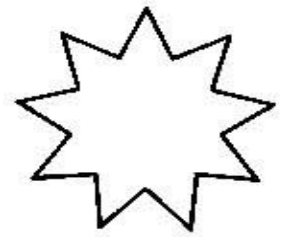


Baha'i views – Oneness of Humanity, Peace and the Environment



Three of the frequently listed '12 principles' of the Baha'i teachings, derived from transcripts of speeches given by **Abdu'l-Baha**:

- Unity of Mankind
- World Peace
- Elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty

“Set your faces towards unity and let the radiance of its light shine upon you”
- **Baha'u'llah**

“We join hands with you in raising the world-embracing vision of a Buddha land where all nations, races and creeds will come to love one another, and injustices, wars and discrimination will vanish. Instead, the peoples of the world with their varied cultures will cooperate together to improve their lives not only spiritually and intellectually, but also socially, economically and in the realms of science and arts.” (A paper delivered to the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, 1990). (www.bic-un.bahai.org/90-0916.htm)



The many teachings revealed by Baha'u'llah cover every aspect of life and relations between humanity and creation. Among the most basic tenets is a belief in the unity and interconnectedness of all things: the singularity of God; the equality of the races, sexes and all humanity; and that the chief task facing humanity is the construction of a just and merciful world-embracing civilization. - **Richard M. Landau**. (www.bahai-library.org/articles/landau.environment.html)

From The Bahai International Community
Based on the statement "The Most Vital Challenge" presented to the Plenary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Earth Summit '92) - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - 4 June 1992.

The profound and far-reaching changes, the unity and unprecedented cooperation, required to reorient the world toward an environmentally sustainable and just future will only be possible by touching the human spirit, by appealing to those universal values which alone can empower individuals and peoples to act in accordance with the long-term interests of the planet and humanity as a whole. Once tapped, this powerful and dynamic source of individual and collective motivation will release such a profound and salutary spirit among the peoples of the earth that no power will be able to resist its unifying force.

The fundamental spiritual truth of our age is the oneness of humanity. Universal acceptance of this principle - with its implications for social and economic justice, universal participation in non-adversarial decision making, peace and collective security, equality of the sexes, and universal education - will make possible the reorganization and administration of the world as one country, the home of humankind.

Over one hundred years ago, Bahá'u'lláh challenged the rulers and peoples of the earth to make their vision world-embracing: *"It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world."* This challenge has yet to be answered. (<http://www.bic-un.bahai.org/92-0604.htm>)