

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ḤUQÚQU'LLÁH IN CANADA**  
**CONSEIL DES MANDATAIRES DU ḤUQÚQU'LLÁH AU CANADA**

April 25, 2025

To the Delegates attending the 75<sup>th</sup> National Convention

Dear Friends,

With hearts filled with love and hope, the Board of Trustees extends its greetings to all gathered for the National Convention. We wish to convey to the National Spiritual Assembly our deep gratitude for offering this opportunity to share with you some reflections on the transformative power of this mighty law of Ḥuqúqu'lláh, the Right of God, which serves as a safeguard for all of us, individuals, families, and ultimately communities.

Earlier this year, the National Spiritual Assembly shared the joyous news of the rezoning of the property, a major step in enabling the construction of our National House of Worship. This blessed institution, the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, “*‘causeth hearts to be illumined, souls to become spiritual, and the fragrances of the Kingdom of Glory to be inhaled’*, the world of humanity is ‘transformed into another world, and the susceptibilities of the heart are heightened to such a degree that they encompass the entire creation’”<sup>1</sup>. We know that raising up this edifice will increasingly radiate the healing message of Bahá'u'lláh and will be a balm to the hearts of a suffering and disoriented world.

Contributing sacrificially to raising up the House of Worship while, at the same time, deepening our understanding of the Right of God, embraces our sacred obligation to both.

As we survey the state of the world, we observe an ever-widening chasm between the rich and the poor, a culture of consumerism fueling greed, political upheaval giving rise to economic turmoil, and wealth being obtained by exploitation and manipulation of markets. Economic conditions are rapidly deteriorating. Families are experiencing “*poverty, insecurity, and violence*”<sup>2</sup>, and these negative forces are “*taking a heavy toll on its members, especially on children*”<sup>3</sup>.

The Universal House of Justice shared in its Ridván message last year that “*the community of the Greatest Name cannot expect to be unaffected by the travails of society. Yet, though it is affected by these travails, it is not confused by them; it is saddened by humanity’s sufferings, but not paralysed by them.*”<sup>4</sup> Strengthened by our faith in the transformative influence of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, and with deep love for all humankind, we can seize the circumstances offered to us to make “*individual and collective contributions to economic justice and social progress*”<sup>5</sup> wherever we reside, and with whatever economic means at our disposal.

The teachings of Bahá'u'lláh encourage us to develop a new attitude towards the generation, distribution, and utilization of wealth and material resources. As we generate income and acquire wealth, that which “*will attract God’s blessings and ensure true happiness both in this world and in the next is the development of spiritual qualities, such as honesty, trustworthiness, generosity, justice, and consideration for others.*”<sup>6</sup> In developing these spiritual qualities, we are enabled to live coherently in the material and spiritual worlds and contribute to a flourishing community. “*The acquisition of wealth*”, writes the Universal House of Justice, “*is acceptable and praiseworthy to the extent that it serves as a means for achieving higher ends—for meeting one’s basic necessities, for fostering the progress of one’s family, for promoting the welfare of society, and for contributing to the establishment of a world civilization.*”<sup>7</sup> We come to see that there is an inherent moral dimension to the acquisition and use of wealth.

The law and institution of the Right of God help us understand and apply these teachings concerning wealth. As we deepen our understanding of this law, reflecting meaningfully on our material requirements and God's manifold blessings in our lives, we observe more clearly the relationship between our spiritual and material wellbeing. What a blessing for young children to be nurtured in a family where there is "*space to learn in practice about generosity, responsibility, the difference between needs and wants, and the management of material means.*"<sup>8</sup> Observing this law in our daily life is much more than simply making a payment. Rather, we are called on to be consciously aware of the fundamental principles underlying the law, the attitudes that we are enjoined to develop, and to regularly consider our situation from this perspective, whether or not a payment is due. These attitudes and the financial awareness cultivated through obedience to the law of the Right of God can provide stabilizing strength in difficult times.

Further, "*Bahá'u'lláh's teachings provide a means for safeguarding us from the test of wealth by ordaining the law of Huqúqu'lláh.*"<sup>9</sup> Returning to God a portion of His blessings with joy and without hesitation, for those whose situation obliges them to do so, is a sign of steadfastness. Observance of the Right of God preserves Bahá'ís from the tests of wealth and "*is conducive to prosperity, to blessing, and to honour and divine protection*"<sup>10</sup>, "*averts loss and disaster*"<sup>11</sup>, and "*enable[s] them and their offspring to benefit from their possessions.*"<sup>12</sup> Dutifully observing the law of the Right of God provides a vital link between the individual believer and the beloved Head of the Faith, the Universal House of Justice.

The members of the institution of the Right of God, the Representatives and Deputy Trustees, are ready and eager to share the many educational resources available to them at community gatherings, in smaller study groups or during intimate visits in the homes of the friends. Workshops available for study with the Representatives cover various themes:

- *Work, Wealth, and Service* explores the importance of acquiring a craft, trade, or profession while living a coherent life, in which we distinguish ourselves by our spiritual qualities, not our wealth;
- *Family Life and Huqúqu'lláh* aims to help each member of a family develop an appropriate view of material wealth and its utilization by rearing children to see their own welfare as inseparable from the welfare of others;
- *Wills and Huqúqu'lláh* highlights the spiritual significance of writing a will and testament and the provisions related to the Right of God.

Beyond these workshops, the members of this institution are always ready to support tutors of the Institute process, particularly with the study of Ruhi Book 11, Material Means, the third unit of which is devoted to the Right of God.

Dear friends, please know how delighted your Representatives will be to support you, your family, and your community in deepening your understanding of this mighty law. Kindly consider reaching out to them.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

The Board of Trustees of Huqúqu'lláh in Canada

1. Research Department of the Universal House of Justice, September 2017, A Statement on The Institution of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

2. Universal House of Justice, 19 March 2025, Message to the Bahá'ís of the World

3. Ibid.

4. Universal House of Justice, 2024 Ridván, Message to the Bahá'ís of the World

5. Universal House of Justice, 1 March 2017, Message to the Bahá'ís of the World

6. Universal House of Justice, 2 April 2010, Message to the Believers in the Cradle of the Faith

7. Ibid.

8. Universal House of Justice, 19 March 2025, Message to the Bahá'ís of the World

9. Letter on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, 7 October 2005, in: Compilation, § 31

10. Bahá'u'lláh, Compilation on Huqúqu'lláh, no 12

11. Letter on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, 25 October 1970, Compilation on Huqúqu'lláh, no 54

12. Bahá'u'lláh, Compilation on Huqúqu'lláh, no 17