

# Bahá'í Administration

## **The Learned**

The appointed branch

Bahá'í Administration 10

# Bahá'í Administrative Order

The Bahá'í Administrative Order separates the institutions of governance, that are elected and take decisions collectively through consultation (the Rulers), and those that draw on the capacity of individuals to inspire and instruct (the Learned), but who have no authority to make decisions binding on others. Thus no individual has power or authority, avoiding the human tendency for power to corrupt.

# The Learned

Hands of the Cause of God

Counsellors

Auxiliary Board Members

and their Assistants

These institutions of appointed individuals can be referred to collectively as the Learned, or those with knowledge

# Hands of the Cause of God

Already in His own time, Bahá'u'lláh designated some great teachers as “Hands of the Cause of God”, as did ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Shoghi Effendi first gave this title posthumously to a few great teachers, and then towards the end of his life named several contingents of Hands of the Cause. These were also enabled to name Auxiliary Board Members to assist them in their work.

# Hands of the Cause of God

1960



# Boards of Counsellors

On the passing of Shoghi Effendi, since only the Guardian as Head of the Faith could name Hands of the Cause, the Universal House of Justice created the Institution of the Boards of Counsellors to replace them in the Bahá'í administration.



# Boards of Counsellors

Counsellors members of the International Teaching Centre

Continental Boards of Counsellors for the Protection and Propagation of the Faith

Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australasia, Europe

- serve for 5 years

- cannot at the same time serve on elected institutions

# Boards of Counsellors

*The institution of the Boards of Counselors was brought into being by the Universal House of Justice to extend into the future the specific functions of protection and propagation conferred upon the Hands of the Cause of God. The members of these boards are appointed by the Universal House of Justice.*

(By-Laws of the Universal House of Justice)





Continental Boards of Counsellors 2022



# International Teaching Center

*Announce establishment Holy Land long anticipated International Teaching Center destined evolve into one of those world shaking world embracing world directing administrative institutions ordained by Bahá'u'lláh anticipated by 'Abdu'l-Bahá elucidated by Shoghi Effendi.*

# International Teaching Center



# International Teaching Center

*The duties now assigned to this nascent institution are:*

- To coordinate, stimulate and direct the activities of the Continental Boards of Counselors and to act as liaison between them and the Universal House of Justice.*

(Universal House of Justice, To the Bahá'ís of the World, 8 June 1973)

# International Teaching Center

- *To be fully informed of the situation of the Cause in all parts of the world and to be able, from the background of this knowledge, to make reports and recommendations to the Universal House of Justice and give advice to the Continental Boards of Counselors.*

(Universal House of Justice, To the Bahá'ís of the World, 8 June 1973)

# International Teaching Center

- *To be alert to the possibilities, both within and without the Bahá'í community, for the extension of the teaching work into receptive or needy areas, and to draw the attention of the Universal House of Justice and the Continental Boards of Counselors to such possibilities, making recommendations for action.*

(Universal House of Justice, To the Bahá'ís of the World, 8 June 1973)

# International Teaching Center

- *To determine and anticipate needs for literature, pioneers and traveling teachers and to work out teaching plans, both regional and global, for the approval of the Universal House of Justice.*

(Universal House of Justice, To the Bahá'ís of the World, 8 June 1973)



# Auxiliary Boards

Two Auxiliary Boards in each zone, one for protection of the Faith and one for propagation (teaching). They are appointed by the Counsellors and act as their deputies, assistants and advisers.

# Auxiliary Boards assist us

*Across different cultures and social environments, they must assist the friends to face different kinds of challenges:*

- to help previously antagonistic groups find unity through pursuit of a common goal;*
- to learn to put aside inherited customs and attitudes that belong to humanity's period of adolescence, and to overcome prejudices of all kinds;*

(Universal House of Justice, To the Conference of the Continental Board of Counsellors, 30 December 2021, §36)

# Auxiliary Boards assist us

- *to guard against any tendency to view matters with cynicism or an eye for faults, and instead sustain an eager and constructive outlook;*
- *to put the equality of women and men into practice;*
- *to cast off inertia and apathy through the exercise of individual initiative;*
- *to put one's support of plans for collective action before feelings of personal preference;*
- *to harness the power of modern technologies without succumbing to their potentially enervating effects;*

(Universal House of Justice, To the Conference of the Continental Board of Counsellors, 30 December 2021, §36)

# Auxiliary Boards assist us

- *to prize the sweetness of teaching the Faith and the joy of serving humankind above worldly interests;*
- *to reject the opiate of consumerism;*
- *to turn away from materialist ideologies and the worldviews they aggressively promote, and fix one's gaze upon the bright beacon that is the laws and principles of God.*

(Universal House of Justice, To the Conference of the Continental Board of Counsellors, 30 December 2021, §36)