**Summer School BE180**

**Theme 1, session 2: Baha’u’llah’s Vision for Humanity**

**Introduction**

Bahá’u’lláh states that **“the purpose for which mortal men have, from utter nothingness, stepped into the realm of being, is that they may work for the betterment of the world and live together in concord and harmony.”** Baha’is and their friends are constantly reflecting on what it means to work for the advancement of our human family as well as the refinement of our individual characters. We know that we cannot stand idly by while the world searches for the means to spiritual and material progress. The teachings of Baha’u’llah, enacted within the framework for action delineated by the Universal House of Justice, constitute the best hope for humanity to achieve peace, unity, justice and prosperity for all peoples. We, therefore, perceive clearly that our duty is to become protagonists of the Global Plans laid out by the Universal House of Justice, labouring ceaselessly to bring about Baha’u’llah’s vision of a divine civilisation:

**The enkindled souls being raised through the processes of the Plan… are committed to the prosperity of all, recognizing that the welfare of individuals rests in the welfare of society at large… they are focused on transcending differences, harmonizing perspectives, and promoting the use of consultation for making decisions. They emphasize qualities and attitudes—such as trustworthiness, cooperation, and forbearance—that are building blocks of a stable social order. They champion rationality and science as essential for human progress.**

**...where growing numbers are helping to build communities of this character, the power of the Cause to transform people’s social existence, as well as their inner lives, becomes increasingly visible.**

 30 December 2021 message from the Universal House of Justice
to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors

One of the most significant contributions an enkindled soul or family can make is to hearken to the call to pioneer, either internationally or on the homefront. We will now show a video from some of those who have arisen to pioneer.

**Reflections**

1. **Confident of the community’s appreciation of the significance of this historical juncture and in its capacity to respond to the demands of the hour, we now call on the friends to consider how they can contribute to the pioneering imperatives of the Nine Year Plan—both on the home front and in the international field.**

22 May 2022 message from the Universal House of Justice
to the Bahá’ís of the World

Discuss the necessity of pioneering to the work of the Cause.

1. If you are unable to pioneer, you can still become a protagonist of the Plan in your own community. How is Bahá’u’lláh’s vision for humanity unfolding in your area? What contribution can each of us make for the “betterment” of society?

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How are you using consultation as a means for making decisions that will assist spiritual and material progress to occur? What are the spaces for regular consultation and reflection in your area?

1. **As the spiritual energies released by earnest pursuit of the Plan surge, they meet resistance from the countervailing forces that hold humanity back from attaining full maturity. In the face of such forces, the vitality of the various lines of action being followed at the local level needs to be preserved and fortified.5**

30 December 2021 message from the Universal House of Justice
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What forces threaten to sap your ability to make your contribution to the establishment of Bahá’u’lláh’s vision for humanity? How have you been able to overcome these forces?

**Activity:**

In small groups create a short dramatic presentation demonstrating one of these issues.

*For example:* Line of action: children’s class; force that saps contribution: teacher is stressed, tired, or sick and cancels class; classes become inconsistent, lose flow in learning and participants drop out. To overcome, have team of teachers for each class, and/or consult with families to find support.