

# Transformation for Peace Charter 2022

Transformation for Peace is a week-long Bahá'í summer program usually held at the Townshend International School for Junior Youth from ages 12-15. This Charter clarifies the expectations and roles of all the participants at TFP and acts as a guide for the Coordinators and Animators to ensure that the program remains true to the core values it has established over the years, which include spiritual empowerment of both junior youth and animators through series of activities throughout the week. This requires prayerful, reflective and collaborative efforts that also include a fun element for all. The hope is that at the end of the week, everyone will be more inspired and encouraged to increase his / her effort in service and have a heightened awareness of what is required of us, and remain closely aligned to the plans given by the Universal House of Justice. The Charter provides a framework within which the Coordinators and Animators can channel their creativity to roll-out a week that would have a transformational effect for the Junior Youth (JY) who attend.

## Townshend International School (TIS)

As a summer program of Townshend International School, TIS remains responsible for the planning and organization aspects of the program including selection of Coordinators, approval of animators, providing full room and board for the participants, managing financial accounts, providing logistical assistance for transportation and day trips, legal and insurance issues with the local authorities and keeping the National Spiritual Assembly informed where necessary. During the Covid19-pandemic, TFP is being held online, which limits some of the tasks of TIS.

## Coordinators

Coordinators are volunteers that are chosen each year in consultation with the standing Coordinators and ultimately by TIS. The role of the Coordinators is to:

1. Take ownership of this Charter and ensure that its objectives are fulfilled, and update the Charter as required for future TFPs
2. Be the point of contact and link between the TIS, the animators and parents
3. Responsible for selection of Animators, in consultation with TIS
4. Assist in selection of Junior Youth in consultation with TFP Registrar and TIS
5. Provide guidance and support to animators where required.
6. Check that the unique TFP spirit of warmth and inclusion is being felt by all participants

## Animators

The Animators are the core drivers of the programme and should be Youths who are actively participating in the core activities within their communities. The animators have 3 main roles:

1. To design, document and implement the daily agenda of activities at TFP as a unified group of animators and in accordance with this charter
2. To create the unique spiritual and harmonious community of TFP by setting both an example to the JY and actively mentoring them as individuals and as a group
3. Take responsibility for the physical and spiritual well-being of each junior youth

It is up to the Coordinators to determine final Animator numbers and acceptances. Based on past experience, it would be approximately 1 Animator for every 4 JY.

The following criteria may be used as the basis for selection:

1. aged 17-25
2. application form and questionnaire response
3. performance on previous participation at TFP (as Animator or JY)
4. participation in community activities, progress in the Ruhi Institute courses or other capacity building experiences
5. a balanced staff team by having a mix of veteran and new animators
6. diversity of gender, age and geography
7. recommendation from past Animators/Coordinators, or TIS

## Junior Youth

TFP is open to all JY from the ages of 12-15 who are participating in Bahá'í core activities within their communities. Subscriptions should remain open until a specified date after which, if spaces are oversubscribed, then the following criteria may be used to decide on final numbers and acceptances:

1. aged 12-15, acceptance will be prioritized based on year of birth. This year's priority will be given to JY born in the years 2010-2013
2. priority is for those who have not participated at TFP more than 3 years
3. 3rd year participants who have already completed 1st and 2nd year
4. 2nd year youths who have completed 1st year
5. siblings of participating JY who have already been accepted according to the above criteria will be accepted if the country quota has not been met, after acceptance of returning 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year junior youth.
6. diversity of gender, age, geography

## Activities

The curriculum will be set by the animators in the days before TFP under the guidance of the Coordinators. The animators should utilize the power of creativity and consultation to build the curriculum around the following 4 requirements of this Charter:

1. No activities shall compromise the physical or spiritual safety of the JY
2. All activities need to have a specifically identifiable benefit to both the individual and the group (which may be reflected upon at the start and/or end of the activity)
3. There should be a daily mix of prayer, reflection, fun, learning and community building, in a structured and stimulating agenda that covers the whole day (in virtual TFP times may vary)
4. The daily agendas should fit within an overall weekly transformational agenda of TFP, to integrate and bring awareness to the youth about the current plans of the Faith and deepens the JY's consciousness both on an individual level through such questions as "Who am I? Where am I? Where am I going? What can I do?" and on the community level of "who are we as Bahá'ís? Where is the Bahá'í community today in relation to its journey? What is our mission? How can we contribute to its progress?"

NB: Under the exceptional circumstances of the Covid19-pandemic TFP there might be extra regulations not covered in this document.