

Envisioning a New Future for Marriage and Family

And Sharing This Message of Hope

Presented at Sweden Bahá'í Summer School, July 2026

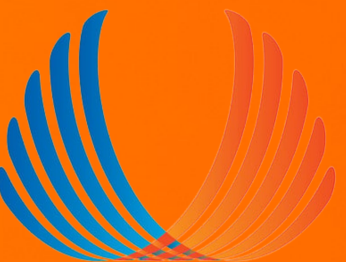
Susanne M. Alexander

Marriage Transformation®



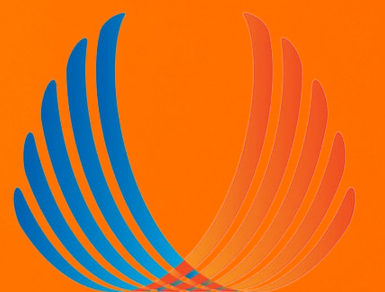
Yesterday's Topics

- Consultation skills for couples and families
- Consultation practice
- Afternoon Workshop: Parenting children to live meaningful and purposeful lives and holding family meetings



Today's Topics

- Envisioning a new future for marriage and family
- Sharing hope and encouragement with people about marriage and family
- Reflecting on our learning
- Setting goals and making plans



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)

**We have applied many aspects of the
Universal House of Justice letter
regarding Family Life and Marriage
from March 19, 2025, and this session
continues that process.**

Ensuring the Future

“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.’”**

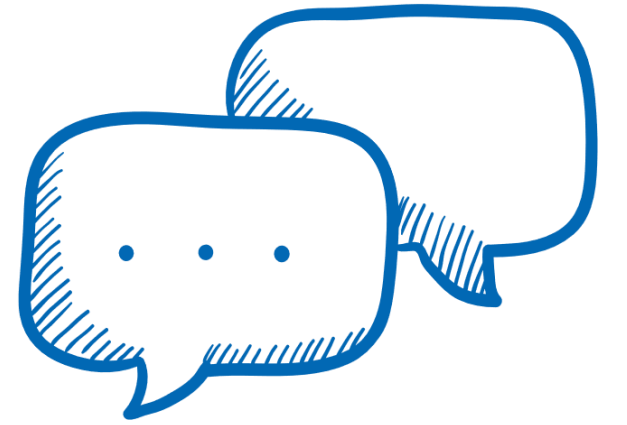
(Universal House of Justice, March 19, 2025, para. 5)



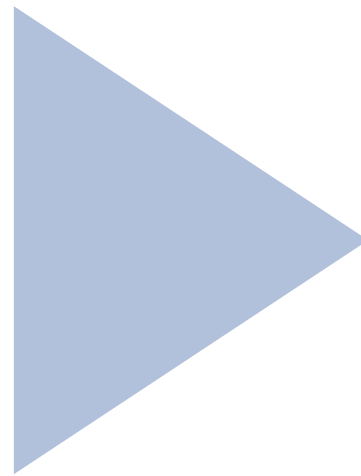




Activity



Based on what you
have learned this
week, what are some
of the ways that
marriages and
families create a new
destiny for
humanity?



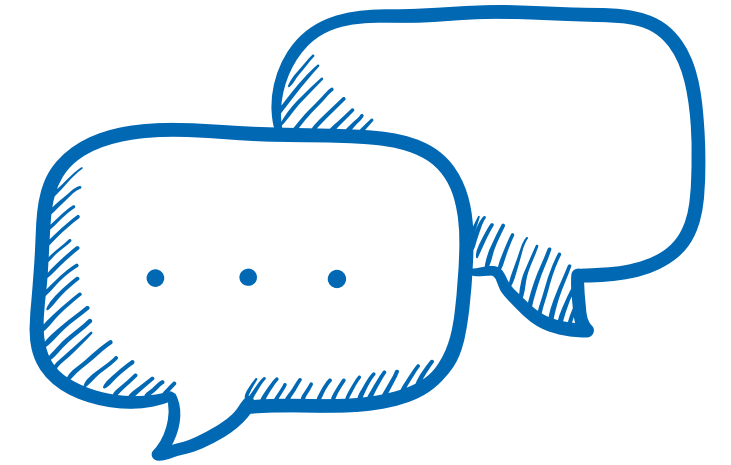
Utifrån det du har
lärt dig denna vecka
– på vilka sätt bidrar
äktenskap och
familjer till att skapa
en ny framtid för
människligheten?



“The nature of the **flourishing communities** that the Bahá’í world is striving to raise has **profound implications for the family**. It is within the family that the individual is born and nurtured, and within the family that individuals begin to learn how to live together with others. 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. ‘A family is a nation in miniature’, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá explains. ‘The conditions surrounding the family surround the nation.’ **Learning about a new pattern of family life is, therefore, an integral part of the effort to learn about the release of the society-building power of the Faith.**” (Universal House of Justice, March 19, 2025, para. 1)



Activity



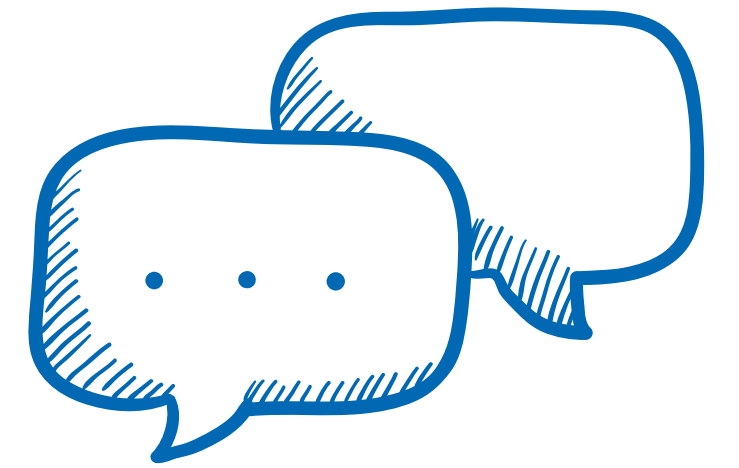
“How do Bahá’í families contribute to the process of transformation in neighbourhoods and villages, and beyond?”

(Universal House of Justice, March 19, 2025, para. #4)

“Hur bidrar bahá’í-familjer till omvandlingsprocessen i grannskap och byar, och vidare?”

(Universella rättvisans hus, 19 mars, 2025, § 4)

Activity



“What are the current pitfalls and obstacles facing Bahá’í families that prevent them from achieving this aim?” [transformation]

(Universal House of Justice, March 19, 2025, #4)

“Vilka är de fallgropar och hinder som bahá’í-familjer för närvarande står inför och som hindrar dem från att uppnå detta mål?”

(Universella rättvisans hus, 19 mars, 2025, § 4)



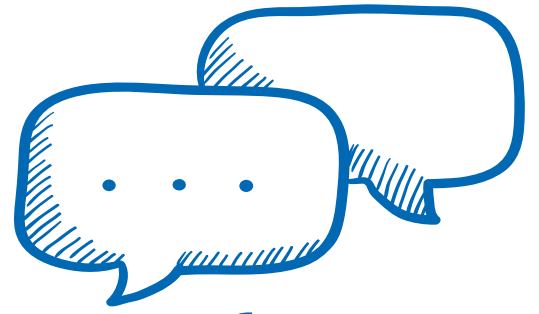
Reminder: Framework for Action

A plan for individual and community-level social change and spiritual development, generally through:

- **Community Building:** Gatherings open to everyone, such as devotional meetings, study circles, children's classes, and junior youth spiritual empowerment groups
- **Social Action:** Local initiatives to address human needs in harmony with spiritual principles
- **Discourses of Society:** Participating in public, education, and work-related conversations to promote principles such as justice, equality, and the oneness of humanity



Activity



“How does the framework for action of the current stage of the Divine Plan both strengthen family life and create opportunities for vibrant families to contribute to the process of community building?”

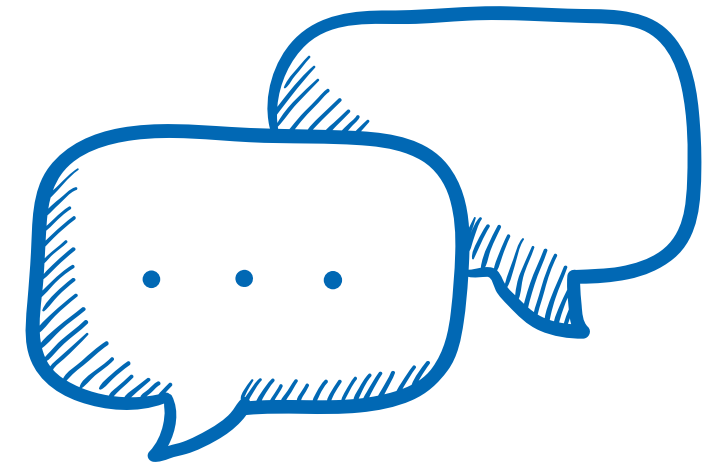
(Universal House of Justice, March 19, 2025, para. #4)

“Hur kan ramverket för handling under det innevarande skedet av den gudomliga planen både stärka familjelivet och skapa möjligheter för livskraftiga familjer att bidra till samhällsbyggnadsprocessen?”

(Universella rättvisans hus, 19 mars, 2025, § 4)



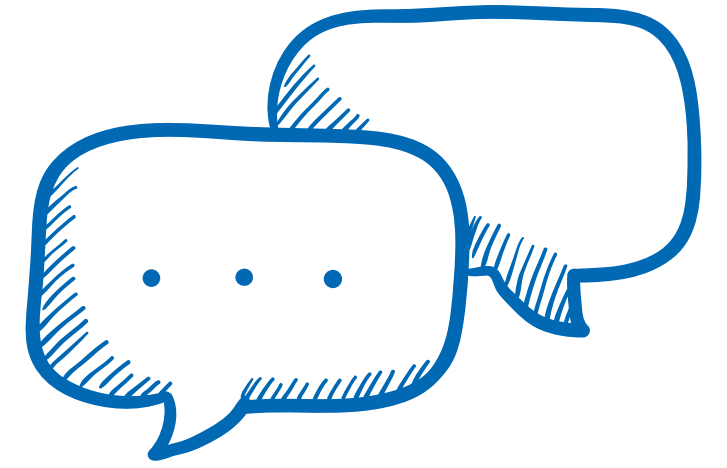
Activity



På vilka sätt kan du bygga
äktenskap, familjer och
samhällen?

In what ways can
you build
marriages, families,
and communities?

Activity



What will you share with people you know about the importance of marriage and family?

Vad kommer du att dela med människor du känner om äktenskapets och familjens betydelse?

***Thank You
Tack***



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