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Ideas for local websites

The increased importance of the Internet is shown by the fact that more than two-thirds of enquiries about the Faith come to the National Assembly through it, and that both the number and the proportion are going up. A strong Bahá'í presence on the World Wide Web is very important to this continuing. Local community Websites have their part to play in this.



We have not made available a template for local Websites, as it is desirable that each community develop its own site. However in response to requests about local Website content, we offer the following as the content used by a number of local sites and representing what we would see as the basic minimum for a local site.

- **home page** - welcoming visitors and setting out links to other pages.
- **information page about the Faith** - this need not be detailed, especially as you will be linking to other fuller sites (see below).
- **information page about your area** - what makes your local site different, something about the area with pictures of local scenes.
- **page of information about the local Bahá'ís**
- **links page** - with links to the Bahá'í World, National Spiritual Assembly, Council, Bahá'í World News Service, One Country, and other sites.

Note that the National Spiritual Assembly does not recommend calendars of events as these have been misused by people seeking to take advantage of the Bahá'ís in making an illegal entry into the country.

Remember that information and help to cover the technical aspects of constructing a Website are available from the Office of Public Information.

What links to include on your local website?

No Website stands on its own. The power of the World-Wide Web lies in its ability to link sites and network them. For your community site to be successful it has to have a good and up-to-date set of links to other Bahá'í Websites.

The precise range of sites you link to is up to you but we recommend these as essentials:

- The Bahá'í World, official international site: www.bahai.org
- The official UK Bahá'í site: www.bahai.org.uk
- Bahá'í World News: reports on activities by the Bahá'í community throughout the world: www.bahaiworldnews.org
- One Country: deals with some aspects of the work in greater depth: www.onecountry.org
- UK Bahá'í Review: does the same for UK activities of interest to the public: www.bahai.org.uk/uk_review/
- For a listing and links for local Bahá'í community sites in your part of the United Kingdom:
 - **England:** www.bahai.org.uk/bc/engl/
 - **Northern Ireland:** www.bahai.org.uk/bc/ni/

- **Scotland:** www.bahai.org.uk/bc/scot/
- **Wales:** www.bahai.org.uk/bc/wales/
- For your Bahá'í Council:
 - **England:** www.bahai.org.uk/england/
 - **Northern Ireland:** www.bahai.org.uk/ni/
 - **Scotland:** www.bahai.org.uk/scotland/
 - **Wales:** www.bahai.org.uk/wales/

Social Cohesion – Prospect and Promise

5th January, 2003

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY has issued a new statement entitled SOCIAL COHESION – PROSPECT AND PROMISE. It builds on previous statements in this area and is longer and more substantial. It is worthy of study by Bahá'ís but its primary purpose is as an external affairs resource to show to others what the Faith has to offer in this field of increasing public concern. Possible recipients include journalists, like-minded organisations covering a range of social issues, and interested individuals. The statement is available in the following ways:

- on the National Assembly's website www.bahai.org.uk
- from the Office of Public Information electronically as a PDF file attachment – please email opi@bahai.org.uk
- from the Office of Public Information on paper – please contact OPI at the National Office.

29th January, 2003

DEARLY LOVED FRIENDS

Conscious of the impact of Mrs Maggie Manvell's current ill health on the services she is able to render on the Bahá'í Council for Scotland, the National Spiritual Assembly has regretfully decided to relieve Mrs Manvell of membership on the Council.

The National Assembly wishes Maggie a speedy recovery and assures her and her dear family of its loving prayers at this time.

The National Spiritual Assembly is pleased to announce the election of Mrs Maureen Sier, who received the tenth highest vote in the recent elections for the Council, to membership of the Council with immediate effect.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
National Spiritual Assembly

