

**Purpose:**

- To study the Sacred Text and try to formulate a vision of what qualities would characterize a prejudice-free person.
- To reflect on how the world would be different in light of these quotations.
- To reflect on what trainers and teachers can do to create a unified environment for the education of children and other community members.

## Standards and Attributes of the Prejudice-Free Person

### An Exploration of the Bahá'í writings

 KEY

Divide the participants into groups of 4-5. Ask them to deepen together on the quotations provided and consult about what the prejudice-free child looks like. Some questions for consultation might include:

- What attributes would characterize a prejudice-free child?
- What are some of the qualities needed to be proactive as a prejudice-free child to help bring about a racially harmonious world?
- How can the Bahá'í teacher assist the child to acquire these qualities and the courage needed to be active in the race unity work?

After coming back to the large group and in light of the quotations, do a self-assessment of the qualities needed to eliminate prejudice and create a unified environment. This is done in quiet reflection, or with soft music, and participants should write in their journals.

---

---

### Process the Activity

Did this exercise prompt thoughts of how vital prejudice-free children are in creating a harmonious world?


How can members of a community – whether they be teachers of children, parents, or community members – assist the child to acquire the qualities and courage needed to be active in the race unity work?

**Purpose:**

- To study the Sacred Text and try to formulate a vision of what qualities would characterize a prejudice-free person.
- To reflect on how the world would be different in light of these quotations.
- To reflect on what trainers and teachers can do to create a unified environment for the education of children and other community members.

**Standards and Attributes of the Prejudice-Free Person**

**An Exploration of the Bahá'í writings**

 KEY

**Alternate Activity**

**Treasure Chest Poster**

After dividing into groups and reading the quotations together, construct a group poster that is a “treasure chest” illustrating the talents and qualities that are needed to create a racially harmonious world civilization. The poster can be brightly decorated with buttons, ribbons, pictures, etc. Each small group should have the opportunity to present their treasure chest to the group and explain their distinctive contributions.

Note: This activity can also be done using the children’s version of *The Promise of World Peace*.

---

**Process the Activity**

Did this exercise prompt thoughts of how vital prejudice-free children are in creating a harmonious world?

How can members of a community – whether they be teachers of children, parents, or community members – assist the child to acquire the qualities and courage needed to be active in the race unity work?

## Attributes of the Prejudice-Free Person



I desire distinction for you. The Bahá'ís must be distinguished from others of humanity. But this distinction must not depend on wealth – that they should become more affluent than other people. I do not desire for you financial distinction. It is not an ordinary distinction I desire; not scientific, commercial, industrial distinction. For you I desire spiritual distinction – that is, you must become eminent and distinguished in morals. In the love of God you must become distinguished from all else. You must become distinguished for loving humanity, for unity and accord, for love and justice. In brief, you must become distinguished in all the virtues of the human world – for faithfulness and sincerity, for justice and fidelity, for firmness and steadfastness, for philanthropic deeds and service to the human world, for love toward every human being, for unity and accord with all people, for removing prejudices and promoting international peace. Finally, you must become distinguished for heavenly illumination and for acquiring the bestowals of God. I desire this distinction for you. This must be the point of distinction among you.

‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ, *THE PROMULGATION OF UNIVERSAL PEACE*, p. 190

From the tenderest childhood the children must be taught by their mothers the love of God and the love of humanity; not the love of the humanity of Asia, or the humanity of Europe, or the humanity of America, but the humanity of humankind.

‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ, *STAR OF THE WEST*, v. IX, #7, PG. 87

The period of youth is characterized by strength and vigor and stands out as the choicest time in human life. Therefore you should strive day and night so that endowed with heavenly strength, inspired with brilliant motives and aided by His celestial power and heavenly grace and confirmation, you may become the ornaments of the world of humanity, and preeminent among those who are initiated into true learning and the love of God. You must be distinguished amidst men by your sanctity and detachment, loftiness of purpose, magnanimity, determination, noble-mindedness, tenacity, the elevation of your aims and your spiritual qualities; that you may become the means of exaltation and glory for the Cause of God and the dawning places of His heavenly bestowals...’Abdu’l-Bahá eagerly anticipates that each one of you may become even as a fearless lion moving in the pastures of human perfection and a musk-laden breeze wafting over the meads of virtue.

‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ, QUOTED IN *UNRESTRAINED AS THE WIND*, PG. 36

Our greatest efforts must be directed towards detachment from the things of the world; we must strive to become more spiritual, more luminous, to follow the counsel of the Divine Teaching, to serve the cause of unity and true equality, to be merciful, to reflect the love of the Highest on all men, so that the light of the Spirit shall be apparent in all our deeds, to the end that all humanity shall be united, the stormy sea thereof calmed, and all rough waves disappear from off the surface of life’s ocean henceforth unruffled and peaceful.

‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ, *PARIS TALKS*, PG. 87

A Bahá'í child must be trained according to the moral precepts of Bahá'u'lláh, he must be taught daily of the love of God; the history of the Movement must be read to him, the love of humanity must be inculcated into every fiber of his being and the universal principles be explained to him in as easy a manner as can be devised....Children must be brought under the control of the love of God and under spiritual influence from their earliest youth.

‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ, *STAR OF THE WEST*, v. 7, NO. 15, 142

He urges you all to devote particular attention to the contact with racial minorities. In a country which has such a large element of prejudice against its colored citizens as the United States, it is of the greatest importance that the Bahá'ís – and more especially the youth – should demonstrate actively our complete lack of prejudice and, indeed, our prejudice in favor of minorities.

We cannot very well prosecute a teaching campaign successfully . . . if we do not in our home communities demonstrate to the fullest extent our love for the people who spring from the African population!

ON BEHALF OF SHOGHI EFFENDI, LETTER DATED 11/11/51 TO LOUHELEN BAHÁ'Í SCHOOL SENIOR YOUTH SESSION, U.S.A., IN *BAHÁ'Í YOUTH*, PG. 18

Let them call to mind, fearlessly and determinedly, the example and conduct of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá while in their midst. Let them remember His courage, His genuine love, His informal and indiscriminating fellowship, His contempt for and impatience of criticism, tempered by His tact and wisdom. Let them revive and perpetuate the memory of those unforgettable and historic episodes and occasions on which He so strikingly demonstrated His keen sense of justice, His spontaneous sympathy for the down-trodden, His ever-abiding sense of the oneness of the human race, His overflowing love for its members, and His displeasure with those who dared to flout His wishes, to deride His methods, to challenge His principles, or to nullify His acts.

SHOGHI EFFENDI, *THE ADVENT OF DIVINE JUSTICE*, PG. 29

White and negro, high and low, young and old, whether newly converted to the Faith or not, all who stand identified with it must participate in, and lend their assistance, each according to his or her capacity, experience, and opportunities, to the common task of fulfilling the instructions, realizing the hopes, and following the example, of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

SHOGHI EFFENDI, *THE ADVENT OF DIVINE JUSTICE*, PG. 28

The companions of God are, in this day, the lump that must leaven the peoples of the world. They must show forth such trustworthiness, such truthfulness and perseverance, such deeds and character that all mankind may profit by their example.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH, QUOTED BY SHOGHI EFFENDI IN *THE ADVENT OF DIVINE JUSTICE*, PG. 19