

Participation in community building is open to people of all backgrounds and belief systems. To connect with these programmes and activities please contact your local Bahá'í community.

"The peace and security of the human race are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."

Bahá'í Writings

bahai.org.au Australian Bahá'í Websitebahai.org International Bahá'í Website



"The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens," wrote Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, expressing the reality of the oneness of the human family. The vision which informs the efforts of the Bahá'í community is of a human race united in its enriching diversity, free of the devastating effects of ignorance and prejudice.

Many share this vision but struggle to identify practical steps to advance toward it. The Bahá'í community offers a system of spiritual education that fosters individual growth and wellbeing, while building capacity for service to the community.

The habits, attitudes, qualities, skills and abilities fostered through these programmes support the development of flourishing individuals, families and communities.

**Devotional gatherings** are held in a variety of settings including homes, parks, houses of worship, and public halls. They may include spoken or sung sacred scripture from any of the world religions. There are no set rituals or formulae which guide these opportunities for collective prayer and meditation, and all participants are welcome to contribute to the collective experience.

The coming together in prayer can stimulate within individuals the desire to contribute to the spiritual and material progress of the community, promoting a united community vision. Simple acts of collective worship can generate a spirit which has an impact on all community endeavours.

Bahá'í Children's Classes are for children up to 11 years of age. The goal of Baha'i Children's Classes is to cultivate in children spiritual qualities such as love, forgiveness and justice, and to help them manifest these qualities in all interactions with all people.

Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess, for in them are the promise and guarantee of the future. For this promise to be realised, the moral and spiritual education of children is of vital importance.

Classes draw on the elements of prayer, understanding and memorisation of the Word of God, stories, songs, art, cooperative games, and music. Families are welcome to participate in classes and associated activities.

The Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Programme is for young people aged 12 to 15. This period of life is a time of rapid development of spiritual, intellectual, and physical capacities.

The programme instils in junior youth a sense of moral purpose, which helps channel their inherent capacity for justice and altruism into meaningful contributions to the community.

Junior youth groups are guided by a youth role-model, also known as an animator. Groups meet on a regular basis, giving participants a sense of belonging within the community and fostering an environment of mutual support.



**Study circles** are comprised of small groups of people who come together to participate in one or more courses. The courses are open to all, and are facilitated by a trained tutor. The primary role of the tutor is to guide discussion among the participants and ensure the environment of the study circle is characterised by inclusion, respect and unity.

Participants are supported to foster habits, attitudes, qualities, skills and abilities needed to carry out acts of service that enhance the devotional character of the community, help morally educate children, and empower youth.

Discussions in an uplifting atmosphere provide participants with an opportunity to consider their purpose in life and the unique contribution they can make to society.