

one's own life. The issue of poverty is complex and, while sensible government legislation will make an impact, applying key principles in various branches of social life such as the workplace, families, and communities is needed, too. On March 7 and 8, representatives of the Bahá'í Community of Canada joined those of other Canadian religious organizations for discussions in Ottawa with members of Parliament from different political parties. National poverty organizations were with them, all consulting together on promoting a more effective national conversation on poverty. A report on the meeting can be found on the Canadian Bahá'í News Service website, www.bahainews.ca.

I recall a lecture (many years ago) from one of my favourite communication professors at Brock University stating that humanity could collectively end world poverty in a day, if we wanted to. While I agree with that point of view, I would take it one step further to say that poverty would return the next day. Why? The prejudicial habits of the human race are to blame.

As pointed out in the aforementioned report, we are stuck on dividing people up. We tend to categorize each other in groups that have insignificant or no basis in reality. The poor are often labelled disparagingly as 'lazy' or 'a burden on society', somehow separate and isolated from humanity as a whole. On the contrary, the truth is that humanity is only as wealthy as its poorest members.

Bahá'ís are beginning to learn how communities can come together and see beyond our deep-seated prejudices associated with have and have-not, educated and uneducated, and removing the discouragement that disempowers us. We must drop the prejudices and acknowledge that the well-being and advancement of the entire human race will bring about a prosperity we've not yet realized. In light of our present state, we have nothing to lose.

METADATA

Views6809 views since posted 2011-10-11; last edit 2011-10-11 UTC;

[previous at archive.org.../slavin_fasting_period](http://previous.at.archive.org.../slavin_fasting_period)

Language

English

Permission

author

Share

Shortlink: bahai-library.com/1712

Citation: ris/1712

select Collection:

Archives

Articles

Articles-unpublished

Audio

Bibliographies

BIC

Biographies
Books
Chronologies
Compilations
Compilations-NSA
Compilations-personal
Documents
East-asia
Encyclopedia
Essays
Etc
Excerpts
Fiction
Glossaries
Guardian
Histories
Introductory
Letters
Maps
Music
Newspapers
NSA-documents
NSA-letters
Personal
Pilgrims
Poetry
Presentations
Resources
Reviews
Scripts
Software
Statistics
Study
Talks
Theses
Transcripts
Translations
UHJ-documents
UHJ-letters
Video
Visual
Writings

home

sitemap

series

[chronology](#)

[search:](#)
[author](#)

[title](#)

[date](#)

[tags](#)

[adv. search](#)

[languages](#)

[inventory](#)

[bibliography](#)

[abbreviations](#)

[links](#)

[about](#)

[contact](#)

[RSS](#)

[new](#)

— Fasting period ends Sunday (Used by permission of the curator)