

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

October 31, 2018

To the American Bahá'í community

Dearest Bahá'í Friends,

We have observed with pleasure that an increasing number of Bahá'ís—aware that the transforming power of the Bahá'í revelation can most effectively be demonstrated in the field of service—are exploring the intersection between efforts to advance the cause of social justice and their work to further the current Five Year Plan. By lending their energy to forms of community service either created through their own enterprise or already in place in neighborhoods where they are serving, these friends have embraced the truth expressed in our letter on January 31 of this year that our teaching work and the quest for justice can be seen as “interrelated elements of a single all-encompassing process set in motion by the Blessed Beauty, to be realized through our prosecution of the successive Plans formulated by the Universal House of Justice.”

The enthusiasm of the friends for such service presents us with unparalleled opportunities to learn how to continually become better at it. 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**, which we have expanded to include all individual believers. Our purpose is to assemble a list of efforts to promote social and economic development taking place across the country. Some of these develop as an outgrowth of service projects undertaken by junior youth groups. Others may include workshops, training courses, or discussions of topics such as race relations and the empowerment of women. Such endeavors may also include Bahá'í-inspired programs or organizations that operate either autonomously or under the aegis of Bahá'í institutions, such as schools, radio stations, or health education projects.

To encourage your participation in the survey, it will remain open **until April 30** next year. This will enable you to report SED efforts, such as those focused on race relations, and to return to the survey multiple times to add additional activities. To access the survey instrument, watch for a link that will be sent to you by email during the week of November 1 (from the email address [nso@usbnc.org](mailto:nso@usbnc.org) via [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)). Should you have questions about the survey or need assistance, contact our National Statistics Office (at [nso@usbnc.org](mailto:nso@usbnc.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