

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

February 19, 2018

To all Local Spiritual Assemblies  
and registered Bahá'í groups

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We are delighted to share with you news that the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America (ABS) will be hosting its 42<sup>nd</sup> annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, over the extended weekend of August 9–12, 2018. The ABS conference punctuates a year-round process in which Bahá'ís and interested friends strive to advance their understanding of the implications of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh to the manifold fields of human endeavor.

At this time, ABS welcomes proposals from individuals and groups of all ages and disciplines who wish to conduct breakout sessions during the upcoming conference, thereby contributing to the discourse of their respective fields through the lens of Bahá'í concepts related to civilization building. Youth and first-time presenters are especially encouraged to apply. More details are available on the ABS [website](#), where you will also find the theme statement and the online submission form. **The deadline to submit proposals is March 15, 2018.**

In 2013, the Universal House of Justice encouraged ABS to conceive of its work as a means to enhance the abilities of the friends to participate with insight and knowledge in the prevalent discourses in a wide range of professional and academic disciplines. Through its annual conference, its publications, and, increasingly, in specialized settings during the year, the Association is fostering both individual and collective efforts to fulfill this objective. To learn more about ABS, you may read the Supreme Body's letter dated [July 24, 2013](#) and explore the ABS [website](#).

The conference is open to all and provides a unique occasion for friends of the Faith to observe firsthand—and perhaps be attracted to themselves participate in—the growing efforts of Bahá'ís to apply the transformative power of Bahá'u'lláh's all-embracing teachings to the lives of individuals, communities, and the social order as a whole. The National Spiritual Assembly hopes a diverse cross-section of the Bahá'í community and beyond will participate in the conference as we together, in the words of the House of Justice, “wholeheartedly address a wide range of intellectual challenges, overcome all pitfalls and obstacles, and render service for the betterment of the world.”

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers  
Secretary