

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 Baha'i writings, current research, experience, and contemporary discourses on key issues of our time.

Friday, October 2, 2020

Creating a Refuge from Racism

Carol Mansour explores this issue on a regular basis with Bahá'ís from throughout North America and around the world. She is especially drawn to discourses connecting the Writings and guidance of the Bahá'í Faith with current social movements aimed at eliminating anti-Blackness. She has been spurred into action after reflecting on the admonition in "The Advent of Divine Justice" to consider it a primary obligation to "nurture, encourage and safeguard" minorities, and by coming to a fuller understanding of Bahá'u'llah's metaphor comparing people of African descent to the "pupil of the eye", necessary for spiritual sight.

Carol challenges the Bahá'í community to examine its assumptions about itself. Does it reflect the diversity of the wider society? Do racial minorities feel warmly welcomed? Are they valued for more than photo ops? What do we need to stop doing, start doing or continue doing to transform into refuges from racial prejudice?

About Carol: Carol Mansour grew up in a racially segregated neighborhood, attending an all Black church, and troubled that nothing in the scenario seemed congruent with what she was learning about God's love for all His creatures. When she heard of the Bahá'í teachings as an adult, she was intrigued that working for the elimination of racial prejudice was deemed a spiritual obligation. As a journalist, professional and personal skepticism made it difficult for her to take much of what she was hearing at face value. She has officially been "becoming" a Bahá'í for nearly 30 years now.

Carol is one of the founding admins of an international group devoted to exploring social justice issues through a Bahá'í lens, *Race Unity in America – an Oral History*, and is active in the Nashville area in interfaith circles, especially those dealing with the issue of eliminating racial prejudice.

Visit this site to see videos of Carol's experiences: <https://www.raceunity.us/carol-mansour/>



Carol Mansour

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