



**THE HON BILL SHORTEN MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG**

MESSAGE

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH

On behalf of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, I send my well wishes to everyone observing the 200th birth of Baha'u'llah.

The central vision of your faith is that all people are equal members of one human family. In times when we see and hear so much violence, let us all remind ourselves of our shared vision of a united global society, founded on justice and production of peace.

For the Australian Baha'i community this celebration is of significant importance. Not only does it mark and celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the prophet and founder of the Baha'i Faith, but it also serves as an opportunity to honour the countless achievements and rich heritage of Australia's Bahá'í community.

The Baha'i Faith has been part of the fabric of Australian society for almost a century. During this time we have seen your community grow larger and more diverse.

You have demonstrated beyond doubt that, in multicultural Australia, our diverse communities truly are greater than the sum of our parts.

The principles of compassion and equality are an integral part of the Baha'i Faith. They are principles that shape our nation and cultivate a sense of unity and acceptance in modern, multicultural Australia.

Bill Shorten
Leader of the Opposition