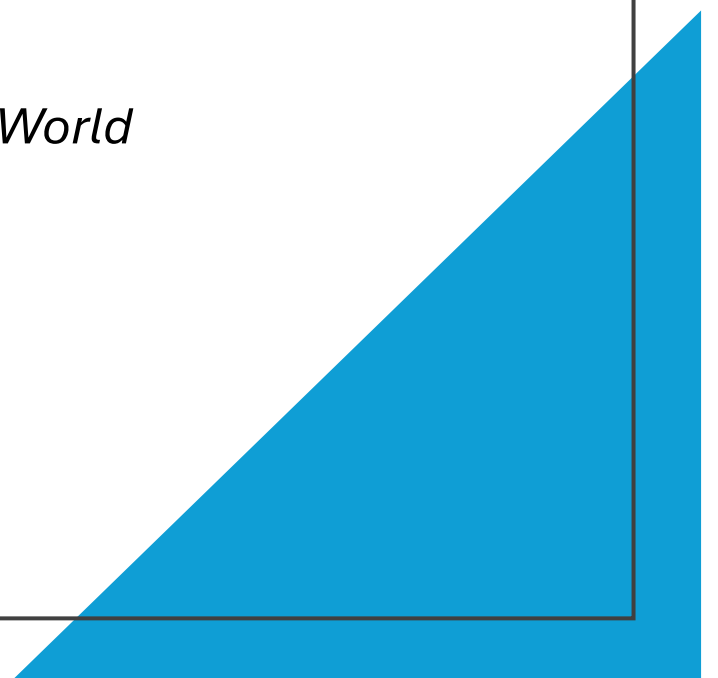


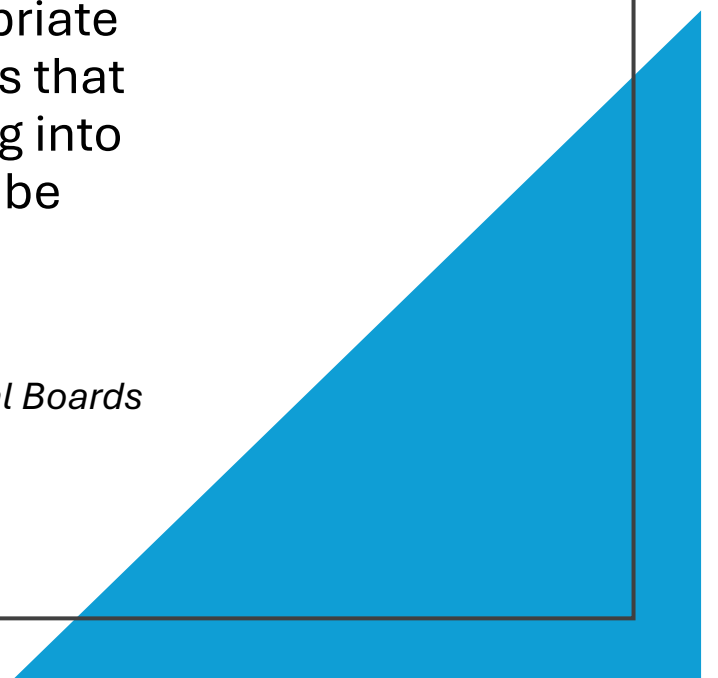
“The light of the Revelation is destined to illumine every sphere of endeavour; in each, the relationships that sustain society are to be recast; in each, the world seeks examples of how human beings should be to one another.”

The Universal House of Justice, Ridván 2012, To the Bahá'ís of the World



Every follower of Bahá'u'lláh knows well that the purpose of His Revelation is to bring into being a new creation. No sooner had “the First Call gone forth from His lips than the whole creation was revolutionized, and all that are in the heavens and all that are on earth were stirred to the depths.” The individual, the institutions, and the community—the three protagonists in the Divine Plan—are being shaped under the direct influence of His Revelation, and a new conception of each, appropriate for a humanity that has come of age, is emerging. The relationships that bind them, too, are undergoing a profound transformation, bringing into the realm of existence civilization-building powers which can only be released through conformity with His decree.

The Universal House of Justice, 28 December 2010, To the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors



As you know from your study of the Bahá'í writings, the principle that is to infuse all facets of organized life on the planet is the oneness of humankind, the hallmark of the age of maturity. That humanity constitutes a single people is a truth that, once viewed with scepticism, claims widespread acceptance today. The rejection of deeply ingrained prejudices and a growing sense of world citizenship are among the signs of this heightened awareness. Yet, however promising the rise in collective consciousness may be, it should be seen as only the first step of a process that will take decades—nay, centuries—to unfold. For the principle of the oneness of humankind, as proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh, asks not merely for cooperation among people and nations. It calls for a complete reconceptualization of the relationships that sustain society.

The Universal House of Justice, 2 March 2013, To the Bahá'ís of Iran



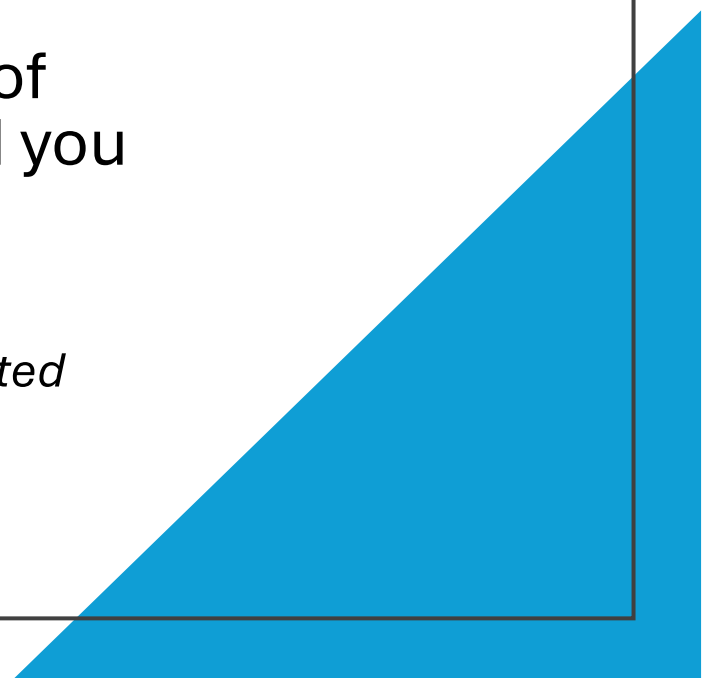
“...Bahá’ís across the globe, in the most unassuming settings, are striving to establish a pattern of activity and the corresponding administrative structures that embody the principle of the oneness of humankind...”

The Universal House of Justice, 2 March 2013, To the Bahá’ís of Iran



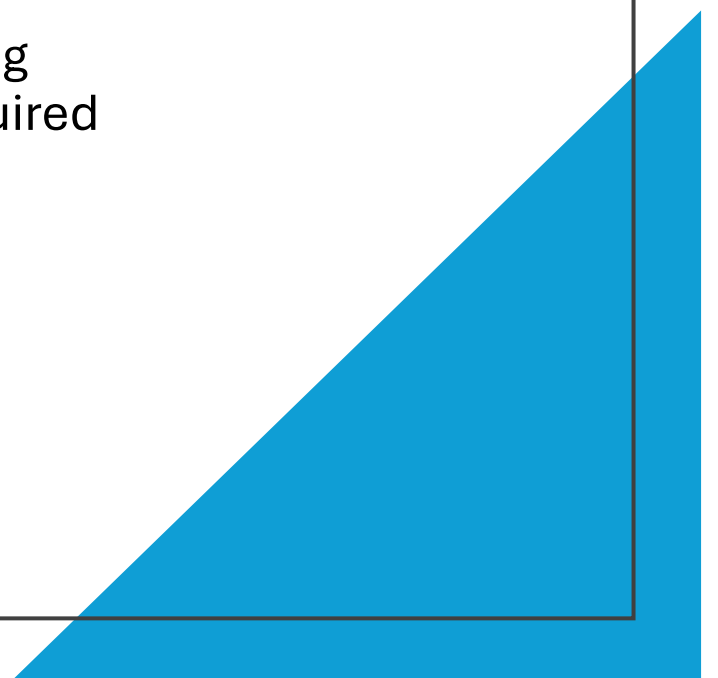
A moment of historic portent has arrived for your nation as the conscience of its citizenry has stirred, creating possibilities for marked social change. It holds significance not only for the destiny of America anticipated in the Sacred Writings, but also for the mission entrusted to your community by the hand of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, who cherished you dearly and called you to a path of sacrifice and high endeavor.

The Universal House of Justice, 22 July 2020, To the Bahá’ís of the United States



The principles and exhortations that guide your steps are well known to you from the writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi. The concepts and approaches for social transformation developed in the current series of Plans that can be utilized to promote race unity in the context of community building, social action, and involvement in the discourses of society have been set out in our messages. Every believer, as the promulgator of Bahá’u’lláh’s central principle of the oneness of humanity, should deeply meditate upon it and weigh its demanding implications for the profound alteration of thought and action required at this time.

The Universal House of Justice, 22 July 2020, To the Bahá’ís of the United States

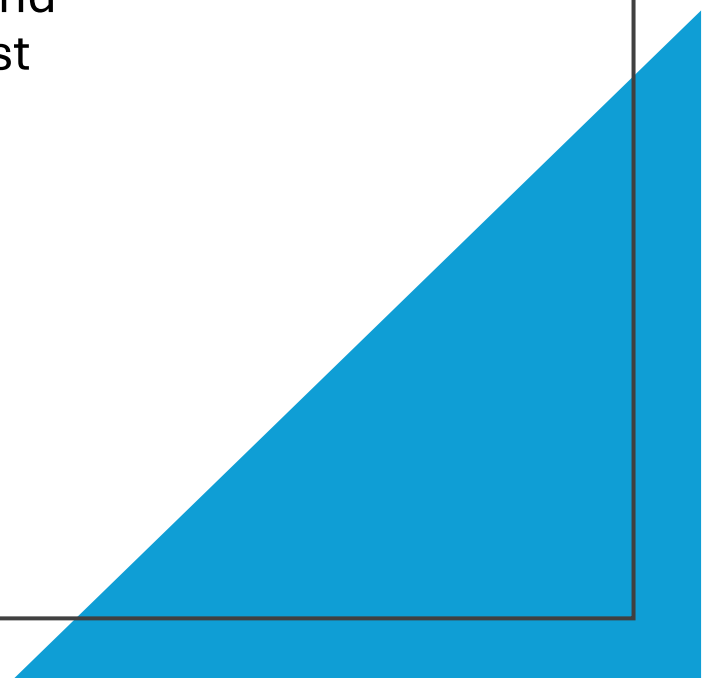


“...the virtues and
indispensability of consultation
for ordering human affairs.”

“Bahá’u’lláh insistently drew attention to the virtues and indispensability of consultation for ordering human affairs. He said: Consultation bestows greater awareness and transmutes conjecture into certitude. It is a shining light which, in a dark world, leads the way and guides. For everything there is and will continue to be a station of perfection and maturity. The maturity of the gift of understanding is made manifest through consultation.”

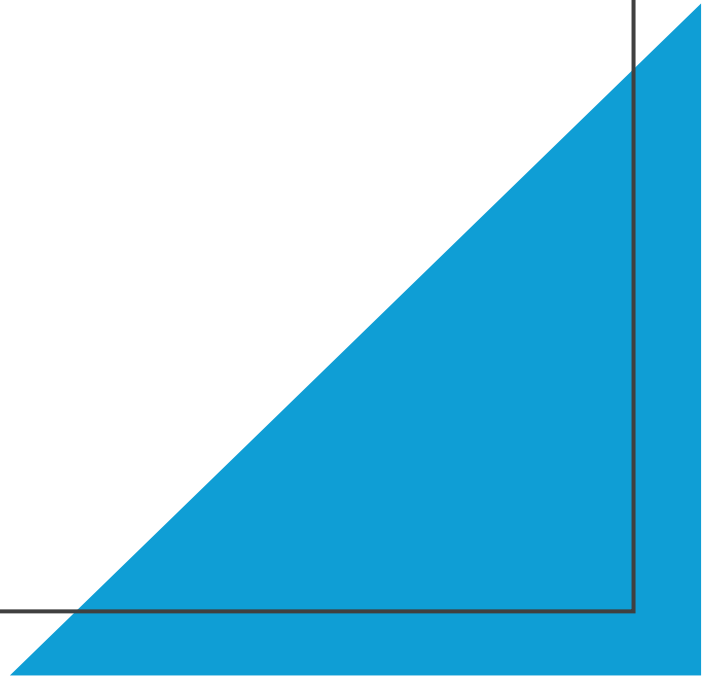
The Promise of World Peace

The Universal House of Justice, October 1985, To the Peoples of the World

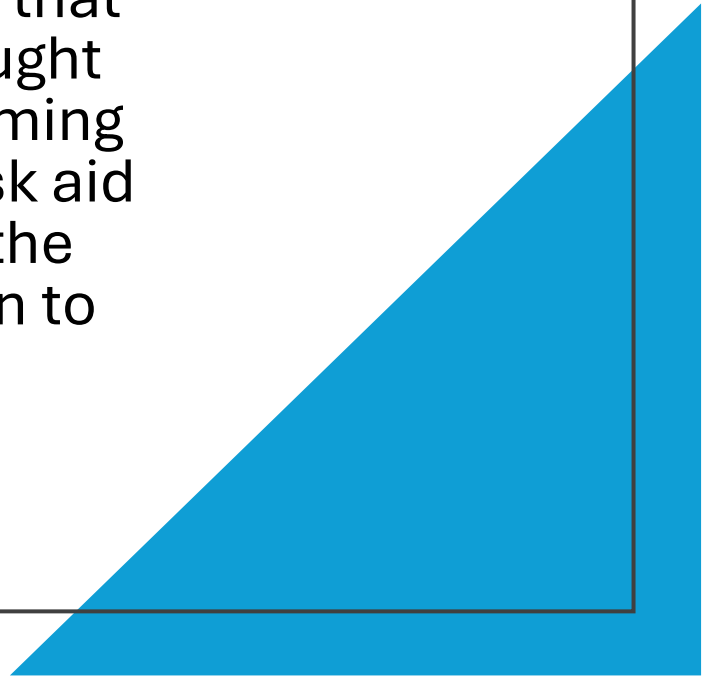


“No welfare and no well-being can be attained
except through consultation.”

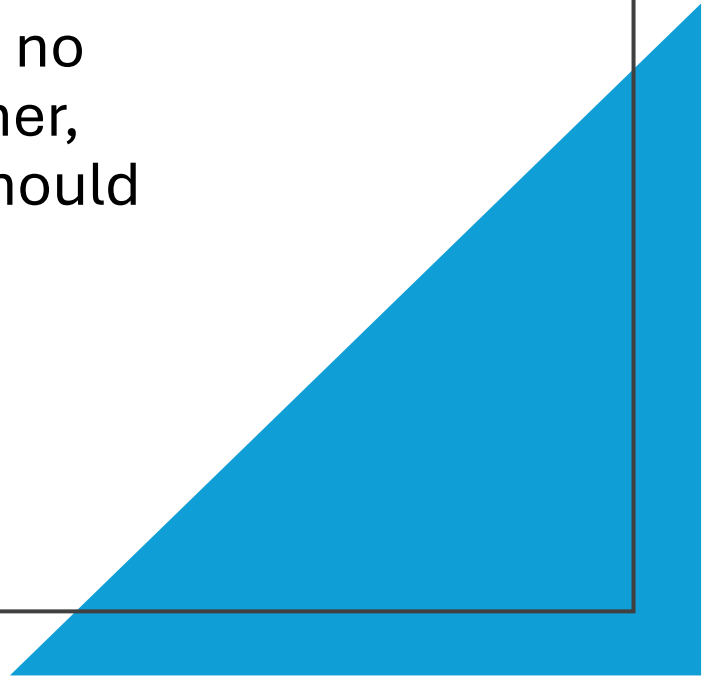
From a Tablet, translated from the Arabic



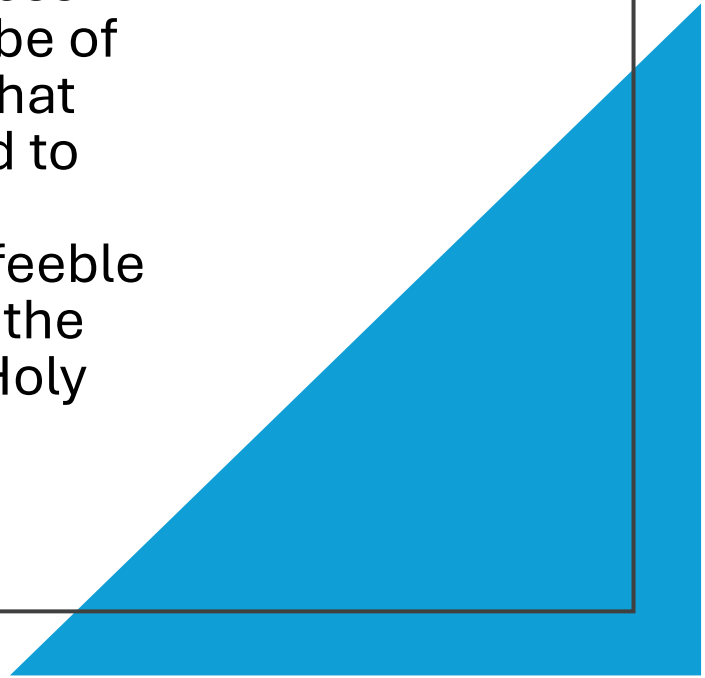
The first condition is absolute love and harmony amongst the members of the assembly. They must be wholly free from estrangement and must manifest in themselves the Unity of God, for they are the waves of one sea, the drops of one river, the stars of one heaven, the rays of one sun, the trees of one orchard, the flowers of one garden. Should harmony of thought and absolute unity be nonexistent, that gathering shall be dispersed and that assembly be brought to naught. The second condition:—They must when coming together turn their faces to the Kingdom on High and ask aid from the Realm of Glory. They must then proceed with the utmost devotion, courtesy, dignity, care and moderation to express their views.



They must in every matter search out the truth and not insist upon their own opinion, for stubbornness and persistence in one's views will lead ultimately to discord and wrangling and the truth will remain hidden. The honored members must with all freedom express their own thoughts, and it is in no wise permissible for one to belittle the thought of another, nay, he must with moderation set forth the truth, and should differences of opinion arise a majority of voices must prevail, and all must obey and submit to the majority.

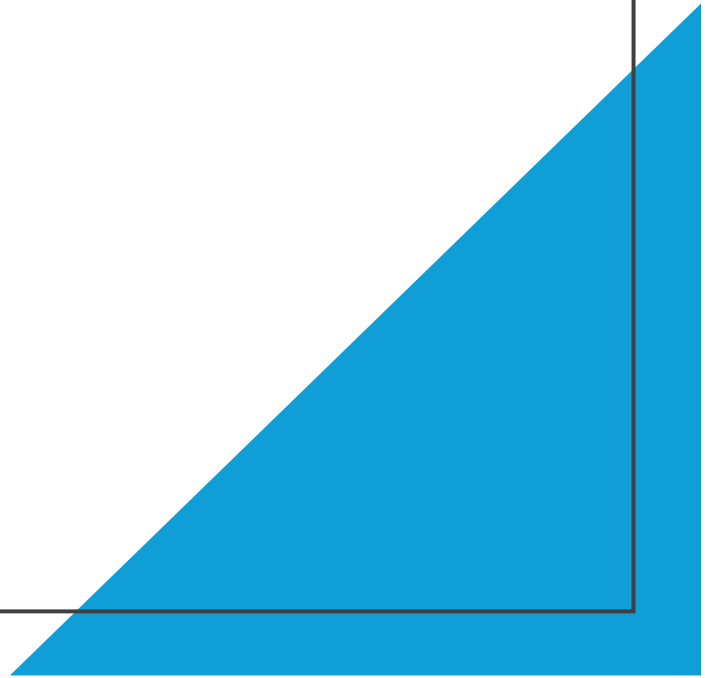


It is again not permitted that any one of the honored members object to or censure, whether in or out of the meeting, any decision arrived at previously, though that decision be not right, for such criticism would prevent any decision from being enforced. In short, whatsoever thing is arranged in harmony and with love and purity of motive, its result is light, and should the least trace of estrangement prevail the result shall be darkness upon darkness... If this be so regarded, that assembly shall be of God, but otherwise it shall lead to coolness and alienation that proceed from the Evil One. Discussions must all be confined to spiritual matters that pertain to the training of souls, the instruction of children, the relief of the poor, the help of the feeble throughout all classes in the world, kindness to all peoples, the diffusion of the fragrances of God and the exaltation of His Holy Word.



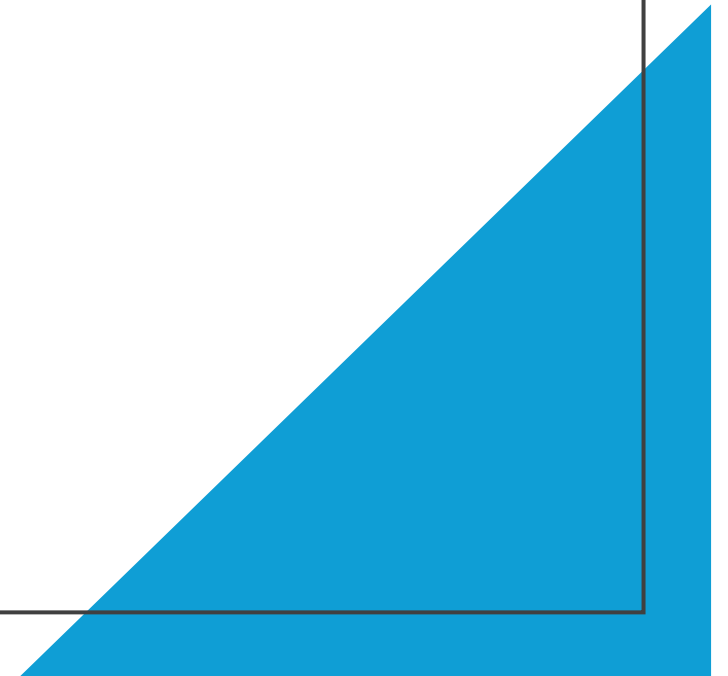
Should they endeavor to fulfill these conditions the Grace of the Holy Spirit shall be vouchsafed unto them, and that assembly shall become the center of the Divine blessings, the hosts of Divine confirmation shall come to their aid, and they shall day by day receive a new effusion of Spirit.

Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá



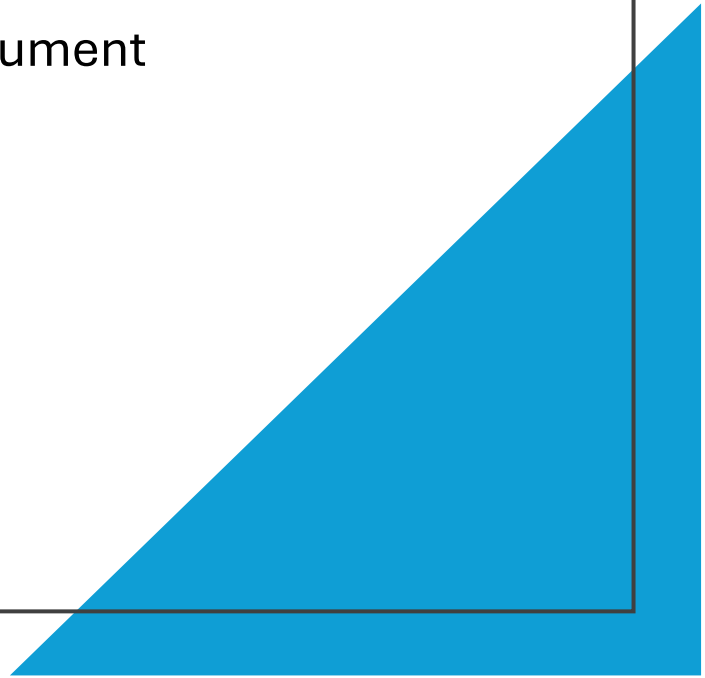
The qualities that the individual consultants must exhibit:

- radiance of spirit
- detachment from all save God
- attraction to His Divine Fragrance
- humility and lowliness amongst His loved ones
- patience and long-suffering in difficulties
- servitude to His exalted Threshold



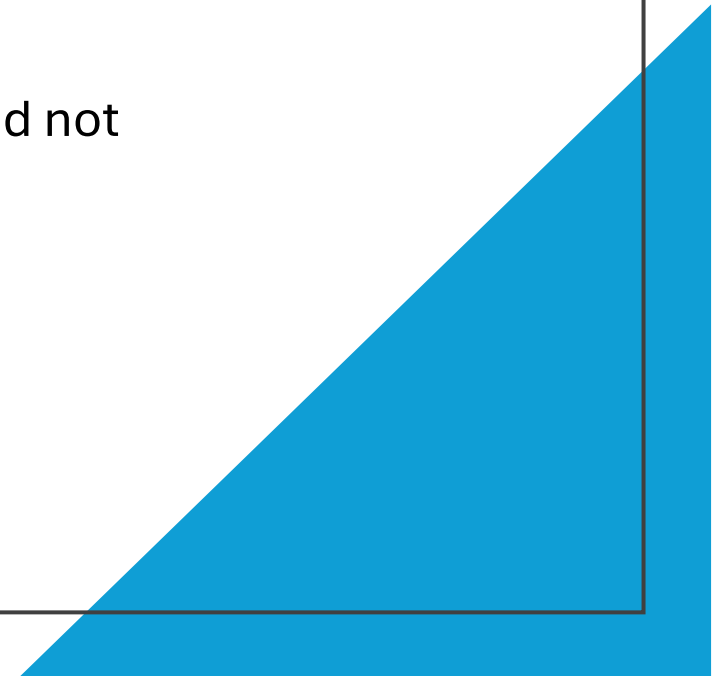
‘Abdu’l-Bahá says that the members of an Assembly must consult in such a way that “no occasion for ill-feeling or discord may arise” and that this can be attained if:

- every member expresses his opinion and sets forth his argument with “absolute freedom” and
- does not allow himself to feel hurt if anyone opposes



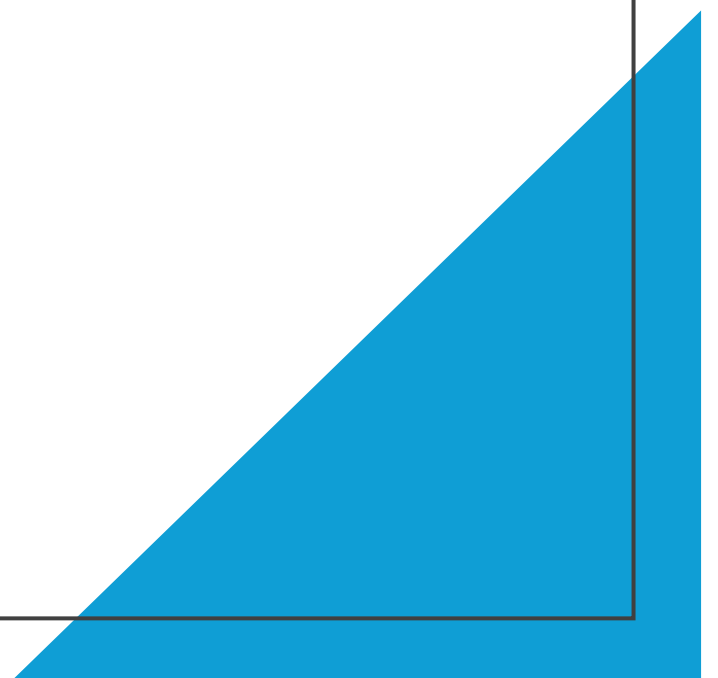
He also says that each member should express his views with the utmost:

- devotion
- courtesy
- dignity
- care and
- moderation
- In every matter the members must search out the truth and not insist on their own opinions,
- and it is forbidden to belittle the thought of another



“Not infrequently, nay oftentimes, the most lowly, untutored and inexperienced among the friends will, by the sheer inspiring force of selfless and ardent devotion, contribute a distinct and memorable share to a highly involved discussion in any given Assembly.”

Shoghi Effendi



You are in the Guardian's presence but a short time when you wish to saddle your horse, buckle on your sword, and casting aside the joy of the rest of your pilgrimage, cry out: "Mount your steeds, O heroes of God!" Ruhiyyih Khanum, herself, said one night, "Shoghi Effendi, if you keep on speaking so movingly, I'll have to leave and pioneer."

You have the desire to be commanded in order that you may obey. Here you lose forever that feeling, so common in the west, of rebellion at commands. You see that obedience in a new light; a light of protection, service, accomplishment and joy.

Shoghi Effendi Through the Pilgrim's Eye, Vol 2, by Earl Redmond, p. 80

