



NETHERLANDS-INDONESIA CONSORTIUM
FOR MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS



The Netherlands-Indonesia Consortium for Muslim-Christian Relations
in collaboration with
The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, The Hague
invites you to

The 6th Interfaith Dialogue
*Promoting 'costly' tolerance: challenges for states and religious
communities*

Sekolah Indonesia Den Haag, Rijksweg 679, Wassenaar
June 20, 2019, 09.30-15.00

Introduction

At the 5th Interfaith Dialogue, held in Nijmegen, November 2017 it was concluded that democratic and inclusive societies can be built through dialogue. Anno 2019, it may seem that we are further away from dialogue than ever before: horrible attacks on mosques (New Zealand) and churches (Sri Lanka) easily diminish the willingness to cooperate with "the others".

At the same time, such developments show the urgency of efforts to break the spiral of violence, suffering and hatred. State authorities as well as organizations in civil society, not least religious communities, are challenged to increase their efforts to promote tolerance. In curbing intolerance or restoring tolerance, the strategic relation and interaction between state actors and non-state actors is needed.

In times of social and political stability, tolerance may seem to be 'cheap' and self-evident: people of different ethnic and/or religious backgrounds interact easily, but often without real dialogue. People live in so-called parallel societies: tolerance does not cost. In times of instability and turmoil, however, 'costly' tolerance is required: it is the kind of tolerance that – in spite of the risk of meeting anger, rejection, slander, and even violence – dares to address the vulnerability, the prejudices and the short-comings within the communities themselves that, although unintendedly, can fuel intolerance.

The NICMCR is a network of Indonesian and Dutch, Muslim and Christian scholars, religious leaders and practitioners. For about a decade now, it has deepened its common understanding of *Costly Tolerance*. In previous rounds of Interfaith Dialogue it has tried to identify options for practical steps towards the increase of tolerance.

In this 6th Interfaith Dialogue the focus will be on the way states, in cooperation with religious communities, can promote costly tolerance. How do we understand the underlying psychological, social, religious and cultural causalities of intolerance and religious violence? The following challenges for states – each of them with an impact in terms of cooperation with religious communities and others in civil society – can be identified beforehand:

- States have a constitutional obligation to promote religious freedom and freedom of speech as well as societal safety and stability. However, the need to promote stability may tempt them to downplay civil rights to some extent. How can state authorities combine such conflicting duties?
- We live in a ‘post truth era’: fake news is spread rapidly, not least in the name of religion. Public opinion is shaped by emotion and personal (dis)belief. The decline of traditional media and the rise of social media has accelerated the effects. How can states promote fair political *and* public debate, within and outside its representative bodies?
- Statistics show that well educated people are more open to “the others” than those who are less educated. How can states further a type of education that encourages tolerance and (self)acceptance?
- How can governmental and civil society organizations (including academic and faith-based organizations) further the complementarity of their respective activities in this respect?

Programme

Chair: Dr. Welmoet Boender, Faculty of Religion and Theology, VU Amsterdam

	TOPICS	Speakers
09.30 -10.00	Registration	
10.00 – 10.05	Opening	Prof. Frans Wijzen, Radboud University, Nijmegen
10.05 -10.20	Welcome speech	HE I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja MA Ambassador of the Rep. of Indonesia to The Netherlands
10.20 -10.40	Keynote Speech on Costly Tolerance	Prof. Syafiq A. Mughni, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Indonesia For Interfaith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue and Cooperation
10.40 - 10.50	Response	Prof. Leo Koffeman Protestant Theological University in the Netherlands

10.50 – 11.15	BREAK	
11.15 – 11.30	Role of state, non-state and religious actors in enhancing tolerance	Dutch perspective: Klaus de Rijk, Senior Policy Advisor Strategic Advice Unit, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11.30 – 11.45		Indonesian perspective: KH Yahya Cholil Staquf General Secretary, NU Supreme Council
11.45 – 12.00		Q&A
12.00 – 13.00	LUNCH	
13.00 – 14.00	Panel on role of state, non-state and religious actors in enhancing tolerance <i>Chair: Dr Zainal Abidin Bagir, Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies, UGM</i>	Dr. Sahiron Syamsuddin, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta
		Dr. Alle G. Hoekema, VU Amsterdam
		Ms Maria I. Nabubhoga MA, Radboud University
		Rev. Jacklevyn F. Manuputty MA, Office of Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Indonesia For Interfaith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue and Cooperation
		Dr. Dewi Candraningrum, Jejer Wadon Community Surakarta/Ecofeminist Group
14.00 – 14.30	Concluding remarks	Dr. Sahiron Syamsuddin State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta
		Dr. Gé Speelman Protestant Theological University in The Netherlands
	Final remark	Dr. Welmoet Boender
15.00 – 17.00	NICMCR Participants meeting at Sekolah Indonesia Den Haag <i>Chair: Dr Robert Setio, Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana</i>	