

Message addressed to the Universal House of Justice from the delegates gathered at the  
109<sup>th</sup> Bahá'í National Convention of the United States

April 29, 2017

To our Beloved Universal House of Justice:

Sheltered in this Holy Mother Temple, we lovingly offer joyous greetings to our Supreme Institution, The Universal House of Justice, lauded by 'Abdu'l-Bahá *"as the source of all good and freed from error"*, and extolled by the Guardian in the Advent of Divine Justice as "the exponent and guardian of that divine justice which can alone insure the security of, and establish the reign of law and order in a strangely disordered world".

Graciously hosted by our National Spiritual Assembly, lovingly encouraged by Counselors Nwandi Lawson and Sonlla Heern, inspired by the Deputy trustees of the sacred Institution of Huququ'llah, invigorated by the participation of 30 new delegates, and through our collective reflection on the Ridván message, we are striving to understand the totality of the vision conveyed in your guidance. With rigour and sacrifice we are learning to nurture the framework for action.

In countless places, in rural settings and urban neighborhoods, we are energized by this single greatest worldwide opportunity to offer a befitting gift to Him who is the Unifier of the World, by acquainting every kind of person with His life, His mission and His matchless Covenant. The joy of celebrating the Bicentenary of the Birth of the Blessed Beauty is surely an opportunity for the "hearts of the believers to overflow with love for one another", that we "would abide no lines of separation and would regard all humanity even as one family". "*See ye no strangers,*" was 'Abdu'l-Bahá's exhortation; "*rather see all men as friends, for love and unity come hard when ye fix your gaze on otherness.*" For it is love for Bahá'u'lláh "that burns away all veils of estrangement and division and binds hearts together in perfect unity".

From the pen of 'Abdu'l-Bahá we glean, "*among the teachings of His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh is, that religious, racial, political, economic and patriotic prejudices destroy the edifice of humanity*". Everyone in our nation is under the yoke of oppression from ingrained racial prejudice, injustice, materialism, corruption and moral decay. Yet we are strengthened by the consultations of the Universal House of Justice, members of the International Teaching Center and our Continental Counsellors with members of our National Spiritual Assembly at the World Center. Your call to bold and audacious action and the guidance of our beloved National Spiritual Assembly as articulated in its historic February 25, 2017 message, offers a coherent path to a process of expansion and consolidation that lovingly welcomes the many hues of our human family; includes social action that grows out of our

experience and learning in the field of service; and encourages the use of effective language to participate in the discourses of society.

We are committed to the example of the Master who in clear and uncompromising terms, in private meetings and in public spaces, demonstrated the oneness of humanity through universal love and fellowship. We are committed to an authentic and genuine inner character that will mirror, in all aspects of daily interactions and relationships, the freedom from prejudice that will attract like-minded masses of our fellow-citizens, especially our brothers and sisters of African and Native American heritage, and recent arrivals to our land.

The words of the beloved Guardian from the Advent of Divine Justice state the needs of the hour:

“It is upon you, therefore, my best-beloved friends, that I wish to impress not only the urgency and imperative necessity of your holy task, but also the limitless possibilities which it possesses of raising to such an exalted level not only the life and activities of your own community, but the motives and standards that govern the relationships existing among the people to which you belong. Undismayed by the formidable nature of this task, you will, I am confident, meet as befits you the challenge of these times, so fraught with peril, so full of corruption, and yet so pregnant with the promise of a future so bright that no previous age in the annals of mankind can rival its glory.”

Befitting the spiritual descendants of the Dawn Breakers, let us mount our steeds, raise the banner of His Cause and march forward into victory.

With deepest abiding love and admiration,

Your servants in the Vineyard of the Cause of His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh,

The Delegates of the 109<sup>th</sup> Bahá'í National Convention of the United States