

UNIT CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS - December 2012

Unit	Subject	Resolution	Response
EU31 Islington & Hackney	Child protection	<p>That the National Spiritual Assembly provide clear guidance through its agencies in relation to child protection issues which arise in the course of neighbourhood core activities, especially junior youth groups and children’s classes, where the Bahá’í animators and teachers have concerns about neglect and abuse of children attending those activities by parents or other family members. Clear guidance is required when an obligation to report arises, the authorities to which any report should be made and the extent to which the issue should be raised with the National Spiritual Assembly’s own child protection function.</p>	<p>This was shared with the Office for Safeguarding Children and the Training Institute Board for the United Kingdom, which provided the following response:</p> <p>“All Area Coordinators will receive from TIBUK the National Assembly's CPol Sup 1 Responding to Allegations of Abuse along with the National Assembly's Safeguarding Children policy. A follow-up telephone call from the TIBUK will ensure the procedure for allegations of abuse is understood. All children's class tutors and junior group animators will receive this guidance from the Area Coordinators. This will be an ongoing process supported by the Office for Safeguarding Children.</p> <p>The guidance for what a member of the Bahá’í community should do if they become aware of allegations of abuse is covered in full in the Safeguarding Children Guidance Notes for UK Local Spiritual Assemblies (2013), and available on the UK Bahá’í Downloads website under Guidance Notes: Local Spiritual Assemblies.</p> <p>Once a year in December the Office for Safeguarding Children emails the National Assembly's Safeguarding Children policy to all agencies. This will now include the CPol Sup 1 Responding to Allegations of Abuse.</p>

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			<p>At present, friends who contact the Office for Safeguarding Children for guidance on applying for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosure also receive the Safeguarding Children policy. The CPol Sup 1 Responding to Allegations of Abuse will also be emailed where appropriate.</p> <p>A list of guidance materials is on the UK Bahá'í Downloads website under 'Safeguarding' and available from the Office for Safeguarding Children at osc@bahai.org.uk.”</p>
EU56 Norfolk	Communications	That each cluster take responsibility to devise a telephone tree to assure contact with those members of the community who do not have email and who experience intermittent broadband connection in rural areas. Also as a back-up to electronic means of communication if this collapses at any stage.	This suggestion will be passed to the Regional Bahá'í Councils for their consideration and implementation as they deem appropriate.
EU41 Hertfordshire, North, Luton	Communications	For speedier dissemination of news and information by local Spiritual Assemblies, would the National Spiritual Assembly support the idea of establishment of a moderated national computerised notice-board. The board would have two elements; one for Bahá'ís and the other for the wider community.	Whilst this thoughtful suggestion is appreciated, the National Assembly feels that local news is of greatest value at the local or cluster level, and thus the value of a national notice-board would be limited.
EU17 West Surrey	Communications & Five Year Plan	<p>In order to improve and facilitate communication between the elected and appointed arms of the Faith:</p> <p>That national guidance information is produced about the role and remit of the appointed arm, i.e. the Auxiliary Board, their assistants, counsellors, cluster co-ordinators, the area teaching committees, and that a list of who holds these roles is available in an updated form.</p>	The document “Institution of the Counsellors” provides comprehensive information on the role of the Counsellors, Auxiliary Board member and assistants. In addition, recent letters of the Universal House of Justice elaborate further on this, as well as coordinators and area teaching committees. Information on those serving in these roles is best obtained from one’s local Assembly and/or cluster agencies as they change

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			from time to time.
EU08 Hampshire	Communications	The friends at the unit convention for EU08 would like to recommend that a website be established (or that the NSA website host) a list of activities regularly held in different communities. For instance, if someone were to be free a particular day or evening, they could identify a community hosting a devotional meeting or fireside or deepening to invite a seeker or friend, or just visit alone. An email address could be given (or phone number if the community/individual agreed) and they could be contacted to confirm time and location and that it is still being held that day. We realise that this site would have to be regularly maintained, which would be time consuming and that by far the most important task at the moment is to clear up the membership list. Nevertheless, we feel this should be a long term goal.	Whilst this thoughtful suggestion is appreciated, the National Assembly feels that local news is of greatest value at the local or cluster level, and thus value of a national web-site would be limited.
EU30 Greenwich & Bexley	Community activities	Have a London wide Holy Day celebration once a year. A social event to bring friends of the Faith to meet other Bahá'ís from around the cluster.	This suggestion will be forwarded to the Regional Bahá'í Council for England for it to pass to the Area Teaching Committee for London.
EU19 Merton, Sutton & Croydon	Community activities	To suggest that we have Book Clubs aimed especially but not restricted to youth. This would assist them in gaining a depth of understanding and knowledge especially of the history of the Faith. Our youth are not being prepared to deal with all the issues and problems facing them in the outside world.	This suggestion is very much appreciated and will be shared with the community through mention in <i>UKBaha'i</i>
EU30 Greenwich & Bexley	Community development	National Spiritual Assembly to encourage communal singing and to so through the mechanisms available. Have CDs made of simple songs and distributed so communities can learn and perform them at Bahá'í meetings.	The National Spiritual Assembly is pleased to note that informal communal singing is being encouraged through the engagement of the friends in study circles, children's classes and junior-youth activities where, more and more, the Bahá'ís and their friends are engaging in artistic endeavours which are being gracefully integrated into these activities. The Assembly feels that this

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			is the most appropriate way to foster communal singing at this time.
WU94 Cardiff	Community development	The Bahá'í Councils are asked to consider including in the cluster school education programme about the Bahá'í Administrative System.	The National Assembly understands that future courses of the Ruhi Institute, presently under development, will adequately cover this important subject.
EU59 Leicestershire	Community development	To look into different communities, to see where they are being successful and the conditions that allows for the success, to be implemented in other communities as appropriate.	Inherent in the framework for action in which Bahá'í activities are taking place is a process of consultation, planning and reflection which enables the learning and experience gained in one area to be shared with those in other areas. As part of this process, the process itself is constantly been refined and improved.
EU51 Birmingham	Community development & Five Year Plan	<p>In order to encourage more friends to participate in the life of the community and its events, there is a need for materials and mechanisms to be developed to deepen the friends in the community on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The administrative order of Baha'u'llah and the importance to fulfil the duty of participating in the electoral process at all its levels. • The significance of this Day and the dispensation of Baha'u'llah. This is to assist the friends to find their place in contributing towards the progress of the five years plan. • Develop unity of vision between the members of the community. • Develop the capacity of holding intensive training courses not only at the national level, but also at a regional level (smaller geographical areas). This is to be accessible to a larger number of friends of all ages 	<p>There are many means already in place for the friends to deepen their understanding of the Faith, including the specific subjects mentioned in this resolution. Among these means are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sequence of courses of the institute process 2. Regional summer schools – last year there were 5 schools across the UK. 3. Cluster based schools – these are becoming increasingly popular and are a very effective way of providing for the local deepening needs of an area. 4. Local deepening activities organised by local Spiritual Assemblies. 5. Home visits to study and share understandings of themes from the sequence of courses, prayers, letters of the Universal House of Justice and other materials.

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			In learning how to use these means more effectively, the National Assembly feels that the concerns expressed in this resolution will be overcome.
EU65 South Yorkshire	Disabled access	Disabled access: It was expressed that there have been occasions in the past where friends of the Faith were not able to attend events due to lack of disabled access, and by Baha'is themselves. The Convention therefore suggests the appointment of someone by the National Spiritual Assembly to counsel communities on the need for disabled access. The Convention also wishes the National Spiritual Assembly to consider disabled access when choosing venues for events.	This resolution will be shared with the Events Logistics Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly who will be reminded to ensure that due attention is given to the needs of disabled persons, wherever possible, when booking venues.
EU30 Greenwich & Bexley	External Affairs	National Spiritual Assembly to provide communities with guidance on how to make contact with and work with the local media to raise the profile of the Faith.	The Office of Public Affairs is in the process of considering this matter.
EU19 Merton, Sutton & Croydon	External Affairs	To make the National Spiritual Assembly aware of problems arising when putting in the word 'Bahá'í' into search engines. This often results in websites coming up with misleading information on the Bahá'í Faith coming up. The National Spiritual Assembly was requested to look for a solution to this increasingly difficult issue.	As this is a matter of international significance and is outside the possibilities of the National Assembly to influence, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Bahá'í Internet Agency, an international Bahá'í agency, whom we are confident will already be aware of this challenging issue.
SU83 Southern Scotland	External Affairs	That the beautifully produced booklet about Abdu'l-Bahá's second visit would be an excellent gift to make to local town councils and other interested parties as part of our proclamation efforts to celebrate this very special time. That if approved, this suggestion could be made to all communities for their consideration and could take place throughout the year. (This, of course, to be dependent on cost and copies being available).	Local communities are most welcome to request additional copies of the booklet for local activities.
EU01 Cornwall	External Affairs	Every cluster/area/community should have an official website.	The Office of Public Affairs is working, through

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& South Devon		Mainly to make it easy to find good local information about the Faith and to counter the number of inappropriate sites. Weebly is a good place to set-up a free website, easy to do by anyone. Sites need to be kept up to date, this is easy if almost anyone can do it.	its Web Presence Task Force, to accompany selected Local Spiritual Assemblies in developing, improving and updating their websites. At this stage, the resources available for this work are limited, but over time, the learning from working with a small number of Assemblies will enable a growing number of communities to develop good, locally focused, sites. In the meantime, guidelines for the establishment of local sites are sent to Local Spiritual Assemblies and Groups upon request (by writing to opa@bahai.org.uk), or they can be accessed on the Bahá'í Downloads website: http://admin.bahai.org.uk/guidance-for-local-bahai-websites/ .
EU41 Hertfordshire, North, Luton	External Affairs	Luton Council of Faiths employs a Faith Worker, for which the Luton Borough Council provides financial support. Similarly there are other local authorities who employ such a worker as part of the national Year of Service initiative which seeks to help deepen cooperation and understanding between people of different religious and non-religious backgrounds. Would the National Spiritual Assembly consider making this more widely known within the Baha'i Community so that the friends, particularly the youth could take advantage of these opportunities and consider undertaking their year of service as part of this Inter-Faith initiative?	This useful information will be shared with the UK Pioneering and Travel Teaching Committee who may use it at their discretion in guiding friends who are considering periods of service.
EU50 Warwickshire, South Solihull	Five Year Plan	The National Spiritual Assembly to ask all Councils, as a matter of urgency, to begin to remind the friends as to which specific clusters still need to develop a programme of growth so that all can pray for these clusters and consider the possibility of pioneering to these clusters.	This request will be conveyed to the Regional Bahá'í Councils and they will be asked to make this information readily available to the friends as early as possible.

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EU50 Warwickshire, South Solihull	Five Year Plan	The National Spiritual Assembly to encourage the Regional Councils to focus on training and teaching programmes that enable the youth to learn how best to effectively teach their peers and to engage them in service. Perhaps they could also consider asking the ATCs to hold special cluster based schools with this focus.	The National Spiritual Assembly is confident that the sequence of courses of the Training Institute will provide all believers, including the youth, with the training they need to support them in their teaching endeavours
EU15 East Surrey	Five Year Plan	The National Spiritual Assembly should remind the friends to pray communally more intensively and directly for teaching success; along the lines of the advice given by the Hand of the Cause Mr. John Robarts on his visit to the UK in the 1970s.	The National Spiritual Assembly is encouraged by the devotional attitude that has permeated community life in recent years, and particularly when the friends engaged intensive teaching activities.
EU15 East Surrey	Five Year Plan	We would like to remind the National Spiritual Assembly of the importance of having regular, systematic education for Bahá'í children, junior youth and youth, everywhere, in order to strengthen our community.	The National Spiritual Assembly is grateful for this reminder and is pleased to see that the community is, indeed, constantly striving to develop its capacity to give due attention to the spiritual education of children, junior-youth and youth.
EU49 Gloucestershire & Bath	Five Year Plan	We have noticed attendance at Cluster Reflection Meetings has been lower. In order to inject enthusiasm can we suggest that, without losing the original purpose of the CRM, we could be flexibility to add other interesting activities (e.g. taking 15 minutes to hear an inspiring talk about the Bahá'í view on a topical subject).	This suggestion will be passed to the Regional Councils for their consideration
EU31 Islington & Hackney	Five Year Plan	The problem of illiteracy in our neighbourhoods has become more and more apparent as we work with children and junior youth, to the extent where some junior youth are unable to fully participate in and benefit from the junior youth empowerment programme. Literacy is a very strong governmental and political issue. The National Spiritual Assembly is asked to share better support education of our local populations, how links with the local government and non-governmental agencies can be established and respond to the major resource implications this may have in not	This challenge is best met through a process of reflection and consultation by the friends at cluster and neighbourhood level in order to determine appropriate next steps, which might include setting up basic literacy classes. It is important that these actions are taken in light of the following guidance from the Universal House of Justice and in consultation with the cluster agencies:

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		only sustaining the core activities but ensuring that they effectively meet the needs of the community.	“When human resources in a cluster are in sufficient abundance and a pattern of growth firmly established, the community’s engagement with society can, and indeed must, increase.” (Universal House of Justice, Ridván 2010)
EU64 Derbyshire	Five Year Plan	The Unit Convention wanted the National Spiritual Assembly to know that consulted and raised the importance of emphasis on carrying out additional activities such as firesides within the community and teaching on an individual basis and not only focusing on the Institute Process and the core activities.	The National Assembly is happy to hear this.
WU95 Newport	Five Year Plan	There is a need for Cluster Reflection Meeting’s to develop into a power house for growth attracting more friends to attend. Can the National Spiritual Assembly reflect and analyse what would help organizing Cluster Agencies to make this so.	The process of reflection on the effectiveness of Cluster Reflection meetings is one that is taking place constantly at a local level by cluster agencies and the Regional Councils and is based on their experience at these gatherings. The National Assembly is confident that through this process these vital three-monthly gatherings will more and more become a “power house for growth”.
WU95 Newport	Five Year Plan	Ask the National Spiritual Assembly to encourage neighbourhood reflection meetings to analyse the needs of the neighbourhood.	This suggestion will be shared with Regional Councils for their consideration.
WU95 Newport	Five Year Plan	There was a feeling in the Unit that home visits are a vital part of the growth process to fellow believers to reflect; and to friends of the Faith to engage in purposeful and meaning conversations.	The National Assembly is happy to note that the friends in this Unit came to this understanding at the Convention.
WU95 Newport	Five Year Plan	Friends be reminded of the importance of firesides, deepenings, Feasts, summer schools and that these are alongside the core activities.	The National Assembly hopes that its letter dated 4 th January 2013 addressed to the friends gathered at the Regional Gatherings will have highlighted the importance of these activities.
EU14 Kent	Five Year Plan	Concerns were raised in difficulties to form children’s classes in every locality due to lack of resources. Also there is little	Although the transmission from the previous more centralised approach to the education of

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		<p>opportunity for the Bahá'í children to mix with Bahá'í children from other communities and study the Bahá'í teachings and the Bahá'í history together to help them to develop their Bahá'í identity. It is resolved that Communities to be permitted to run children classes for Bahá'í children, similar to Thomas Breakwell school, where Bahá'í children from other neighbouring communities can participate and be educated in Bahá'í teachings and Bahá'í history.</p>	<p>children was and may still be difficult for some, the National Assembly is confident that the approach now adopted throughout the Bahá'í world focussing on the development of local neighbourhood bases children's classes is a powerful means of reaching tens of thousands of children across the United Kingdom. Indeed, never before in the UK have we witnessed such large number of children engaged in children classes, many of whom are not Bahá'ís. The National Assembly encourages the community to persevere in this effort.</p>
EU15 East Surrey	Functioning of agencies	<p>The National Spiritual Assembly should ask the Bahá'í Council for England to hold regional meetings, as an institution, with the friends, perhaps combining an afternoon meeting with the friends with their business meetings, for the purpose of open consultation.</p>	<p>This suggestion will be passed to the Bahá'ís Council for England for its consideration</p>
NU81 North Down	Functioning of agencies	<p>This Unit Convention, with the greatest love and respect, asks the National Spiritual Assembly to explain its motives in changing the process by which the Bahá'í Council for Northern Ireland and Wales are formed. (The combined system of voting and appointment).</p>	<p>This was explained in detail by the National Spiritual Assembly in its letter to the Bahá'í community dated 20 September 2011, a copy of which is available from the National Office or on the administrative web-site. It should be noted that the change in the process was done with the approval of the Universal House of Justice and in closed consultation with the Counsellors.</p>
EU41 Hertfordshire, North, Luton	Functioning of agencies	<p>For various agencies of the Faith to establish a system by which to enable them to acknowledge receipt of initial enquiries, whether by phone, email or by letter within a week, and providing guidance as to the likely time-scale by which a full response can be expected.</p>	<p>The National Assembly will remind its various agencies to respond promptly to communications received, and if it should not prove possible to respond in a reasonable time of a few days, to send an acknowledgement giving an indication of when a reply might be received.</p>
EU59	Logistics	<p>When an event is planned, to publicise funding before it takes</p>	<p>This suggestion is noted.</p>

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Leicestershire	concerning major events	place, rather than at or after the event, so unfortunate cancellations do not take place. It is appreciated this is not the only factor, but is important.	
EU44 Bedfordshire & EU65 South Yorkshire & NU80 Belfast, Lisburn Area	Logistics concerning major events	<p>Regret was expressed at the late cancellation of the National Festival. It was known that some believers had made arrangements, booked tickets etc. to travel long distances. Perhaps some kind National Festival or Conference could be held next year and planned well in advance. With only a month to go, we still do not have details of the regional events to replace the National Festival.</p> <p>Those present at Convention wish to share with the National Spiritual Assembly their excitement at the idea of a National Festival, and their subsequent disappointment that it unfortunately fell through. They hope that there will be another National Festival planned for next year. However, they look forward to the Regional Festival and that it because it is more local, it may increase participation from friends of the Faith. However, worries were expressed that the short notice would not be enough time to make appropriate measures for attendance (time off work, transport etc).</p> <p>When making arrangements for national events, would the National Spiritual Assembly keep in mind those believers in peripheral areas around the UK who need to purchase flights early to get the best and most economic deals, therefore any changes regarding the date, time or cancellation of an event will have financial implications for those believers.</p>	Indeed it was a source of disappointment for many that due to circumstances beyond the Assembly's control the National Festival was cancelled and short notice was thus given for the regional gatherings. But as the resolution suggests, the outcome was that a far greater number of Bahá'ís and their friends, particularly from the outlying regions of the UK, were enabled to catch the wonderful spirit that was generated at the seven very successful regional gatherings. The problem of booking flights and so forth was also addressed by having regional gatherings.
EU48 Oxfordshire North	National Assembly functioning	When someone new moves into an area, please could the Records Office inform the nearest community and the nearest LSA so that these people do not lose touch with the community.	Whenever possible, the National Assembly's Department of the Secretariat will put believers who have relocated to a new area in touch with their nearest Local Spiritual Assembly or Group.
EU49	National Assembly	The Unit asks the National Spiritual Assembly to consider whether	The National Spiritual Assembly has given some

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Gloucestershire & Bath	functioning	children of Bahá'í parents should only be included in Bahá'í voting lists (21+) if they have actively affirmed that they wish to be known as Bahá'í (perhaps they should bring back the idea of 'claiming voting rights' at age 21).	thought in recent years as to how to foster the Faith of young believers who may be from Bahá'ís families and do not appear to be active in community life. The role of local Spiritual Assembly and agencies working at a cluster level are vital in this respect. The Assembly believes that rather than removing these dear friends from the voting list, every effort should be made to encourage their participation in Bahá'í community life.
EU01 Cornwall & South Devon	National Assembly functioning	When someone formally enrolls in the Faith, it seems to take many weeks for a welcome to come from the National Office. It is a big decision to change your 'Faith' and it seems very important to make a prompt response a very high priority.	The National Office will be asked to review its processes and procedures to ensure that enrolments are processed as swiftly as possible.
EU06 Wiltshire to the Isle of Wight & EU01 Cornwall & South Devon & EU64 Derbyshire & EU40 Essex West &	National Assembly functioning	<p>Those present at the Convention for the Unit EU06 would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the efforts of the members of the National Spiritual Assembly and the increased warmth received in recent years through their obvious dedication to the community.</p> <p>Deepest appreciation was expressed for the selfless services rendered by the members of the National Spiritual Assembly and the National Office Staff.</p> <p>The Unit Convention wished to send the National Spiritual Assembly its love, gratitude and appreciation for all their efforts and convey that they are kept in our prayers.</p> <p>We would like to send our love and thank the National Spiritual Assembly for their work in encouraging and guiding the friends. We feel the guidance provided for unit convention and other events such as the open weekend, adds to the richness of the experience as</p>	These resolutions are noted with deep appreciation.

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NU81 North Down		<p>we have a greater understanding. The inclusion of the children by sending them a special book about the Holy Days and asking them to represent the Faith at a national level was noted. We would like them to encourage other agencies of the Faith to follow in their example.</p> <p>This Unit Convention would like to express its appreciation to the National Spiritual Assembly for the production and disseminations to wider Bahá'í community of the 2 booklets about Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to the United Kingdom.</p>	
EU17 West Surrey	National Assembly functioning	<p>In order to improve accuracy and efficiency, particularly regarding national databases, and to appropriately value this role: That the main administrative role at National Office be a paid, not voluntary position.</p>	<p>Although many friends support the work of the National Office on a voluntary basis, salaries are available to those friends serving in a full-time capacity who require it.</p>
EU01 Cornwall & South Devon	National Assembly functioning & functioning of agencies	<p>The South West would greatly appreciate visits from members of the National Spiritual Assembly and other National and Regional institutions to foster a sense of personal closeness between the local believers and community and the Institutions that lovingly serve them.</p>	<p>The National Spiritual Assembly is consciously promoting the institution of the National Assembly rather than the individual members. Members of the Bahá'í Council for England, however, regularly visit cluster agencies because the Council's role is to raise the institutional capacity of the cluster agencies.</p>
EU50 Warwickshire, South Solihull	Unit Convention	<p>The National Spiritual Assembly to encourage Host Assemblies to send reminder emails to the friends in the Unit to encourage better participation at the Unit Convention and the election.</p>	<p>This suggestion will be incorporated into the guidance notes for hosts of Unit Conventions</p>
EU59 Leicestershire	Unit Convention	<p>To keep an update of Unit names' list and addresses before downloading to Unit secretaries prior to Unit Convention to save work for the host secretaries.</p>	<p>The lists of names for Unit Convention are derived from the National Assembly's records database. Thus, the list will be as accurate as the database itself. The Department of the Secretariat continually endeavours to keep the Assembly's records as up-to-date as possible, and relies on Local Assemblies and individuals</p>

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			to inform it of changes in addresses and so forth throughout the year. If there are any changes to be made, please let the Department know by writing to records@bahai.org.uk
EU05 Bristol	Unit Convention	Perhaps next year the National Spiritual Assembly could send us a request/reminder to use deepening materials, well in advance of the Unit Convention.	This suggestion is appreciated and noted for future years.
EU22 City of Westminster	Unit Convention	That the National Spiritual Assembly, in order to stimulate consultation on national issues at Unit Conventions in the UK, suggest specific issues for consideration during the consultative part of these meetings.	It was the intention and hope of the National Assembly that the letter it specifically addressed to Unit Conventions this year would provide the basis for consultations at the gathering.
EU45 Northamptonshire	Local boundaries	We are delighted our Unit boundaries have changed back to the Unit being our county, which has always worked together, if these boundaries can change, wondering if others can too. Worries about local boundaries, which at the moment are reliant on local authority boundaries, because they do not always allow for critical mass of Bahá'ís which could otherwise form an Assembly. For example, Kettering, Corby and their surrounding villages have a number of Bahá'ís who are in different communities yet Great Houghton, Hardingstone and Collingtree are part of Northampton community and the village of Bozeat is part of Wellingborough despite having its own parish council. We would like to ask if, in consultation with the grassroots, the local community boundaries could be redrawn with a view to attaining critical mass and useful function at local level.	Local boundaries are determined, not by the National Assembly or local communities, but rather based on guidance of the Universal House of Justice having regard to the civic boundaries in a region. Thus no changes in local Bahá'í boundaries are anticipated at the present time.
EU49 Gloucestershire & Bath	Unit Convention boundaries	The Unit would like to thank the National Spiritual Assembly for re-organising the boundaries and giving us the opportunity to meet new people in our Unit. Where the National Spiritual Assembly does change the Unit boundaries please could they let those in the Unit know in plenty of time, so they can arrange events to start to get to know each other.	This suggestion is noted for the future, with appreciation.

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EU49 Gloucestershire & Bath	Five Year Plan	The Unit suggests that some Cluster boundaries could be changed to better suit the local geography – an example in our Unit is Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire would make a ‘natural’ grouping, and facilitate local teaching efforts.	This suggestion will be passed to Regional Council for England for its consideration
SU83 Southern Scotland & EU44 Bedfordshire & EU22 City of Westminster	Unit Convention boundaries	<p>In connection with the paragraph of the National Assembly’s letter to the Unit Conventions about changes in the Unit Convention boundaries, we would find it very helpful if we had information on the distribution of voting members of the communities in the surrounding areas adjoining ours to enable us to make suggestions as regards our area.</p> <p>Concern was expressed at the small number attending this convention; perhaps partly due to the changes in unit boundaries. In the case of this unit, it had resulted in one cluster being divided into three separate parts, each part being assigned to a different unit. Also the numbers shown on the new electoral roll do not reflect the actual strength of the communities.</p> <p>That the National Spiritual Assembly, in order to improve attendances at Unit Conventions in the UK, consider amending the boundaries for each Unit electorate so that they align with those for the relevant cluster or sector.</p>	<p>The Unit Convention boundaries were revised this year in accordance with the guidance of the Universal House of Justice in terms of the average number of believers resident in a Unit.</p> <p>Whether a believer is actively engaged in community life or not, is not a factor in considering the number of adults in an area.</p> <p>As the criteria for establishing the boundaries of a Unit are different to those of a cluster or sector, it would not be possible for Unit boundaries to be the same as cluster or sector boundaries.</p>
EU50 Warwickshire, South Solihull	Wills	The National Spiritual Assembly to consider preparing templates for writing a will and make this available to the friends. The Convention noted that guidance notes on writing a will are available for use by the friends and for use by their solicitors.	Whilst appreciating the intention of this resolution, the National Spiritual Assembly does not feel that it would be appropriate for it to devise sample templates for Wills. The guidance notes available, together with the advice of a competent solicitor should enable the friends to prepare a suitable Will that fulfils Bahá’í obligations and legal requirements.
NU77	Five Year Plan	That the convention humbly requests that the National Spiritual	This suggestion has been noted with appreciation

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Northumberland		<p>Assembly considers encouraging the friends to use the titles and not just the numbers when referring to the Ruhi books, so that everyone is reminded of their content and purpose, and also to make them more accessible to our community of interest.</p>	<p>and will be shared with the Regional Councils and Training Institute Board for their information. The Training Institute Board provided the following response:</p> <p>“The Training Institute Board is aware that simply referring to the Ruhi books by their numbers can be seen as a form of shorthand and that there may be times when this does not allow for the fullest possible exploration of the purpose of the courses and the concepts they contain, especially when speaking to people from outside of the Baha’i community. Additionally, reference to the full title of a book e.g. “Reflections on the Life of the Spirit” can serve to remind us of its content and purpose.</p> <p>However, recalling the words of the Universal House of Justice in its message of 28 December 2010, the Board wishes to quieten "the impulse to over instruct" and avert "the tendency to reduce a complex process of transformation into simplistic steps, susceptible to instruction by manual..." and more specifically, the Universal House of Justice refers, at times, to the Ruhi books by their number in the sequence rather than by their full title.</p> <p>The use of numbers in describing the books can remind us that there is a sequence to follow, an order in which to progress through the books and is concise. However, at other times it may be</p>

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			<p>more appropriate to use the full title of the books for the reasons mentioned in the resolution.</p> <p>Therefore, the friends should both be encouraged to be aware of the context of their conversations and use speech that is appropriate to the situation and listener.”</p>
EU29 (Waltham, Redbridge & Havering)	Unit Convention	Though this was an improvement on the attendance last year (9) there was a feeling that there were difficulties in attending Unit Convention at this time of year. Were attendances better when this was held in October? Agreed that NSA should be asked this and whether early October might be a better date for participation.	The National Assembly had already confirmed the date for Unit Convention 2013 by the time this resolution was received.
EU29 (Waltham, Redbridge & Havering)	Council for England	It was also felt that there should be a more personal contact with the Council for England, which seemed very impersonal at present. Could there be a Feast Letter conveying important news? Perhaps NEWS and other communications could be prioritised, though there was acknowledgement of the reports from the NSA table.	The National Assembly has been consulting with the Council for England concerning their communications with the community. In the meantime, this resolution will be shared with them.