

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

February 23, 2016

To all Arabic-speaking
Bahá'ís in the United States

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The National Spiritual Assembly is pleased to invite you to participate in the fifth annual Arab American Conference, which will be held in the Chicago area from August 4–7, 2016. The theme of this year's conference is "In Pursuit of Lasting Peace" (السعي نحو سلام دائم).

We have been encouraged by recent guidance received from the Universal House of Justice, which states that the conference provides "a space for Bahá'í perspectives on the concerns of the Arab world to be explored" and fosters "an atmosphere of harmony and cooperation."

It is our hope that this and future such gatherings will provide opportunities for Arabic-speaking Bahá'ís and their friends to make valuable contributions to the social and cultural life of the Arab community. This forum is not designed for the purpose of teaching the Bahá'í Faith but rather aims to develop bonds of friendship and to promote a spirit of cooperation and mutual support.

We encourage you to attend and ask that you both extend this invitation to your friends in the wider community who have cultural connections to the Arab world and accompany those friends to the conference.

All conference sessions will be conducted in Arabic and will feature distinguished speakers from the United States and the Middle East. Those interested in attending are encouraged to visit the event's official website, arabconference.bahai.us, on a regular basis, as updates will be provided there beginning in April. Should you have any questions, you may contact the conference committee by email at arabamericanconference@gmail.com.

The National Assembly strongly encourages participation in this conference, a gathering which continues to be a rich source of dialogue and learning.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary