

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

September 19, 2016

To all Local Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The National Spiritual Assembly sends its loving greetings and gratitude for your tireless efforts to advance the aims of the current Five Year Plan. As you may be aware, the National Assembly recently revised the *Guiding Principles and Standards Pertaining to the Protection of Minors*, as well as the *Policy for the Protection of Children, Junior Youth, and Youth*. We are attaching copies of both documents as an assistance to your vital work with young people.

Within the context of the community-building process in which we are engaged, our efforts to support individual initiative must be harmonized with the imperative to safeguard the well-being of all those under 18 years of age who may participate in activities. Your Assembly is asked to study the *Guiding Principles* and the *Policy* statements thoroughly in order to become familiar with the responsibilities associated with its sponsorship of activities for young people.

We note that, in many communities, classes for children or youth—or other activities involving young people under 18 years of age—may be initiated by the Spiritual Assembly itself. Regardless, all activities involving minors carried out in any community will be covered under the insurance of the Regional Bahá'í Councils. As such, it is important that the Councils be kept apprised of all activities taking place in a community involving minors in order for them to be aware of those covered under their policy.

For all those wishing to serve young people, there is a clearance process which must be followed in order to serve in this vital area and which must be completed in advance of the service. The regional training institute, in collaboration with the National Assembly, will take the lead role in this process. All local clearances should go through the regional training institute, regardless of whether or not the activities use the curriculum or materials of the Ruhi Institute.

Please be assured of our abiding love and ardent prayers on your behalf as you each arise to achieve the goals of the Five Year Plan.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

Attachments (2)