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

May 15, 2020

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

Dearly loved Friends,

Our beloved Universal House of Justice has, in recent years, written a number of illuminating letters—in response to individuals' concerns and questions—on the subject of race unity in America. Each one of these messages has brought further clarity to an issue that continues to frustrate the progress of our nation and its peoples. The National Spiritual Assembly has shared several of these letters with the Bahá'í community previously and encouraged their study. How blessed we are to be the recipients of such loving and patient guidance as we strive to raise the spiritual foundations of communities that will, over time, increasingly reflect the unifying teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

As you may recall, extracts from a number of these letters were included in a compilation prepared at the Bahá'í World Center, entitled "Achieving Race Unity and Advancing the Process of Entry by Troops," shared by this National Assembly in September 2018 for the Feast of 'Izzat. We are pleased to provide you now with an expanded compilation of this guidance, updated to include three additional letters from the House of Justice—the first, dated August 6, 2018, reminding us that freedom from racial prejudice must be our watchword in all social spaces; the next, dated August 10, 2018, on what has been referred to as "the double crusade;" and finally, a letter dated March 4, 2020, regarding the elimination of racial prejudice in relation to the series of ongoing Plans of the Bahá'í community.

As you will recall, the National Assembly penned four major communications to the American Bahá'í community in 2017 and 2018 focused on the state of affairs in this country and our response as Bahá'ís, which also addressed the elimination of racial prejudice. For your ease of reference, these letters are provided in a second attachment, together with our letter of November 27, 2019 addressed to the participants in the Pupil of the Eye Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee.

These materials—commended to the study of all the friends—are also available to you on the landing page of <u>bahai.us</u> after logging in.

Our ardent prayers for your protection and safekeeping during this challenging time are assured, as are our supplications for the confirmation of your devoted services in the days ahead.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

Kenneth E. Bowers

Secretary

Attachments (2)