وقت و حوصله می خواهد و زحمت و مشقّت می طلبد ولی با نزول برکات الهی برداشت محصول موفور قطعی و حتمی است. مطمئن هستید که همان گونه که دانه به فیض باران و کوشش باغبان به مرور زمان به درختی تنومند و بارور تبدیل می شود، از خود گذشتگی های شما عزیزان و مساعی دیگر بهائیان جهان نیز به طوری که شواهد آن در سراسر عالم ظاهر و آشکار و در این کانونشن بین المللی بارز و عیان بود با الطاف و عنایات خداوندی در میقات معین ثمرات عالیه به بار خواهد آورد، قلوب را روشن خواهد کرد، جهان تاریک را رشک گلزار و چمن خواهد نمود و بالمال وحدت عالم انسانی را محقّق خواهد ساخت.

الحمدلله شما باسلان مضمار عبودیت در عرصهٔ ایمان و میدان خدمت گوی سبقت را ربوده اید و تحسین و تمجید آشنا و بیگانه را به خود جلب نموده اید. در اعتاب مقدّسهٔ علیا به یاد فرد فرد شما خادمان عزیز و باوفای حضرت کبریا دست به دعا بر می داریم و مزید تأیید و توفیق تان را مسئلت می نمایم.
[امضا: بیت العدل اعظم]

پیام بیت العدل اعظم الی در بارهٔ شهادت جناب عطاء الله رضوانی

5 شهریور 1392 8 شهرالاسماء 170

یاران و یاوران باوفای جمال اقدس ابهی در مهد امرالله ملاحظه فرمایند

خبر قتل جناب عطاءالله رضوانی موجب حزن و اندوه عمیق این جمع شد. این عمل شنیع قلب هر انسانی را مشحون از تأسف و تحسّر می نماید و موازین بشری، بدون شک، آمرین و عاملین آن را محکوم می کند. آنان که در پی جاه و مقام می کوشند تا با ریاکاری به اسم دین و ایمان بذر نفرت و جدایی در قلوب بکارند و با گفتار و رفتار تحریک آمیز خود ارتکاب چنین جنایتی را ممکن می سازند نیز مسئولیت این جرم را به عهده دارند و در این گناه سهیم اند. البته واقفیم که اکثریت ایرانیان عزیز این عمل فجیع را تقبیح می کنند، از ظلم و ستم بیزارند و انزجار خود را نسبت به هر نوع تفرقه افکنی اعلان می دارند.

عطاءالله رضوانی آرزویی جز خدمت به وطن مألوف و عالم انسانی نداشت، حیاتش وقف ایجاد محبّت و وداد در بین جمهور ناس بود و در مراودات روزانه می کوشید تا نمادی از مکارم اخلاقی و صفات عالیّه انسانی باشد. به تهدید و قساوت با شجاعت و متانت پاسخ می گفت و در میان هم شهرپانش به مهربانی و ملاطفت شهرت داشت. مروّج دوستی و وفاق بود و بیزار از تعصّب و نفاق. در این راه جان شیرین فدا نمود و جام شهادت نوشید. پس در عالم بالا به بزم لقا پیوست، از بادهٔ رضای الهی سرمست گردید و نامش در لوح محفوظ الی الابد ثبت شد.

مراتب هم ردی و تسلّیت خود را به همسر عزیز، فرزندان دل بند و دیگر بازماندگان سوگوار جناب رضوانی تقدیم می داریم و در اعتاب مقدّسهٔ علیا برای ارتقای روح پر فتوح آن وجود نازنین و نیز برای نزول تأییدات الهّیه بر فرد فرد اعضای آن خاندان جلیل دعا می کنیم. زندگانی پر افتخار آن فقید سعید نمودار دیگری از این حقیقت است که بهائیان ایران در راه تحقّق اهداف بشر دوستانه، بینش معنوی خود را همواره مدّ نظر دارند، از ظلم و شقاوت نمی هراسند، تضییقات حاصله از جهل و نادانی را با استقامت سازنده می پذیرند و با صبر و شکیبایی از طرق قانونی به احقاق حقوق خود می پردازند. مزید تأیید و توفیق عموم را از آستان مالک عطا و سلطان ملکوت بقا مسئلت می نمایم.
[امضا: بیت العدل اعظم]

پیروان جمال اقدس ابهی در سراسر بریتانیا ملاحظه فرمایند

دوستان عزیز و محبوب،



ترجمهٔ از پیام بیت العدل اعظم مورّخ 14 اوت 2013 خطاب به محافل مقدّس روحانی مّلی در سراسر عالم

با اندوهی فراوان و تألّمی عمیق، از صعود همکار بسیار گرامی و ارجمند سابق خود، جناب هوشمند فتح اعظم اّطلاع یافتیم. لطافت روح و صفای باطن، دانش عمیق، خضوع و خشوع حقیقی و مجهودات و مساعی خستگی ناپذیر از ویژگی های بارز خدمات شایان و ارزنده ای است که این خادم برازندهٔ امرالله در طیّ سالیان متمادی، در مقام عضویت بیت العدل اعظم به مدّت چهل سال از سال 1963، و در مقام منشی محفل مقدّس روحانی مّلی هند، و یا به عنوان مهاجری پر شوق و شور و هوادار مشتاق تبلیغ امر در بین توده های وسیع و نویسنده ای خلاق و توانا به انجامش توفیق یافت. دفاع صمیمانه و قاطعانه اش از جامعهٔ اسم اعظم تزلزل ناپذیر بود و عزم راسخ و استقامت کامل اش در مقابله با ناملایمات بی نظیر. فصاحت کلام و بلاغت بیانش در نثر و نظم فارسی منحصر به فرد بود و با به کارگیری قدرت این زبان در خدمت به امر الهی، میراثی ارزشمند و فراموش نشدنی از خود به یادگار نهاد. علاوه بر سابقهٔ درخشانی از تلاش و کوشش پی گیر در راه خدمت به امر جمال قدم، خصائص برجسته و بی شمار آن وجود نازنین، از جمله ذوق سلیم و طبع لطیف و قلب منیر و سرشار از محبّتش که منبع عشقی عظیم و فراگیر برای عالم انسانی بود، نیز برای همیشه در قلوب و اذهان جاودانه خواهد ماند.

با قلبی اندوهبار مراتب تسلّیت و همدردی عمیق خود را به همسر عزیزش، شفیقه خانم و پسران سوگوارش و سایر اعضای آن خانواده محترم ابلاغ می داریم و به آن عزیزان اطمینان می دهیم که در اعتاب مقدّسهٔ علیا به کمال تضرّع و ابتهاّل به آستان ملیک متعال توسّل می جویم که آن روح پاک را در ملکوت ابهی اجری جزیل و عنایتی بی بدیل مقّر و مقرّر فرماید. مقتضی است، احباء در سراسر عالم به افتخار ایشان جلسات تذکّر ترتیب دهند و در مشارق اذکار مراسم بزرگداشت شایسته به این مناسبت برگزار نمایند. [بیت العدل اعظم]

بیت العدل اعظم

13 شهرالجمال 170

20 اردیبهشت 1392

پیروان امر حضرت یزدان در کشور مقدّس ایران ملاحظه فرمایند

ورود بیش از هزار نمایندهٔ منتخب جوامع مّلی بهائی از سراسر عالم به ارض اقدس برای شرکت در یازدهمین کانونشن بین المللی بهائی با چنان شور و هیجان و شکوه و جلالی همراه بود که مشاهدهٔ آن بی اختیار اشک شوق از دیدگان جاری می ساخت. اجتماع این خادمان محترم امرالله از زن و مرد و از اقوام و نژادهای گوناگون جهان، نمایی از تنوّع نوع بشر بود و گویای دخول امر مبارک به مرحلهٔ جدیدی از تمکن در بین جوامع محّلی و اقوام مختلف در تمام قارّات عالم و حاکی از تأییدات ملاء اعلی و تأثیرات مساعی خستگی ناپذیر پیروان حضرت بهاءالله در راه استقرار ملکوت الهی بر عرصهٔ غیرا. انتخاب اعضای بیت العدل اعظم الهی در نهایت خلوص و روحانیت و الفت و محبّت و عاری از آرایش های انتخاباتی دنیای مادی انجام گردید. در هر یک از جلسات شور و مشورت که موقّعتّی های جامعهٔ جهانی بهائی مورد گفتگو قرار می گرفت، ذکر تأثیرات مشهود قوای روحانی منبعث از فداکاری ها و جان فشانی های شما عزیزان ورد زبان و محور کلام بود. دسته گلی زیبا یاد احبّای عزیز مهد امرالله را هر لحظه در خاطر زنده نگه می داشت. در روز دوّم کانونشن پس از شنیدن شرحی از احساسات خالصانهٔ شما عزیزان نسبت به جمال اقدس ابهی و آمادگی تان برای استقامت سازنده در راه اعلای امر نازنینش، عده ای از نمایندگان از قارهٔ افریقا به طور دسته جمعی به ترنّم سرودی روح افزا به افتخار آن محبوبان دل و جان پرداختند. در ایّام تشرّف نمایندگان به روضهٔ مبارکه و مقامات مقدّسه در ادعیهٔ قلبیهٔ یاد می شدید و در طول این مؤتمر فرخنده این بیان شیرین مولای محبوب در گوش جان طنین انداز بود: "در محفل انسیم در محضر قدسیم هم ساکن فردوسیم ای جای تو خالی ای جای تو خالی."

برگزاری این انجمن شور روحانی بین المللی مصادف بود با پنجمین سال مسجونیت اعضای هیئت سابق یاران که برای خدمت به بهائیان ایران به تمشیت امور جامعه مشغول بودند و با دومین سال دست گیری عزیزانی که با خلوص نیّت به تدریس علوم و فنون مفیده به جوانان بهائی اشتغال داشتند، جوانانی که به دستور دولت مردان وطن خویش به خاطر عقاید خود از تحصیلات عالیه محروم گشته اند. این وقایع اسف بار هر دو نمادی از ظلم و ستمی است که بر کلّیهٔ بهائیان ایران وارد می شود و در طیّ دوازده ماه گذشته بدون هیچ دلیل موجهی شدّت یافته و از اطفال صغیر تا سال مندان ضعیف را در بر گرفته است. این جور و عدوان منبعت از تعصّب و نادانی دامن گیر بسیاری از دیگر شهروندان غیور آن سرزمین نیز گردیده و موجب شده است تا عده ای از برجسته ترین و لایق ترین فرزندان آن آب و خاک به بهانه های سخیف و بی پایه در زندان به سر برند. گویی عاملین این مظالم نه تنها به رضای حقّ و آسایش خلق بی اعتنا هستند بلکه از پیامدهای زیان بار اجتماعی، اقتصادی، روانی و معنوی اعمال شان برای کشور باستانی ایران و ملتّ شریف آن نیز پروایی ندارند.

بغض و تعصّب دیدهٔ باطن را کور می کند، کاردانی و قضاوت صحیح را از انسان سلب می نماید و البّتهٔ بی تدبیری نیز به دنبال می آورد. هدف پوچ مسئولین امور از تشدید تضییقات صرفاً تضعیف روحیهٔ بهائیان و اطفای نار موقدهٔ هیّه است. ولی از این نکته غافل اند که طوفان عناد هر چقدر ازدیداد باید هرگز سراج برافروختهٔ ید قدرت الهی را خاموش ننماید بلکه بالعکس شدّت معاندت موجب اشتعال نار محبّت الله در قلوب مستعده گردد. این بیدادگران ناآگاه، وقتی که از تعدّیات همه جانبهٔ خود نتیجهٔ دل خواه نمی گیرند به دنبال طرق دیگری برای اعمال فشار و سرکوبی می گردند. با دشمنان دیرینهٔ امرالله هم دست می شوند تا به ز عم باطل خود با کاشتّن بذر شک و شبهه در قلوب احبّا،



مشاهده برگزاری کنفرانس جوانان در دانشگاه واریک در طی سه روز گذشته، برای محفل روحانی ملی موجب نهایت مسرت و امتنان بود. حدود هزار تن با پیشینه‌های کاملاً متفاوت و متنوع از ایسلند، ایرلند، مالتا و بریتانیا در فضائی مملو از شوق و اراده، و سرشار از نیروی برخاسته از عزمی راسخ برای قیام به خدمت، گرد هم آمده بودند تا با یکدیگر به گفتگوهای پیردازند که «قلوب را اهتزاز می بخشد و اذهان را نسبت به امکاناتی که می‌تواند در پیش باشد، می‌گشاید». این کنفرانس علی‌الخصوص به حضور دو تن از نمایندگان بیت العدل اعظم الهی، مشاورین محترم؛ اوتا فون باث و شیرین فوزدار فرودی، مزین گردیده بود. مطالبی که توسط بیت العدل اعظم برای مطالعه تهیه شده بود، این فرصت را در اختیار کلیه حضار قرار داد تا برای تشریح مساعی خود در اموری که اکنون از این نسل خواسته شده و مسئولیتی که بر عهده ایشان گذاشته شده، علی‌الخصوص نسبت به افراد نسل جوانتر از خود، و نیز در قیام آنها برای کمک به ساختن جهانی سرشار از سعادت مادی و روحانی که حضرت بهاءالله به آن بشارت داده اند، با یکدیگر بینش و بصیرتی واحد و همسان به دست آورند. علاوه بر روحیه آشکار عشق، اتحاد و دوستی که در طی این چند روز تقویت گردید، شنیدن اظهارات بسیاری از شرکت‌کنندگان که یا تازه به این امر اقبال نموده اند و یا هنوز در مرحله تحقیق می‌باشند، به ویژه سبب سرور و شمع شد، و درک عمیقی از وظیفه‌ای که در پیش روی داریم را فراهم نمود و شوق محقق شدن اهداف آن را نمایان ساخت.

با کمال خوشحالی عکسی از شرکت‌کنندگان در این واقعه تاریخی را ضمیمه کرده ایم. برای اطلاع از کنفرانس‌هایی که در طی این چند ماه یکی پس از دیگری در سراسر جهان برگزار شد، می‌توانید به سرویس خبری جهانی بهائی به آدرس زیر مراجعه فرمائید: (<http://news.bahai.org/community-news/youth-confereces>)



بذرهائی که در طی این کنفرانس کاشته شد، اکنون باید پرورش یابد و بارور گردد. بسیاری از شرکت‌کنندگان مشخصاً تا کنون طرح‌هایی برای اقدام تهیه نموده اند یا در طی روزهای آتی چنین خواهند کرد. بنابراین جامعه بهائی – یعنی والدین، افراد و مؤسسات – این مسئولیت خطیر را بر عهده دارند که در بازگشت، از این جوانان استقبال نمایند؛ آنان را تشویق کنند و بیاندیشند که چگونه می‌توانند به بهترین نحو در ارتباط با این طرح‌ها به ایشان کمک نمایند؛ همراه با آنها در تلاش‌های مخلصانه‌شان بیاموزند؛ و برای قادر ساختن جوانان به تحقق آمل‌الای خویش، قلباً و عملاً نهایت همت خود را به کار بندند. شکی نداریم که جامعه بهائی در حمایت از جوانان در این راه برخواهد خاست و ما پیشاپیش مشتاقانه در انتظار مشاهده ثمره این تلاش‌ها هستیم.

با اشواق قلبی، محفل روحانی ملی، پاتریک اومارا، منشی.

پیروان جمال اقدس ابهی در سراسر بریتانیا ملاحظه فرمایند

دوستان عزیز و محبوب،

همانگونه که مستحضر هستید، محفل روحانی ملی بهائیان بریتانیا یکی از معدود محافل روحانی ملی است که توسط بیت العدل اعظم الهی برای شرکت در برنامه مساعدت‌های مالی بین‌المللی انتخاب گردیده است. این بدان معناست که بر اساس هدایات معهد اعلی، این محفل موظف است در امور مالی مهم از قبیل خرید و یا احیای اماکن، متناوباً محافل ملی هم‌تای خود در سراسر جهان را یاری نماید.

در ایام اخیر، بیت العدل اعظم الهی از جامعه ما خواسته‌اند در امر بازسازی ساختمان مؤسسه آموزشی بهائی در کادوگاناوا، در سریلانکا مساعدت نموده و در جهت اكمال این هدف، مبلغ 26,000 دلار امریکا فراهم نماییم. ما در حمایت از سریلانکا برای اتمام این پروژه، با جوامع بهائی دیگر در هند، اندونزی، مالزی، ساراواک، سنگاپور و ایالات متحده امریکا، همراه خواهیم بود.

تخصیص چنین فرصتی به جامعه ما برای ابراز حمایت مشتاقانه ما از برادران و خواهران بهائی مان در سریلانکا، موهبتی عظیم به شمار می‌رود.

پرداخت اعانات به صندوق مساعدت‌های بین‌المللی را می‌توان به هر یک از طرق زیر انجام داد:

از طریق پست به آدرس زیر:

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, Finance Office
27 Rutland Gate
London SW7 1PD

یا به صورت ارسال وجه از طریق بانک:

Bank Name: Nat West
Sort Code: 60 04 04
Account No: 18188443
Account Name: NSA - Fund account.

اگر از این روش استفاده می‌نمائید، لطفاً به آدرس finance@bahai.org.uk ایمیلی ارسال نموده و در آن نام خود و مقدار مبلغ ارسالی و تاریخ ارسال را قید فرمائید و مشخص‌نمائید که اعانه مزبور برای صندوق مساعدت‌های بین‌المللی می‌باشد.

با اشواق قلبی، محفل روحانی ملی، پاتریک اومارا، منشی.

پیروان جمال اقدس ابهی در سراسر بریتانیا ملاحظه فرمایند

دوستان عزیز و محبوب،

در مورد بررسی آثار ادبی و هنری بهائی

محفل روحانی ملی مایل است به دوستان عزیز یادآور شود هر گونه اثر ادبی، مقاله یا آثار صوتی- تصویری که قرار است به فروش برسد یا به طور گسترده‌ای در بین مردم انتشار یابد، لازم است برای انجام بررسی پیش از انتشار، تحویل داده شود. هدف از انجام این بررسی، کسب اطمینان از این مهم می‌باشد که تصویری نادرست از امر بهائی ارائه داده نشود و شأن و مقام و صحت مطالب و اقلام ارائه شده تضمین گردد. بسته به ماهیت اثر ارائه شده، می‌توان با دو تن از اعضاء هیئت مرور و بررسی تماس گرفت:

برای آثار ادبی- خانم ناتاشا ویلکینسون به آدرس:

Mrs. Natasha Wilkinson, 2 Boundary Lane, Norwich NR7 0TB.

Email: nsw9@btinternet.com

برای آثار صوتی - تصویری، از جمله کارهای ویدیویی و دیجیتالی، موسیقی (که دارای کلام می‌باشد)، سخنرانی‌های ضبط شده، بیان داستان، شعر، تصاویر، جواهرات، البسه و اقلام هدیه‌شده: خانم مارگارت اپا به آدرس:

Mrs. Margaret Appa, The Mill House, Ecclesden Lane, Angmering BN16 4DQ.

Email: margaretappa@gmail.com

امید است اطلاعات فوق بتواند در فعالیت‌های شما برای خدمت به امر مبارک از طریق کارهای ادبی و هنری، مفید واقع شود.

از توجه شما به این موضوع سپاسگزاریم.

با اشواق قلبی،

محفل روحانی ملی، پاتریک اومارا، منشی.



Bahá'í World Centre Staffing Needs

16 August 2013 / 16 Kamál 170 B.E.

There is an ongoing need at the Bahá'í World Centre for individuals who possess the relevant training and experience to fill the following positions:

- Accountant/Auditor
- Accountant/Comptroller's Assistant
- Administrative Assistant - Insurance
- Applications Analyst
- Applications Engineer
- Arborists
- Assistant in Document and Records Handling
- Assistant in Research and Drafting
- Assistant to the Senior Staff
- Audio-Visual Technician
- Communications Assistant
- Comptroller's Assistant
- Data Centre Analyst
- Database Administrator
- Department Interface/Business Analyst
- Digital Imaging and Restoration Specialist
- General Assistant
- Hardscape Supervisor

- Health Care Provider
- Information Security Specialist
- Maintenance Technician
- Maintenance Technician
- Network Engineer
- Office Manager
- Photographer/Image Technician
- Pilgrim Guide
- Portfolio Manager
- Project Manager
- Recruiter
- Service Desk Analyst
- Service Desk Support
- Solution Architect
- Systems Administrator
- Systems Architect
- Translators (Persian, French, Arabic)

The Bahá'í World Centre is still in need of offers of service for the following positions for youth during the period November 2013 to April 2014:

Cleaning Maintenance Helpers, Gardeners, Kitchen Helpers, Security Guards

Minimum Length of Service: 12 months

Start Date: Any time during the period November 2013 to April 2014

To find out about other needs for staff, or if you would like to find out how to offer service, visit the Offering to Serve website or contact the Office of Personnel via email serve@bwc.org

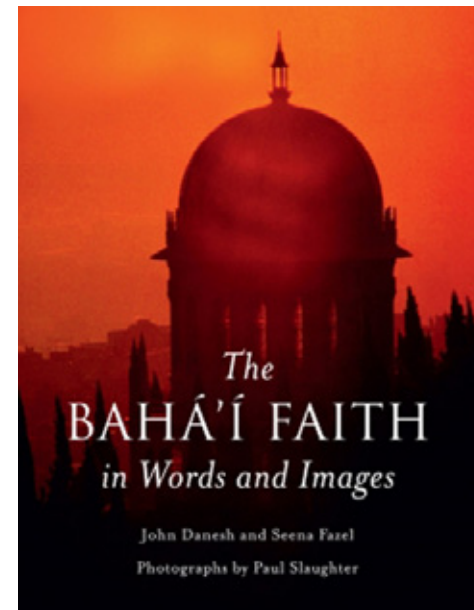


Book Review

The Bahá'í Faith in Words and Images

By John Danesh and Seena Fazel

Photographs by Paul Slaughter
160pp, Oneworld Publications, 2012
Hardcover £20 Paperback £12.99



This is a superb book and a tremendous resource for Bahá'ís everywhere in inviting their friends, neighbours and colleagues to investigate the Faith. In an interview with Omid Djalili on the Oneworld website, John Danesh explains that Oneworld commissioned Paul Slaughter, an internationally recognized photographer, to travel to dozens of countries around the world to capture images of Bahá'í life and history, and that he and his co-author Seena Fazel had been 'asked to add the text'.

It is a visually stunning book. Paul Slaughter's photographs, especially perhaps his images of some of the world's children, are sometimes breath-taking. Amongst other accolades, he was the IOC's Official Photographer for the 1984 Olympic Games and his craftsmanship is evident here. There are new images too – a marvellous photograph that this reviewer had never seen before, for instance, of a beaming Shoghi Effendi in Switzerland with his arm around his hiking guide. Even the more familiar images seem more vivid thanks to the book's uncompromising quality. Its design too is outstanding: fresh and appealing but always elegant. A double page spread on Bahá'u'lláh's letters to the king and rulers, for instance, has photographs of each recipient above extracts from their letters. Its simplicity makes attractive content that might otherwise seem daunting.

This is a superb book and a tremendous resource for Bahá'ís everywhere in inviting their friends, neighbours and colleagues to investigate the Faith.

This book is not though just a gorgeous visual feast. The authors – both senior academics and former joint editors of the Bahá'í Studies Review, "two of the geekiest guys I have ever known" as Omid Djalili introduces them - have done a remarkable job in 'adding the text'. The result is a book which, in the authors' words, sits 'between the coffee table and the library'.

It pulls off a difficult trick in being comprehensive and scholarly but always with an engaging and contemporary feel. The section on Core Beliefs, for instance, eschews any form of familiar listing of the teachings, but opts instead to present the Faith through three ideas at its heart: progress, harmony and freedom. There's a map visualization of what would otherwise be statistics on the distribution of Bahá'ís worldwide. Bahá'u'lláh's tablet 'Be generous in prosperity...' is beautifully set out as a poem, under the heading 'A Summary of Virtue'. And that's just in the first 17 pages.

The double page spread on the Book of Certitude, to take just one other example, reproduces an illuminated tablet in the handwriting of Bahá'u'lláh alongside a marvellous introductory essay on the history and significance of the Book of Certitude. Another unlikely double page has the Báb's parting words to the Letters of the Living set against an image of a foggy path ahead. The whole effect in both cases is visually ravishing.

The authors do not duck what many observers might see as issues: sex and marriage, for instance, or the membership of the Universal House of Justice. They discuss the questions that many of those investigating the Faith will be asking: 'What are the qualifications for Bahá'í membership?'; 'Can the Faith avoid major division?'; 'How will Bahá'í organization evolve?'; 'What will be the Bahá'í Faith's relationship with other religions?'

Coverage of the arts is particularly good, shining a light on Alain Locke, for



instance, as well as the more usual references to Dizzy Gillespie, Robert Hayden, Bernard Leach, Kevin Locke and others.

There is so much to commend in this book. The authors have succeeded in their aim to create a book which would 'surprise even those with some knowledge of the topic'. It will appeal to any open-minded person with the slightest interest in the Faith. It deserves to be widely read. As an introductory overview, it combines the easy reading of 'The Bahá'ís' magazine with the scholarly approach of Douglas Martin and William Hatcher's 'The Bahá'í Faith: The Emerging Global Religion'. The hardback edition would make an ideal presentation book. And, for a book of this quality, it is not really expensive.

MG

It is a visually stunning book. Paul Slaughter's photographs, especially perhaps his images of some of the world's children, are sometimes breath-taking.

CD Review

Illuminated Youth: Stories of Spiritual Transformation

- Storyteller: Sarah Perceval

- Musicians: Rosanna Lea/Caeli Lohr/Kelly Snook

For several years now, Sarah Perceval from London has been delighting audiences around the UK with her storytelling, specialising in sacred stories. 'The devil may have the best tunes,' Sarah has said, 'but religion has all the best stories.'

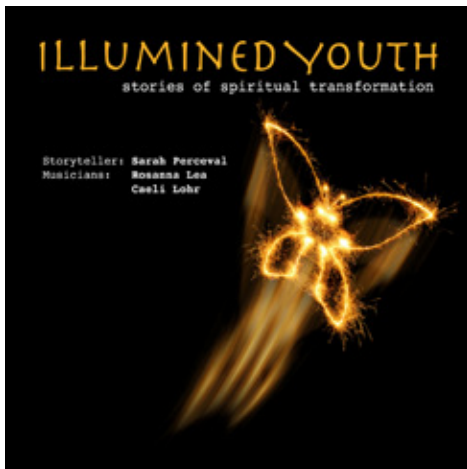
Following on from her album of stories about Bahá'u'lláh, titled 'Ancient Beauty', and 'The Bag of Jewels' - which addressed the virtues - comes 'Illuminated Youth' - six beautifully written and beautifully told episodes from Bahá'í history in which young people triumph over hardships and trials, ultimately finding purpose through a life of service.

Among them is Fred Mortensen, one-time petty criminal, who travelled to Green Acre to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá by riding underneath and on top of railroad cars; May Maxwell, whose luminous spirit helped her overcome debilitating illness; and Zaynab, the village girl who posed as a boy to join the besieged Bábís of Zanjan. And there's Enoch Olinga, Ali-Kuli Khan, and the heart-rending account of Shoghi Effendi in the mountains of Switzerland, grieving the loss of his Grandfather and 'conquering himself' in order to take up his arduous tasks as Guardian of the Faith.

This album's release could not be more timely. Throughout the world, tens of thousands of young people have been galvanised through their attendance at one of 114 youth conferences, called by the Universal House of Justice. Armed with the current Plan, and inspired by these stories, this generation of Bahá'í youth could well be unstoppable.

The album can be bought or downloaded from <http://sarahperceval.bandcamp.com/music>.

RW



'The devil may have the best tunes,' Sarah has said, 'but religion has all the best stories.'



Notices

Iranian Bahá'ís

If you are a Bahá'í adult or youth who resides in Iran and are deciding whether to stay in Iran or leave that country, or if you are an Iranian Bahá'í residing outside of Iran and are considering visiting that country or moving to or returning permanently to that country, the National Assembly asks that you contact the National Office so that we can share with you some important guidance that you need to be aware of.

Please email: nsa@bahai.org.uk or telephone: +44 (0) 207 5842566.

قابل توجه احبای عزیز ایرانی،

اگر شما از اعضای ذی رأی جامعه بهائی و با یک جوان بهائی هستید که در ایران ساکن میباشید و میخواهید در مورد اینکه آیا در ایران بمانید و یا اینکه آن کشور را ترک کنید تصمیم بگیرید، و یا اگر شما از بهائیان ایرانی هستید که در خارج از ایران ساکن میباشید و قصد بازدید از ایران را دارید و یا اینکه در نظر دارید که به آن کشور نقل مکان نموده و در آنجا بطور دائم اقامت نمایید، محفل ملی از شما میخواهد که با دفتر محفل ملی تماس حاصل فرمایید تا ما بتوانیم هدایت مهمی را با شما در میان گذاریم که لازم است شما از آنها اطلاع داشته باشید. لطفاً با آدرس ایمیل ذیل و یا این شماره تلفن تماس حاصل فرمایید:

Visiting or Relocating to an Arab Country?

Bahá'ís who plan to visit or relocate to an Arab country of the Middle East or North Africa should contact the National Office for guidance regarding travel to the Arab region.

Wedding Plans?

Please contact your nearest Local Spiritual Assembly for guidance and assistance well in advance of your wedding date.

CRB Information

To obtain or renew a CRB/DBS Disclosure please contact: osc@bahai.org.uk

Information

National Office

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the UK

27 Rutland Gate, LONDON, SW7 1PD

Tel: 020 7584 2566
Fax: 020 7584 9402
Email: nsa@bahai.org.uk

Secretary,
Mr Patrick O'Mara
Email: nsa@bahai.org.uk

Secretary of External Affairs,
Dr Kishan Manocha
Email: kishan.manocha@bahai.org.uk

Treasurer,
Mr Vafa Ram
Email: treasurer@bahai.org.uk

Office of Public Affairs
Tel: 020 7590 8786

Email: opa@bahai.org.uk

Membership/Records
Email: records@bahai.org.uk

Office Hours
0930 - 1730 hrs week days.
Bookshop closes at 16.30

NEWS

is the official channel for electronic communications between the National Spiritual Assembly, its offices and agencies, and the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom.

To subscribe to NEWS please email: news.admin@bahai.org.uk

National and International Funds of the Faith

All donations for national and international funds and enquiries:

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the UK,
Finance Department,
27 Rutland Gate,
London, SW7 1PD

Tel: 020 3051 5733
Fax: 020 3051 5734
Email: finance@bahai.org.uk

Cheques should be made payable to "NSA of the Bahá'ís of the UK"

Huqúq'ulláh Payments

Enquiries concerning payments can be directed to the Finance Office as above.

Cheques should be made payable to "NSA of the Bahá'ís -Huqúq"

Regional Board of Trustees of Huqúq'ulláh for Ireland and the UK

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Email: bcw@bahai.org.uk

Training Institute Board for the UK
Secretary,
Sahar Tahzib
Email: tibuk@bahai.org.uk

Visits to Special Places

Pilgrimage and Other Visits to the Holy Land

To apply for a full pilgrimage or a 3 day visit, please either write directly to Office of Pilgrimage, Bahá'í World Centre, PO Box 155, 31001 Haifa, Israel or email: pilgrimage@bwc.org.

You can also apply online at: www.pilgrimage.bahai.org.

For visits to Israel for other purposes, Bahá'ís should write for permission to the Universal House of Justice at the above address or email: secretariat@bwc.org

It is preferred that you apply at least one month ahead, giving the names of all Bahá'ís travelling, postal and email address as well as detailing the purpose and expected date of the visit.

Resting Place of Shoghi Effendi, Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith

New Southgate Cemetery,
Brunswick Park Road,
London N11 1JJ.

Opening Hours: 09.00 – 17.00.

Nearest Tube station: Arnos Grove on the Piccadilly line – about 40 minutes from central London.

European Bahá'í House of Worship – Germany

Bahá'í-Haus Der Andacht, Eppsteiner Str. 95, D-65719, Hofheim-Langenhain, Germany.

Tel: +49 6192 901677
Fax: +49 6192 901678
Email: biz@bahai.de

For travel details visit: www.bahai.de/haus-derandacht/wegbeschreibung/

The Sunday devotionals take place at 3pm in the National Hazíratu'l-Quds and the Visitors and Information Centre and Book Store are open as usual.



European Bahá'í House of Worship, Germany



Above | Restng Place of Shoghi Effendi, London

Stamps for International Fund

Please send stamps with SAE envelope in an envelope that will fit through a normal size letter box to
Mrs Diana Howlett
10 Charmouth Road
Bath
BA1 3LJ

The editorial committee of UKBahá'í wishes, in line with the guidance of the National Spiritual Assembly, to encourage the readership to access this publication online, and to unsubscribe from receiving the hard copy.
Website address:
admin.bahai.org.uk



Regional Board of Trustees of Huqúqu'lláh for Ireland and the United Kingdom

It is clear and evident that the payment of the Right of God is conducive to prosperity, to blessing, and to honour and divine protection. Well is it with them that comprehend and recognize this truth.... And this is on condition that the individual should observe the injunctions prescribed in the Book with the utmost radiance, gladness and willing acquiescence.

—Bahá'u'lláh Compilation on Huqúqu'lláh, extract no. 12

Calendar of National Events 2013-14

Unit Convention	7 – 8 December
Bahá'í Society for Persian Arts and Letters	26 – 30 December
National Spiritual Assembly Meeting	10 – 12 January
National Spiritual Assembly Meeting	21 – 23 February
Intercalary Days	26 February – 1 March
Fast	2 – 20 March
Naw-Ruz	21 March
National Spiritual Assembly Meeting	28 – 30 March

Elements of a Cluster's Intensive Program of Growth

What does Accompaniment look like?

“Learning as a mode of operation requires that all assume a posture of humility, a condition in which one becomes forgetful of self, placing complete trust in God, reliant on His all-sustaining power and confident in His unfailing assistance, knowing that He, and He alone, can change the gnat into an eagle, the drop into a boundless sea. And in such a state souls labour together ceaselessly, delighting not so much in their own accomplishments but in the progress and services of others. So it is that their thoughts are centred at all times on helping one another scale the heights of service to His Cause and soar in the heaven of His knowledge. This is what we see in the present pattern of activity unfolding across the globe, propagated by young and old, by veteran and newly enrolled, working side by side.” (Universal House of Justice Ridvan 2010)

What is individual initiative?

“The role of the individual is of unique importance to the work of the Cause.” (Universal House of Justice, Ridván 1996).

It is the duty of every Bahá'í to teach the Faith: “Let him not wait for any directions, or expect any special encouragement, from the elected representatives of his community, nor be deterred by any obstacles which his relatives, or fellow-citizens may be inclined to place in his path, nor mind the censure of his critics or enemies.” (Shoghi Effendi, The Advent of Divine Justice).

The capacity of the individual is nurtured through “a sequence of courses that seeks to build capacity for service by concentrating on the application of the spiritual insights gained through profound study of the Writings.” (Universal House of Justice, 12/27/05)



Front Cover Photo | Participant at the Youth Conference

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To contact the Editorial Team please email: UKBahai@ bahai.org.uk

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