

Regional Bahá'í Council of the Atlantic States

Delaware • District of Columbia • Maryland • North Carolina • Virginia

September 25, 2018

To: All Bahá'í Youth Ages 18 to 35 in the Atlantic Region

Re: An Invitation to Heroic Action

Dearly cherished friends,

In its Ridvan 2018 message, the Universal House of Justice calls us to remember the extraordinary sacrifices of the Dawnbreakers along with the crises and opportunities of this particular time in history. They write: *“Though separated from our own time by two centuries, the society in which the Báb appeared resembles the present-day world for the sense of oppression and for the longing of so many to find answers to slake the soul’s thirst to know.... The months ahead will also be a time for calling to mind the lives of the Báb’s intrepid followers—heroines and heroes whose faith was expressed in matchless, sacrificial acts that will forever adorn the annals of the Cause. Their qualities of fearlessness, consecration, and detachment from all save God impress themselves upon everyone who learns of their ventures. How striking, too, is the young age at which so many of those lionhearts made their indelible mark on history. During the coming period, may their example give courage to the entire company of the faithful—not least to the youth, who are once more summoned to the vanguard of a movement aimed at nothing less than the transformation of the world.”*

The Beloved House of Justice is calling you to lead the way; to seize the extraordinary opportunities that are now before us as sincere souls are searching for answers to life in a society that is sinking into the depths of materialism and deeply ingrained prejudice. You may already be engaged in activities in your cluster or in your neighborhood to empower populations to take charge of their own spiritual and material destinies. Perhaps you may be wondering how best to use this short period of youth to serve this blessed Cause. The Regional Council would like to invite you to consider a particular heroic line of action: that of pioneering on the homefront.

Attached is a list of the most crucial homefront pioneering goals in the Atlantic Region. As you can see, there are a variety of opportunities and a variety of needs. Some of these goals can be filled by teams of youth who devote their school breaks to working in a particular cluster over time. Others can be filled by youth who attend a community college for a couple of years while serving in a cluster. Others will be best supported by a young couple or family relocating to a cluster or a neighborhood within it. In any case, what is most important is simply the desire to express your faith “in matchless, sacrificial acts that will forever adorn the annals of the Cause”.

As we go through our ordinary, daily lives, it is often hard to imagine that we are living in a time where our actions can be considered “heroic”. However, future generations will look back upon this time and tell stories of the sacrifices of homefront pioneers as we now tell stories of the sacrifices of the early believers. The 27-year-old Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, wrote to the American Bahá'í Community almost a century ago: *“Humanity, through suffering and turmoil, is swiftly moving on towards its destiny; if we be loiterers, if we fail to play our part surely others will be called upon to take up our task as ministers to the crying needs of this afflicted world.”*

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You are certainly aware of the legacy of those who arose in years past to pioneer internationally. You may even have Knights of Bahá'u'lláh in your own family, having grown up with stories of how they settled in an unfamiliar country to be the first to plant the banner of Bahá'u'lláh in those lands. The same challenge now exists on the homefront, in clusters all across the Atlantic Region. Perhaps you can play a similar role as they did, but with a focus on advancing the process of entry by troops within the context of a cluster or neighborhood.

Dearest friends, please consider the opportunities now before you during this very brief period of youth. If you are so moved, please respond to this invitation by email (secretariat@rbcatlantic.org), by phone or text (919-914-0156), or by submitting an interest form on this site: <http://bit.do/hfp-interest>. Your response will not indicate a commitment but simply begin a conversation about possibilities that may or may not lead to you pioneering on the homefront.

We love you and pray for you, your hopes, dreams and your service.

With deep love and hope,

REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL of the ATLANTIC STATES

cc: Encl.