

# *THE PROSPERITY OF HUMANKIND*

Bahá'í International Community

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Part I – Oneness of Humankind

in simplified language

Prosperity of Humankind - 2

# The oneness of humankind

The foundation of a strategy for the world's population to take on responsibility for its collective future must be the consciousness of the oneness of humankind. This may seem simple when we talk about it, but it challenges the way most of our institutions work.

# The oneness of humankind

Adversaries try to win in government and the law. We glorify the struggle between classes and other social groups, and the competitive spirit in much of modern life. Conflict is accepted as the driver of human interaction. It expresses in social organisation the materialistic understanding of life that has come to dominate over the past two centuries.

# The world like a human body

In a letter addressed to Queen Victoria over a century ago, Bahá'u'lláh compared the world to the human body. Human society is composed not of a mass of different cells but of associations of individuals, each one of whom has intelligence and will. But the way our body works illustrates how we exist.

# The world like a human body

First is unity in diversity. Our body is a whole complex system in which all the cells are integrated, permitting each part to make its unique contribution. No cell lives apart from the body, whether in helping it to function or receiving its share from the well-being of the whole. The purpose of our physical well-being is the expression of human consciousness; that is to say, the purpose of biological development is more than the body and its parts.

# Our emerging maturity

What is true of the life of the individual is similar in human society. The human species is an organic whole, in the lead of evolution. While human consciousness is expressed through all our individual minds and desires, that diversity contributes to our essential unity, different from uniformity. Bahá'u'lláh said the people of the world are collectively coming-of-age, and this emerging maturity will express our unity in diversity. Social organisation has moved from family life, to tribes and urban societies, to the nation-state, each stage giving new opportunities to develop human capacity.



Unity in Diversity  
International Bahá'í Convention 2023

# Twin process of change

This collective progress has not occurred at the expense of human individuality. As social organisation has increased, we have expanded how we can express our latent capacities. Because the individual and society are in close relation, we need to change both human consciousness and the structure of social institutions. This twin process of change gives us a strategy and purpose for global development. Today that purpose must be to establish strong foundations on which to build a planetary civilization.



# Universal laws and institutions

To build a global civilization, we need laws and institutions that are universal in both character and authority. This can begin only when those who make decisions accept the concept of the oneness of humanity, and when the related principles are taught through both educational systems and the media of mass communication. This process will draw the peoples of the world into the task of setting common goals and working to reach them.

# Universal laws and institutions

This fundamental change can protect them, too, from age-old ethnic and religious conflict. Only when the inhabitants of the planet become conscious that they are a single people will they turn away from the conflicts of past social organisation and begin to learn to work together and forgive each other. *"The well-being of mankind," Bahá'u'lláh writes, "its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."*

Seat  
of the  
Universal  
House of  
Justice,  
Haifa,  
Israel

