



Indonesia Civil Society Forum 2022
Advancing Inclusive Democracy in Indonesia
Jakarta, 30 - 31 March 2022



Group 1: Supporting Freedom of Religion and Belief

30 March 2022, 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM

This session will discuss how to support freedom of religion and belief. As a country based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, Indonesia has fully declared respect for freedom of religion and belief. However, it is undeniable that there are those who tarnish freedom of religion and belief in this country. This is characterized by the increase in incidents, laws, and regulations that negatively affect worshippers of various religions and beliefs.

The nation's leader who is also the fourth President of the Republic of Indonesia, Abdurrahman Wahid, a.k.a. Gus Dur, firmly said that the right to freedom of religion and belief is a human right for every individual. What's more, Indonesia has ratified the newly signed *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by the Government of Indonesia during the 2004 reform period.

Through this discussion, participants will exchange ideas and find a way out of various incidents that have occurred, so that these incidents are not repeated. The government needs to guarantee these rights to every citizen without exception. Communities that continue to voice tolerance and respect for freedom of belief, such as Gusdurian, other civil society organizations (CSOs), and academia continue to be pioneers in voicing and championing respect for pluralism in Indonesia. How have CSOs contributed and will contribute to social diversity and social inclusion?

GusDurian and PUSAD Paramadina will host the session, and the theme is "*Supporting Freedom of Religion and Belief.*"

Guiding questions

1. To what extent has the current government guaranteed citizens' right to freedom of religion and belief? What factors trigger violations of the growing barriers to freedom of religion and belief for citizens?
2. What about religious moderation being a government program and how can the management of this program support freedom of religion and belief?
3. Considering the existence of a Joint Decree of the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs No. 01/BER/mdn-mag/1969 on the Establishment of Houses of Worship, a Joint Decree of 2008 on the Ahmadiyya Jama'at Indonesia (JAI), and the desecration of religion in Article 156(a) of the Criminal Code derived from Article 4 of Law No. 1/PNPS/1965 on Prevention and Abuse and/or Blasphemy, are these still relevant and, if so, why?
4. What can the nation as a whole do – at the central and regional level - to build a common commitment, especially among the political elite, that identity politics should not be used to win political processes and democratic channels, such as elections? What can election management agencies do to ensure that election contestants are upholding the values of

tolerance and peace? How to encourage a joint commitment so that everyone, especially the elite, does not abuse identity politics to winning political processes?

5. To what extent can partnerships between the government (central and/or regional) and civil society strengthen freedom of religion and belief in Indonesia? Are there examples of good practices in that partnership that can be learned and disseminated?

Coach: Ahmad Zainal Hamdi, Gusdurian

Pemantik/Issue Champion:

- Beka Ulung Hamsara, Commissioner of Komnas HAM
- Asfinawati, Machinery Law School
- Sjamsul Hadi, S.H., MM, Direktur Trust and Indigenous Peoples, Ministry of Education and Kebudayaan