

# BIG IDEAS

## BIG IDEAS: THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH AND THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME

Please join us for a series of talks addressing some of humanity's shared challenges and opportunities as we work to advance an emerging global civilization. This series brings together perspectives from the current research, experience, contemporary discourses and Baha'i perspectives on key issues of our time.

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**Friday, Nov. 6, 7:30 pm**

### **The Baha'i Perspective on the Role of Women in Peacebuilding, Cheshmak Farhoumand-Sims**

Despite growing international recognition of women's effectiveness at promoting peace and increasing awareness of the disproportionate impact conflict has on women and girls, female representation in peace and security processes has lagged. Yet when women are at the negotiating table, peace is 35% more likely to last at least 15 years.

'Abdu'l-Baha discussed the important role women play in the prevention and resolution of violent conflict almost 100 years before the UNSC adopted Resolution 1325, and the Universal House of Justice reiterated this fundamental belief:

"The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is one of the most important, though less acknowledged prerequisites of peace. The denial of [women's] equality perpetrates an injustice against one half of the world's population...Only as women are welcomed into full partnership in all fields of human endeavour will the moral and psychological climate be created in which international peace can emerge."

This presentation explores the Baha'i writings on the role of women in peacebuilding by reflecting on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as well as evidence from conflict-affected contexts.



#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81649381595?pwd=S1ZvRkExbzFKYlksHRYUjFoZW13QT09>

**Meeting ID: 816 4938 1595**

**About Cheshmak** Cheshmak is a senior policy advisor working on issues pertaining to international peace and security. She leads on a number of files and is the gender focal point responsible for integrating a gender and intersectional lens and the women, peace and security agenda into her work. Prior to joining government, Cheshmak was a university professor and researcher, teaching peace and conflict studies at the University of Toronto, McMaster and Saint Paul University. In 2003, she trained Afghan women activists, community workers and public servants on international human rights and peace instruments and how to integrate these into the new Afghan constitution to support Afghan women's participation in the rebuilding of their society, returning undertake a collaborate research project in 2008.

Cheshmak continues to bring a peacebuilding, conflict transformative, human rights and gender-informed lens to her current work. She is married and has four sweet children who inspire her to continue to try to make the world more peaceful and equitable for everyone.