

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1 January 2023

Transmitted by email

To all National Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In light of the security situation in the region and the related experience of some visitors, the Universal House of Justice has asked us to convey the following.

It is a long-standing policy of the Bahá'í World Centre that believers who reside completely or for at least part of the year in Iran, regardless of their nationality, may not come to the Holy Land for a brief visit or pilgrimage. Now, given the heightened security stance of governments in this region, it has become necessary, for a period of time, to ask all Bahá'ís who have resided in or visited the cradle of the Faith, even briefly, not to come to Israel for any reason until at least five years have elapsed since their last visit to Iran. Kindly inform the friends in your community about this development in a manner you deem appropriate.

The disruption and disappointment that some friends will, no doubt, experience as a result of this necessary step are deeply regretted, and it is earnestly hoped that this restriction can be lifted before too long. Prospective pilgrims and brief visitors who have been in Iran in the last five years are asked to contact the Department of Pilgrimage to reschedule their visits.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat

cc: International Teaching Centre
Boards of Counsellors
Counsellors