

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

August 18, 2017

To the American Bahá'í community
for the Feast of Asmá'

Dearly loved Friends,

Across the nation, Americans of good will watched with a mixture of abhorrence and dismay the events played out last weekend on the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia. Once again, we find ourselves as a people confronted with challenging questions about a dark side of our national identity that continues to surface, despite the bright hopes of earlier decades that it might be vanquished with time.

As citizens of this nation, American Bahá'ís are moved by the same emotions and feel challenged by the same questions. We therefore feel it both timely and important to again call your attention to our February 25 letter of this year on “America and the Five Year Plan”—a letter addressing current conditions in our society and our response as Bahá'ís.

We hope you will use the time this evening usually reserved for a reading of our Feast message to renew your community's discussions of the February 25 letter—or if, to date, you have not collectively read and discussed the letter, you will begin to do so now. As a convenience to you, we have attached the letter to this brief note.

In one of His last addresses on American soil, 'Abdu'l-Bahá expressed His hope *“that through the efforts of this noble nation the solidarity of humanity may be continually advanced, that the illumination of the human world may become widespread, that the banner of universal peace may be held aloft, [and] the lamp of the oneness of the human world be ignited.”* Our prayers are constant that your energetic, faithful, and wholehearted work on His behalf will each day bring the Master's hopes a day closer to fulfillment.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
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Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

Attachment