

Narrative Report Pokja Gender & Religion NICMCR 2022

1. Publication on Experiences of activism carried out by religious communities/organizations.

Some progress:

- Editors have been editing all articles in Bahasa Indonesia and English. It is now in its final stages.
- Gender Research Center the University of Indonesia has agreed to become a publisher in partnership with NICMCR.
- The printing company already sent an invoice for payment, paid already, for making the layout and printing this book.

Challenges that hamper the completion of the publication as scheduled:

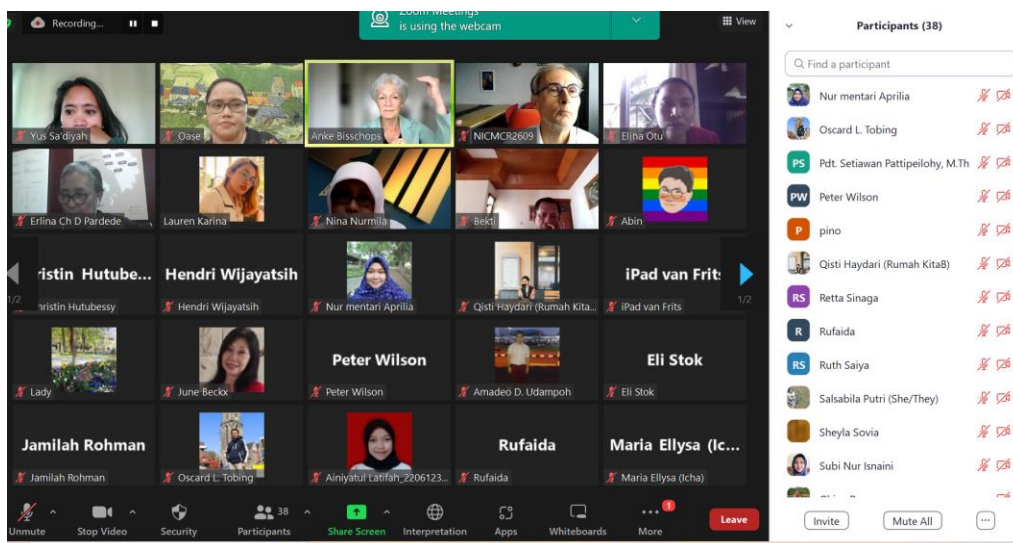
- The editor for Bahasa Indonesia, despite her busy schedule as a lecturer and her work on other projects, took the time and careful steps to make sure that the quality of each article is met with the highest standard. However, this step is taken after the articles were translated into English. Subsequently, the English translation needed to be revised according to the latest Bahasa editor's editings. In the end, there were too many unnecessary steps and we wasted a lot of time in the process. This is a big lesson learned for all of us.
- Similarly, the English final proofreader was also not at liberty to do the work as planned.
- The delay was also caused by limited resources.

We are very optimistic that we will be able to launch this book on February 2023.

2. Webinar

On 26 September 2022, the Gender Working Group (POKJA Gender) of the Netherlands Indonesia Consortium on Muslim-Christian Relations (NICMCR) organised a webinar on "Sexual Violence and Religious Communities". The webinar was hosted on Zoom. It was attended by representatives of various institutions in the Netherlands and Indonesia with a total of 38 participants.

This webinar, as suggested by its theme, was aimed at discussing sexual violence and religious communities. The phenomenon takes place, unfortunately, also within religious walls. Whenever news broke in this regard, it shook entire religious communities. It is far too often that the cases are brushed off, shoved under the carpet and forgotten. And the cycle of recurring events takes up the headlines again and again. What to do about it? Rev. Elina Welmina Otu, the moderator of this webinar, highlighted this irony in her introductory remarks on the content and speakers of this webinar. The speaker from the Netherlands was Dr Anke Bisschops who is a psychotherapist and pastoral psychologist currently working at Tilburg University, while the speaker from Indonesia was Prof. Nina Nurmilla of the State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Jati, Bandung. The first speaker presented sexual abuse and violence within the Dutch religious communities, with special reference to the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, the latter speaker spoke about sexual violence in the context of Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia.



Other webinars were planned, but unfortunately, there were no speakers from the Netherlands that agreed nor had the time to become our speakers. The first topic was on ecology which was planned in July/August and the other topic was on a faith-based University against sexual violence. We had hoped that we could organise it during the period campaign of 16 days of activities against gender-based violence from 25 November-10 to December.

3. Participation on Kongres Ulama Perempuan Indonesia (KUPI) II

Pokja Gender NICMCR supported Riska Dwi Agustin, a member of pokja gender since 2018 and lecturer at Islamic State University Sultan Aji Muhammad Idris Samarinda, to participate in Kongres Ulama Perempuan Indonesia (KUPI) on 24-26 November in Pondok Pesantren Hasyim Asy'ari Bangsri Kabupaten Jepara, Jawa Tengah. This initiative was done as it was clear that both Pokja Gender and KUPI share similar focus issues on gender and religion. KUPI also has an important role to advocate broader regulations and policies based on gender equality and equity perspective in Indonesia. NICMCR focuses on the relationship with Islam Christians in Netherlands and Indonesia and needed to introduce itself and build a network with an organization like KUPI.

Riska reported that KUPI was attended by more than a thousand participants consisting of Islamic clerics (Nyai, Kyai), academics, researchers, activists, practitioners etc. This congress put forward the discussion of 5 main issues including 1. The marginalization of women in protecting the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia from the dangers of violence in the name of religion. 2. Waste management for environmental sustainability and women's safety. 3. Protection of women from the dangers of forced marriage. 4. Protection of women's souls from the dangers of pregnancy due to rape 5. Protection of women from the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) without a medical reason.

Read Riska's report [here](#).

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