



National Spiritual Assembly

Message to the UK Community regarding tragic events in the United States

Beloved Friends

The deeply shocking and tragic events which have taken place in the United States in recent days have weighed heavily on our hearts and will no doubt have caused us to worry about the future peace and well-being of humanity. They may have also prompted us to consider afresh our response as Bahá'ís at this very critical time in history.

In contemplating the implications of these heart-breaking events for the worldwide Bahá'í community, we may wish to reflect on these words of the beloved Guardian which were penned at another very dark hour in humanity's fortunes.

“Not ours, puny mortals that we are, to attempt, at so critical a stage in the long and checkered history of mankind, to arrive at a precise and satisfactory understanding of the steps which must successively lead a bleeding humanity, wretchedly oblivious of its God, and careless of Bahá'u'lláh, from its calvary to its ultimate resurrection. Not ours, the living witnesses of the all-subduing potency of His Faith, to question, for a moment, and however dark the misery that enshrouds the world, the ability of Bahá'u'lláh to forge, with the hammer of His Will, and through the fire of tribulation, upon the anvil of this travailing age, and in the particular shape His mind has envisioned, these scattered and mutually destructive fragments into which a perverse world has fallen, into one single unit, solid and indivisible, able to execute His design for the children of men.

Ours rather the duty, however confused the scene, however dismal the present outlook, however circumscribed the resources we dispose of, to labour serenely, confidently, and unremittingly to lend our share of assistance, in whichever way circumstances may enable us, to the operation of the forces which, as marshalled and directed by Bahá'u'lláh, are leading humanity out of the valley of misery and shame to the loftiest summits of power and glory.”

(Shoghi Effendi, *The Promised Day is Come*, p 124)

Dearly loved Friends, we should be confident that whatever may happen in the days, weeks and months ahead is part of God's Major Plan for the ultimate unification of the world.

Tempting as it may be to speculate on the precise nature of what this may involve, tempting as it may be to involve ourselves in potentially controversial discussions of what actions the governments of the world need to take at this stage, we should instead move forward in the knowledge that we have a divine mandate to pursue, a divine Plan for the redemption of mankind to prosecute, a divine summons to assist the peoples of the world to open their minds and hearts to the one and only Power that can fulfil their ultimate longing and bring about the peace and unity of all mankind.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly

Kishan Manocha,
Assistant Secretary

Messages exchanged between the National Spiritual Assemblies of the UK and US

11 September 2001

To: the National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the United States

Dearly loved Friends

Your sister Assembly in the United Kingdom shares your sense of outrage and disbelief at the shocking events that have transpired in your country today, and particularly in that great metropolis designated by the beloved Master as the City of the Covenant.

We ardently pray that the Blessed Beauty will protect His loved ones during this time of world-shaking tribulations and hasten the day when the peoples of the world will have finally found the Object of their ultimate longing.

With loving Bahá'í greetings

National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

Kishan Manocha Assistant Secretary

The response from the US National
Spiritual Assembly:

September 11, 2001

National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for your prayers and love of our Bahá'í brothers and sisters as our nation experiences an unforeseen tragedy effecting all its citizens.

With heartfelt appreciation and request for your continuing prayers.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Juana C. Conrad
Deputy Secretary-General

UK Bahá'í Review on the Web

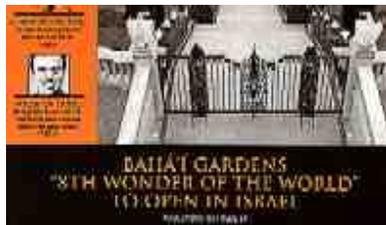
THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S successful external affairs work has taken a further step with the posting of the Spring 2001 issue of UK Bahá'í Review on its website.

UK Bahá'í Review, the quarterly magazine produced by the Office of External Affairs, is a vital part of our external affairs work. The print version goes to around a thousand people, including high level officials in government and the faith communities. Bahá'ís around the UK are also using UK Bahá'í Review in their local external affairs work. It's a magazine that really can be given to dignitaries and, indeed, to enquirers who are interested in what Bahá'ís actually do!

Stories, written by professional journalists, include a feature about the Terraces and gardens on Mount Carmel, the Birthday of the Báb celebration at the Millennium Dome, the launch of the Institute for Social Cohesion, Tranquillity Zones, Bahá'ís in the arts, book reviews and much, much more.



External affairs has a high priority in the work of the National Spiritual Assembly. Back in 1994 the Universal House of Justice issued guidance about the increasing importance of external affairs work for the Bahá'í community throughout the world. The UK National Assembly and community is one of the leading communities in this field, and our capacity and experience have grown enormously since 1994.



UK Bahá'í Review, both in print and on the Web, is a vital tool for successful PR and can help influence policy makers and movers and shakers by showing that Bahá'ís don't just have nice ideas – they also do things!

So, point your browsers at: http://www.bahai.org.uk/uk_review Tell your friends and contacts about it. Use it in your external affairs and PR work.

Any enquiries about UK Bahá'í Review (either on the Web or in print) should be directed to Carmel Momen, our National Public Information Representative, email: carmel.momen@bahai.org.uk.

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