

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

September 8, 2016

To the American Bahá'í community

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Bahá'í Chair Sponsors Two-Day Conference at University of Maryland

“Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess, for in them are the promise and guarantee of the future,” so the Universal House of Justice observed in its Ridván 2000 message. “They bear the seeds of the character of future society which is largely shaped by what the adults constituting the community do or fail to do with respect to children. They are a trust no community can neglect with impunity.”

Later this month, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 28–29, the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland will bring together nearly a dozen educators and speakers from diverse nations and locales to discuss this critical factor in the development of young people. The two-day conference, “Learning Outside the Lines: Children and Youth in an Interconnected World,” will focus on different facets of childhood and adolescence and shine a light on matters relating to youth that are too often neglected and absent from our conversation. The conference is free and open to the public. You may register simply by clicking on [this link](#).

“Learning Outside the Lines” will offer a range of interdisciplinary perspectives on historical experiences of childhood, including a look at children’s lives in the slave communities of 19th-century America, at the experience of girlhood in the early America of the 18th and 19th centuries, at changes in attitudes toward children, and at childhood in the Arab renaissance. Leading up to the modern era and taking a global perspective, other topics to be examined include the role of media in shaping the experience of childhood, childhood educational disparities, contrasts in the stories of Asian immigrant girls in Japan and the United States, childhood adjustments, variety and stress, and modesty in ultra-orthodox Jewish schools.

For information and to register, we suggest you visit the conference section of the Chair’s website (at bahaichair.org/conference). For your further information, the supplementary document attached presents the names and affiliations of the conference speakers and the topics they will address.

We warmly invite you to attend and to bring along interested friends and contacts.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

Attachment