



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

RIḌVÁN 2020

The Festival of Riḏván is usually a time for the Bahá'í community to come together to commemorate the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh and His declaration of the sacred mission. It is the holiest of Bahá'í festivals — an occasion for great celebration, hope and renewal.

Sadly, Bahá'í people cannot gather at their places of worship this year. But I know you will keep your connection and affinity even in these trying times of social distancing.

We are in the midst of an unprecedented health crisis — a once-in-a-century event.

It requires every single Australian to do their duty as public citizens. All of us have a role to play in keeping our community safe: employers, nurses, doctors, teachers, scientists, friends, family and neighbours.

During this time of challenge, I know you can draw strength from the Bahá'í teachings — and its commitment to the wellbeing of humanity, especially the most vulnerable.

Life has changed, and it will continue to change in the months ahead. But we are an incredible country, and we are working together with an unparalleled sense of purpose.

The Universal House of Justice, the international governing body of the Bahá'í community has written:

“However difficult matters are at present ... humanity will ultimately pass through this ordeal, and it will emerge on the other side with greater insight and with a deeper appreciation of its inherent oneness and interdependence.”

The world is more in need than ever of the hope and strength of spirit that faith imparts.

This year we also remember that April 2020 marks the centenary of the Bahá'í community in Australia. Though small in number, you have contributed so much to our country.

On this centenary, I thank you for your contribution to Australia.

May each of you be strengthened by your faith, and by the support of friends and family during these difficult times.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', with a stylized, cursive script.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia

1 April 2020