

Sweden Bahá'í Summer School
July 2026

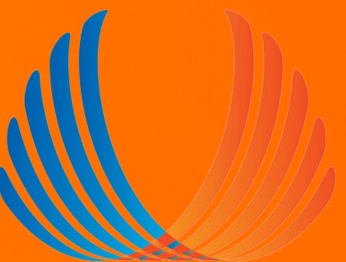
Creating New Marriages & Families



Presenter
Susanne M. Alexander
Marriage Transformation®

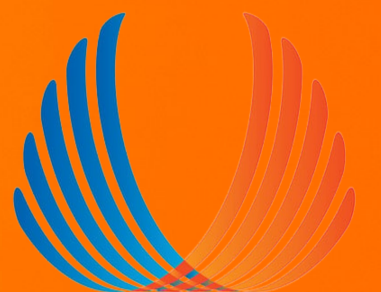
Yesterday's Topics

- Purposes of marriage preparation, courtship, and parental consent to marry
- Key tasks/responsibilities of individuals, couples, parents, Spiritual Assemblies, and community members
- Marriage as a “fortress for well-being and salvation”
- Afternoon: Creating unity with friendship, laughter, and social vitality



Today's Topics

- Creating new marriages and families
- Equality in marriages and families
- Importance of respect in couples and families
- Afternoon: Positive communication practices that build unity



Learning Together



“Learning in action is becoming the outstanding feature of the emerging mode of operation.”

(Universal House of Justice, January 17, 2003)

“Endeavors are pursued in a **humble posture of learning....**”

(Universal House of Justice, December 27, 2005)

A New Future for Marriages and Families

On March 19, 2025, the Universal House of Justice sent to the Bahá'ís of the world a letter about family life and marriage. This letter focuses our attention on a:

“new conception of family” that

“begins with a new conception of marriage”



The letter introduces this area of focus:

“The family unit is the **basic building block of community**, and beyond, of the entire **social order**. Therefore, a society fashioned to meet the requirements of the age of the maturity of the human race requires both a **mature conception of family** and an ability to **extend the insights derived from that conception to the relationships that shape the nation and the world.**” (para. #1)



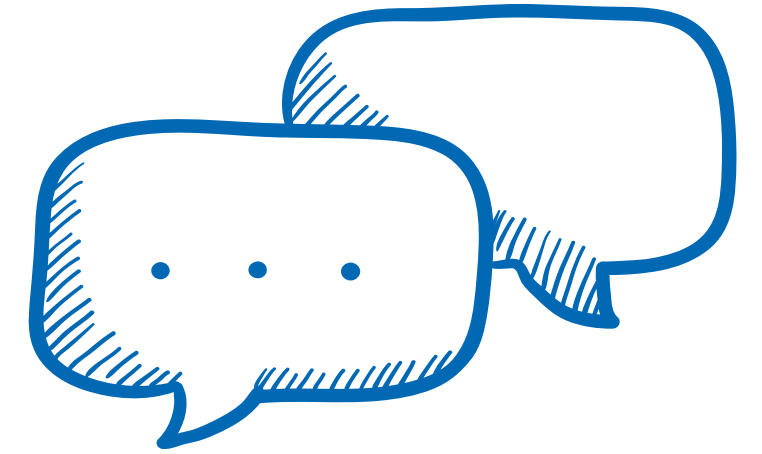
And this area of focus:

“A new conception of family begins with a new conception of marriage. Bahá’u’lláh observes that marriage is not only ‘the key to the perpetuation of life for the peoples of the world’, but ‘the inscrutable instrument for the fulfilment of their destiny.’” (para. #5)

[inserted quotations are from Bahá’u’lláh in “To Set the World in Order”, #1]



Activity



What could it mean that marriage is ‘the inscrutable instrument for the fulfilment of’ the destiny of the peoples of the world?

(Universal House of Justice, March 19, 2025, para. #5)

Vad menas med att äktenskapet är ”det outgrundliga instrumentet för uppfyllandet av deras öde”?

(citatet är från brevet daterat den 19 mars 2025, §5)

Creating “New”

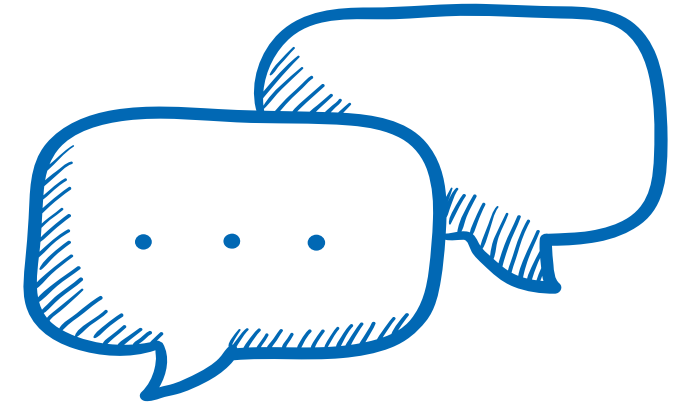
1. “new patterns of family life suited to the needs of a new age”
2. “new pattern of life within and among families”
3. “new virtues and powers” (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)
4. “new moral standards” (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)
5. “new capacities” (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)
6. “new conception of family”
7. “new conception of marriage”
8. “new relationships among other people”
9. “new pattern of Bahá’í married life”
10. “new understanding of equality & its practical expression”
11. “carry the work of the Faith to new places”



(Excerpts from the Family Life–Marriage Letter, March 19, 2025)



Activity



- **What are some ways you respond to change and things that are “new”?**
- **På vilka sätt brukar du reagera på förändring och på sådant som är “nytt”?**
- **What helps you respond well to changes and “new”?**
- **Vad hjälper dig att hantera förändringar och det “nya” på ett bra sätt?**

Learning-in-Action Process: Implementing “New”

- **Study** (spiritual guidance, general information...)
- **Consult** (build understanding; make unified decisions)
- **Act** (carry out decisions in unity)
- **Reflect** (observe and assess throughout action and again at the end)





Some Elements of a “New” Marriage



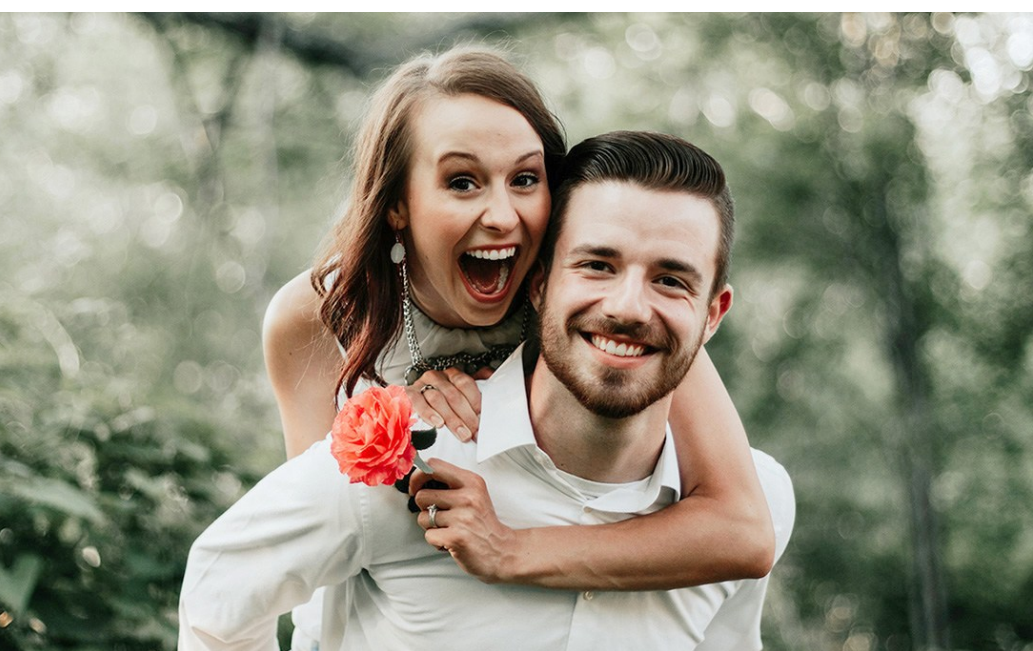
“The true marriage of Bahá’ís is this, that husband and wife should be **united both physically and spiritually**, that they may **ever improve the spiritual life of each other**, and may enjoy **everlasting unity** throughout all the worlds of God.”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, #86)





Some Elements of a “New” Marriage



“The Lord, peerless is He, hath made woman and man to abide with each other in the **closest companionship**, and to be **even as a single soul**. They are two **helpmates**, two **intimate friends**, who should be **concerned about the welfare of each other.**”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, # 92)



Some Elements of a “New” Marriage

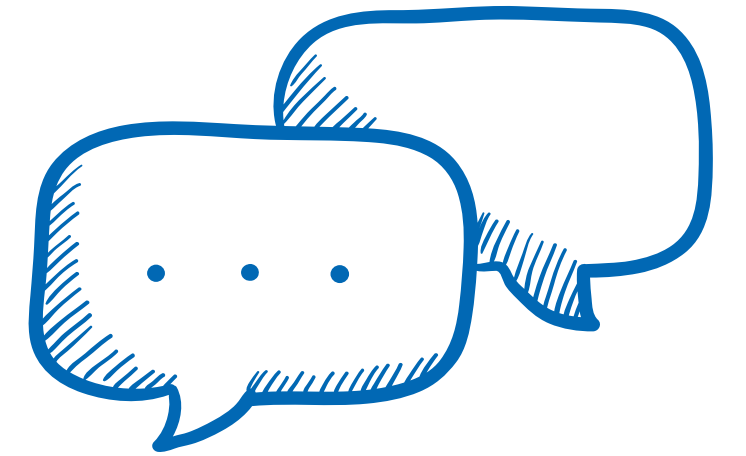


“...[T]he House of Justice feels it most essential for your husband and you to understand that marriage can be a **source of well-being**, conveying a sense of **security** and **spiritual happiness**. However, it is not something that just happens. For marriage to become a **haven of contentment** it requires the **cooperation** of the marriage partners themselves, and the **assistance** of their families....”

(On behalf of the Universal House of Justice, “To Set the World in Order”, #65)



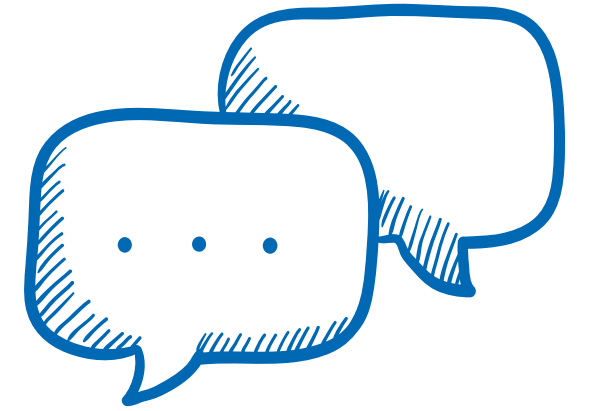
Activity



How does the learning-in-action process of study, consult, act, and reflect apply to creating new marriages and families?

Hur kan lärande-i-handling-processen – att studera, rådslå, handla och reflektera – tillämpas när man skapar nya äktenskap och familjer?

Activity



What are some practical, day-to-day words and actions that you can do to begin creating new marriages and families?

Vilka är några praktiska, vardagliga ord och handlingar som du kan använda för att börja bygga nya äktenskap och familjer?

**Next Morning Session:
Equality in Marriages and
Families**

**Afternoon Workshop:
Positive Communication
Practices That Build Unity**

***Thank You
Tack***



Susanne M. Alexander
Marriage Transformation®