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National Committees and Departments

## The Children's Bahá'í Education Service

THE CHILDREN'S Bahá'í Education Service hopes to inform the friends during the course of forthcoming issues of the Journal about its areas of responsibility and ongoing work throughout the UK Bahá'í community.

### What is the Children's Bahá'í Education Service?

The Children's Bahá'í Education Service (CBES) is an Agency appointed by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of UK to oversee the educational experiences of children and junior youth within the Bahá'í community and the Bahá'í educational provision for them.

### What is the Children's Bahá'í Education Service's aim for the future?

To create Bahá'ís who love the Faith and hold it as the highest priority in their lives, who have a sound understanding of the Writings, serve the Faith willingly and capably, and shine as emblems of our Faith.

### What goals of the Children's Bahá'í Education Service contribute to this aim?

- Nurturing children spiritually and integrating them into the life of the Cause
- Spiritual education of children and junior youth – by providing support and resources for parents at home, at children's classes, at Community Schools (Thomas Breakwell-style schools) and classes open to all
- Implementation of the National Bahá'í Curriculum "Waiting Upon the Blessed Beauty"
- Providing advice and resources on spiritual parenting
- The development and implementation of Bahá'í teacher training
- Encouraging the requisite attitude to children
- Providing advice and resources on activities for junior youth

For further details of each of these points please see the remit of the Children's Bahá'í Education Service "The Promise and Guarantee of the Future". Please visit the CBES stall at National Convention for a copy or phone 020-8786-8484.

### Some Recently Asked Questions:

*Who are the members of the CBES?*

Ms Sahba Akhavan: [Sahba.Akhavan@eu.mayerbrownrowe.com](mailto:Sahba.Akhavan@eu.mayerbrownrowe.com)

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Dr Roger Kingdon: [rdkingdon@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:rdkingdon@dstl.gov.uk)

Mrs Karen O'Donoghue-Yazdi (Treasurer): [Karen.odonoghue@yazdis.force9.co.uk](mailto:Karen.odonoghue@yazdis.force9.co.uk)

Mrs Mitali Peckham: (acting Sec) [cbes@bahai.org.uk](mailto:cbes@bahai.org.uk)

Mrs Shiva Shirinzadeh-Finch: [sfcharm.finest@virgin.net](mailto:sfcharm.finest@virgin.net)

Dr Clare Whitehead (Chair): [Clare@TheVenns.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Clare@TheVenns.fsnet.co.uk)

*Why is it called The Children's Bahá'í Education Service and not The Children's Bahá'í Education Committee?*

The National Spiritual Assembly has deliberately called their agency responsible for child and junior youth education a Service rather than a Committee because they wish the CBES not only to carry out the job of a committee but also to act as a service agency, for example, furnishing the needs of the friends throughout the UK by advising, providing guidance

commissioning work by experts in the field of education, networking, making available needed resources, appointing ad hoc working parties etc.

*Now that the UK has four Councils, each of which has a Children's Task Force, is there a need to have the Children's Bahá'í Education Service? Can these Children's Task Forces in the four Council areas not take over the responsibilities of the CBES?*

Although the work of the Children's Task Forces can be complementary to and supportive of the goals of the CBES, there still needs to be a national co-ordinating body for the following reasons:

1. Such a national body as the CBES has an overall view of what is happening in the UK in terms of Bahá'í education.
2. Furthermore if commissioning of work by experts is to continue, such a body needs to have access to expertise from the whole country, rather than be limited to a specific part of the UK.
3. For international purposes the UK Bahá'í Community needs to have a central agency, which can be contacted by other national and international agencies to respond to their queries. For example, the CBES often has requests for information and exchange of ideas and resources from abroad, the most recent having been from France and Tonga.

The CBES hopes that the above has helped to clarify a number of queries. You are invited to contact the CBES via the secretary, Mrs Mitali Peckham, [cbes@bahai.org.uk](mailto:cbes@bahai.org.uk), should you wish to have any further information.

The Children's Bahá'í Education Service

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Children's Bahá'í Education Service</b> Acting Secretary: Mitali Peckham, email: <a href="mailto:cbes@bahai.org.uk">cbes@bahai.org.uk</a></p>
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## Office of Public Information

New stance paper "Community Cohesion"

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY has prepared a stance paper on "Community Cohesion" which addresses certain problems in our current society. It is very timely given the social disturbances that have marred our cities, and the government's official inquiries into them. The paper is being shared with the media. It is being made available to the Bahá'ís in the following ways:

- On the National Spiritual Assembly's Website at <http://www.bahai.org.uk>,
- It is available on request as a PDF file or plain text (please specify which) from the Office of Public Information by sending an email to [opi@bahai.org.uk](mailto:opi@bahai.org.uk),
- It is available in hard copy by post to addresses in the UK – send your request and address to OPI.

The friends may wish not only to study the paper themselves but to make use of it – it can be shared with appropriate contacts, local organisations, and media. The National Spiritual Assembly has no objection if local Bahá'í administrative bodies wish to excerpt it and issue it in their own name.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UK Bahá'í Office of Public Information</b> Bahá'í National Sub-Office, Third Floor, Bridge House, 97-101 High Street, TONBRIDGE, Kent, TN9 1DR email: <a href="mailto:opi@bahai.org.uk">opi@bahai.org.uk</a></p>
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## Bahá'í Office of Social and Economic Development

THE BAHÁ'Í OFFICE of Social and Economic Development (BOSED) would like to share with you some excerpts from a letter written on January 16, 2002 by the Office of Social and Economic Development (OSED) at the Bahá'í World Centre, in reply to our request for guidance.

We specifically had asked for guidance on organisational arrangements and funding for social and economic development activities in the UK.

In its letter, OSED replied: "Projects that began under the supervision of a Local Assembly can be transferred to the management of a Bahá'í-inspired agency set up for that purpose; alternatively, a Bahá'í-inspired Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) can also be created simply on the initiative of a group of believers. This type of endeavour is not administered directly by the Bahá'í institutions, although it does, of course, operate under their broad authority. The establishment of Bahá'í-inspired agencies has been encouraged by the Universal House of Justice as a means of seizing opportunities for complex development efforts in a manner that will not divert resources away from the all-important work of expansion and consolidation.

"Experience in other parts of the world has demonstrated that Bahá'í-inspired organizations do not deflect appreciation from the Faith and its institutions, but rather, greatly enhance the good name of the Faith as it becomes clear that Bahá'ís are contributing to the betterment of society.

"... it should be noted that an organisation which is not directly administered by a Bahá'í institution would not have the word 'Bahá'í' in its title.

"In seeking funding for development efforts run by an Assembly, an effort will have to be made to clarify in the minds of the donor the distinction between activities for teaching and those for development, which can be a formidable challenge. ... We do not feel that it is advisable to create a separate charity for the sole purpose of raising funds for projects in the UK, since experience in other parts of the world has demonstrated that problems arise when matters related to finances and administration are managed by one organisation, while the responsibility for taking action remains in the hands of another."

We hope this guidance will help you and your communities when putting ideas into action. If you have any questions regarding SED or would like a copy of the whole letter, please contact BOSED.

### **Minister Requests National SAT Programme**

Thrilling news has just been received from Honduras. The Honduran Ministry of Education has asked the Bayan project organisers to devise and present a plan for implementing the SAT (Tutorial System) rural education and development programme throughout the whole of rural Honduras. Should this plan come to fruition, it would be difficult to overestimate its significance. It would represent an historic breakthrough both for the project in Honduras and for SED efforts in the Bahá'í world as a whole.

Dear Friends, we send apologies to anyone who has been having difficulty with our email and website. Please note our new details below:

**BASED-UK** (Overseas projects)  
Email: [secretariat@baseduk.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@baseduk.org.uk)  
Website: <http://www.baseduk.org.uk>

**NB: BOSED** (UK Projects)  
Email [boased@bahai.org.uk](mailto:boased@bahai.org.uk) (no Website yet).  
Secretary: Mrs Susie Howard  
Fax: 01235 533278

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## **Bahá'í Office of Religious and Educational Affairs**

BOREA is producing classroom materials on "Citizenship – a Bahá'í Perspective", in support of the new statutory requirement to teach citizenship in secondary schools from September 2002, and primary schools from September 2003. This is a matter of vital importance, as it is the community's chance to get the Bahá'í perspective into schools in a powerful way throughout the four key stages. Powerful because the plans will involve

in a powerful way, throughout the four key stages. Powerful, because the plans will involve not simply theory and words, but actions. When students see the effects of these actions – coupled with the principles – their own thoughts and opinions will in turn be influenced.

The materials for secondary schools (Key Stages 3 and 4) will be ready for schools to pilot in the summer term, 2002. Pilot materials for use in primary schools should be ready by half-term of the summer term.

If you are a teacher responsible for citizenship education in your school, or know of any teachers who may be interested in joining in the pilot, please email BOREA with details of the teacher's name, school and address, and whether they would like to participate in the primary or secondary pilot, at [borea@oxenton.demon.co.uk](mailto:borea@oxenton.demon.co.uk).

The introduction of this perspective in citizenship could be decisive in bringing the Bahá'í Faith to the attention of a whole generation – a generation that will grow up seeing the positive, practical, long term impact the Faith can have on themselves and society as a whole.

With loving greetings,  
Bahá'í Office of Religious and Educational Affairs



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