

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

May 4, 2017

To the American Bahá'í community

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In our letter of February 25, 2017, the National Spiritual Assembly conveyed the profound responsibility we all bear in contributing to the revitalization of our country and the necessity of bold action to address the historic opportunities before us to reshape society through the application of spiritual principles in our engagement with the wider community.

In this connection, the Universal House of Justice has provided guidance over the last several years regarding the importance of gathering statistics as a fundamental aspect of our work to ensure steady progress. One of the instruments dispatched year-to-year is the Social and Economic Development (SED) survey, which historically has been distributed to members of local, cluster, regional, or national agencies and institutions. This year, we are expanding the reach of this study to include all individual believers residing within the United States, for the purpose of gathering a comprehensive list of any fixed or sustained social and economic development endeavors which have been undertaken over the past twelve months. Fixed endeavors, for example, often arise from junior youth groups engaging in acts of service or other groups of believers who are concerned with the betterment of their community and are engaged in workshops, training courses, or discussions on topics such as race, the equality of men and women, education of children, health, and so on. Sustained endeavors may be Bahá'í-inspired organizations or those that over time operate autonomously or directly under the aegis of Bahá'í institutions; examples may include academic schools, radio stations, or health education programs.

To participate and to learn more about how to report these activities, please complete the survey—which will be sent to you by separate email via SurveyMonkey later today—**by May 10, 2017**.

Beloved friends, be assured of our prayers in the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár that Bahá'u'lláh may reinforce your efforts to serve humanity.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary