

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

April 12, 2022

To all Regional Bahá'í Councils

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We are writing to bring to your attention helpful guidance about accessibility prepared by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Task Force, an agency of the National Spiritual Assembly. Its ongoing work to address the needs of the Deaf and hard of hearing community has accelerated in recent years, and included a well-attended devotional program broadcast from the Bahá'í House of Worship employing closed captioning and American Sign Language (ASL).

To enable Bahá'ís around the country to benefit from the knowledge and experience of the task force as they plan for the conferences called for by the Universal House of Justice, we are pleased to share with you the attached sheet of considerations regarding accessibility. Employing these suggestions—where feasible—will facilitate the equitable participation in the conferences not only of those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, but also of those with visual and/or mobility impairments. We ask you to forward this document to conference organizers so they can keep the information in mind during their planning. Even if local conferences have already taken place, this information will be helpful for future events.

The convener of the task force, Mrs. Naledi Raspberry, who has been involved in efforts to include the Deaf and hard of hearing in Bahá'í community life for more than 30 years, welcomes any questions you may have about the points raised in the attachment. She may be contacted by phone (973.715.7700) or email (Bahai.Deaf@gmail.com).

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Mrs. V. Naledi Raspberry