

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

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When replying please

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14 Núr 178 B.E.

To all believers in the United Kingdom

Dearly loved friends,

During recent meetings of the National Spiritual Assembly, which were joined by Counsellor Varqá Khadem, much thought was given to the question of how to release the potential of the youth of our country. The National Spiritual Assembly recalled the 2013 youth conference, which brought together over 1,000 young people in response to the call of the Universal House of Justice, as well as efforts both before and since to release the immense potential of youth and prepare them for a life of service.

In its message dated 25 November 2020 to the Bahá'ís of the World, the Universal House of Justice urged “every community” to “draw on whatever untapped potential it may possess” during this One Year Plan. The extraordinary capacities of youth are indeed one of these potentialities which deserve our focussed attention during this short Plan.

We should be left with no doubt as to the capacities of youth. In its 28 December 2010 message, the House of Justice identified that “young people are among the most enthusiastic supporters of the Plan and the most ardent champions of the Cause”. In recognition of their contribution to the advancement of the Faith and their increasing maturity, this Ridván the Universal House of Justice lowered to eighteen the age when a believer may vote. In speaking of the significance of the services they have rendered, the House of Justice wrote:

One of the most striking and inspiring features of this twenty-five-year period has been the service rendered by Bahá'í youth, who with faith and valour have assumed their rightful place in the forefront of the community's efforts. As teachers of the Cause and educators of the young, as mobile tutors and homefront pioneers, as cluster coordinators and members of Bahá'í agencies, youth on five continents have arisen to serve their communities with devotion and sacrifice. The maturity they have demonstrated, in the discharge of duties upon which depends the advancement of the Divine Plan, is expressive of their spiritual vitality and their commitment to safeguarding humanity's future.

The National Spiritual Assembly has encouraged all regions to establish a rhythm of youth gatherings, institute campaigns and teaching projects throughout this summer and beyond. We urge institutions at all levels, as well as parents and families, to support and encourage the youth to make a mighty effort to participate fully. As experience has shown, it is through such engagement that a lifelong commitment to serving the Cause and humanity is born, capacities are built, potential is released, friendships flourish, and the joy of sacrificial service is tasted.

The youth are uppermost in our hearts and prayers.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patrick O'Mara', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick O'Mara,
Secretary

cc. Counsellor Varqá Khadem
All Regional Bahá'í Councils
All Auxiliary Board members
All Local Spiritual Assemblies