

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

June 3, 2020

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

Dearly loved Friends,

A message for this Feast had been written, translated, and prepared for publication just as a tidal wave of sorrow and outrage at the killing of George Floyd engulfed the nation. The indignation and distress being felt in every quarter of America—and, indeed, in a host of other nations—is, however, an outcome of more than just this one death, appalling as it was. It is an expression of deep-rooted weariness and frustration with the fact that, despite the earnest struggle of generations to overcome it, racism remains a defining element of our society.

For this reason, we have set aside our previous letter, asking that you give urgent consideration to the compilation of guidance from the Universal House of Justice that we published on May 15 for the Feast of 'Azamat—guidance that specifically addresses the issue of racism and our response as Bahá'ís. This guidance will help us to understand and apply the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh as we intensify our efforts in expansion and consolidation, in social action, and in engagement in the discourses of society.

The compilation makes it plain we have at our disposal the spiritual resources—and can steadily acquire the practical experience needed—to offer hope to our fellow citizens in this time of increasing despair. As the House of Justice states in one passage, “the way forward has never been clearer.” Our united, constant, and unflagging action to advance the truth of the oneness of humanity will confirm the advice given in a letter written on behalf of the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi: “All humanity is disturbed and suffering and confused; we cannot expect to not be disturbed and not to suffer—but we don't have to be confused. On the contrary, confidence and assurance, hope and optimism are our prerogative.”

The Assembly has already made a decision to address a statement to the American people, which will be published in due course. Later this month, we will meet with members of the Board of Counselors for further consideration of the challenges of the present hour. We ask you to pray for our country and for the advancement of our unifying Cause. Be assured as you do our ardent supplications will accompany yours.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

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



Kenneth E. Bowers  
Secretary