

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

April 30, 2018

To the American Bahá'í community

Dearest Bahá'í Friends,

In our major letter to the community in January of this year on “Teaching and the Quest for Justice,” we observed that our efforts to demonstrate to our fellow citizens the transforming effect of the Bahá'í revelation can only be fully realized in the field of service and stressed our responsibility to seize the precious opportunities of the hour with bold action within the framework of the current Plan. As we arise to do so, the Universal House of Justice has pointed out to us the importance of the systematic gathering of statistics to effective analysis and planning.

One example of a useful data-gathering instrument distributed annually is the **Social and Economic Development (SED) survey**. For a second year, we are expanding the reach of this study to include all individual believers. Our purpose is to assemble a list of fixed and sustained efforts over the past 12 months to promote social and economic development. Fixed endeavors are often an outgrowth of service projects undertaken by junior youth groups and may include workshops, training courses, or discussions of topics such as race relations and the empowerment of women. Sustained endeavors include Bahá'í-inspired programs or organizations that operate either autonomously or under the aegis of Bahá'í institutions and may include schools, radio stations, or health education projects.

To participate and learn more about how to report SED activities, kindly complete the survey **by May 10**. To access the survey instrument, watch for a link that will be sent to you by email during the week of April 30 (from the email address nso@usnsa.org via surveymonkey.com). Should you have questions about the survey or need assistance, contact our National Statistics Office (at nso@usnsa.org).

Be assured our prayers are constant and ardent for the great success of your efforts to fulfill the objectives of the Plan.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary