NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY of the Bahá'ís of the United States

March 23, 2017

To all Local Spiritual Assemblies and registered Bahá'í groups

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We are pleased to share with you news regarding the 41st annual Association for Bahá'í Studies conference, to be held August 10–13 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, California.

Friends interested in exploring the implications of the Bahá'í teachings for a wide variety of disciplines, professions, and fields of inquiry are welcome to register and join a growing number of participants "to earnestly strive to reflect on the implications that the truths found in the Revelation may hold for their work." Detailed information about the conference, including confirmed plenary speakers and registration, can be found on the conference website, which can be accessed <u>here (http://bahai-studies.ca/upcoming-conference/</u>). We draw your attention to the website's link to the conference statement and call for presentations (breakout session proposals), noting that the announced deadline for submissions is **April 1**, although those received by April 10 will still be considered. Proposals from all disciplines and professions—including the sciences, humanities, and fine arts—are welcome.

Whether as a participant in enriching plenary and small group sessions or as a presenter, we hope that many of the friends in this community will be able to attend this conference, together with members of our sister communities in Canada and Alaska, and learn together how to foster a dynamic conversation in the Bahá'í community and beyond about the implications of the Divine Teachings for every field of human inquiry.

Your assistance in ensuring this information reaches the members of your respective communities as soon as possible is warmly appreciated.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Connet El Bouren

Kenneth E. Bowers Secretary