

ABOUT BNASAA: General Principles

The primary aim in holding BNASAA sponsored activities is to provide a nurturing environment that is spiritually and emotionally safe for all participants. We adhere to several general principles: to individual and social transformation. Network activities and materials do not focus on discussing the validity of Bahá'í laws or the possibility of getting them changed either now or in the future. Bahá'u'lláh's love and transformative vision for humanity provides a basis for transcending issues that are often experienced as difficult and complex.

Healing environment

The Network's goal is to provide a loving and supportive environment in which participants can share experiences in an atmosphere of confidentiality and provide support for each individual's healing and spiritual journey. Judgments about good or bad processes or discussions about right or wrong approaches have no place. Each participant, whether health professionals, members of Bahá'í Institutions, or individuals struggling with particular issues, is asked to manifest an attitude of loving support, and to actively participate in creating a non-judgmental and healing environment.

Confidentiality

Because of the sensitive nature of the issues discussed at BNASAA gatherings, and because many people are dealing directly with these issues, it is important to maintain confidentiality at all times outside of the group. If participants are moved by someone's story and would like to use it in any way, this should be discussed with the concerned individual. Participants should never assume that another person's story can be shared, no matter how open that individual may appear to be in the meeting. Due to the small and intimate nature of the Bahá'í community, repeating stories, even without identifying the person, may unintentionally reveal their identity, and may cause personal difficulties for that individual.

Active protection

Unity within the Bahá'í community is important in protecting all BNASAA activities. Each step in the process of developing the Network has been taken with the full knowledge and support of Bahá'í Institutions. Although it has rarely been necessary to date, meeting organizers, in consultation with representatives from the Auxiliary Board and or members of the BNASAA coordinating committee reserve the right to protect the process and the participants. Disruptive individuals, acting in a threatening or judgmental manner or challenging Bahá'í laws or Institutions may be asked to leave the meeting.

Personal support

At each conference we ensure that there are designated individuals who are available for personal consultation and support if, at any point, you feel you need to talk with someone outside of the larger group. In addition to the conference organizers, there is usually an Auxiliary Board member or representative present. The conference organizers can let you know who the designated individuals are. You may also wish to seek out other members of the group who you feel to be supportive and helpful to discuss any issues that you may feel uncomfortable talking about in group sessions.

The clear focus of Network activities is to share the love of Bahá'u'lláh for humanity, and to offer individual encouragement and support in the personal struggles that result in attempting to understand and accept that love.
