

CLOSING REMARKS

The 8th Interfaith Dialogue: Decolonizing Religion(s)

Duta Wacana Christian University (UKDW), Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The 8th Interfaith Dialogue Conference held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, under the theme of "Decolonizing Religion," has been a transformative and enlightening event. We gathered here, amidst the enchanting beauty of Yogyakarta, to challenge prevailing Western interpretations of religion and revive indigenous spiritual traditions. Throughout this conference, we engaged in profound discussions about justice, equality, and the pursuit of a more just world.

The captivating dance performance, "Pelangi dari Bukit Menoreh" or "Rainbow from the Menoreh Hills," served as a powerful symbol of the conference's inspiration drawn from the beauty of diversity. It reminded us of the importance of embracing different cultures and religions, promoting inclusivity, and nurturing compassion in our shared humanity.

We express our gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, the Indonesian Embassy in The Hague, the Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta, the Netherlands-Indonesia Consortium for Muslim-Christian Relations (NICMCR), and Duta Wacana Christian University (UKDW) for their collaboration in making this event possible. Together, we challenged the dominance of Western interpretations, revived indigenous spiritual traditions, and aimed for a more just and equitable world.

The insightful contributions from our distinguished speakers shed light on various aspects of decolonization, religion, interreligious dialogue, and religious studies. Their expertise fostered comprehensive and thought-provoking dialogues, inspiring us to critically reflect on the issues at hand and work towards positive change.

This conference emphasized the importance of recognizing our colonial Western cultural heritage while refusing to be defined by colonial assumptions that place the colonized in an inferior position. Decolonizing religion requires turning upside down

colonial assumptions and building a contextual identity that promotes equity, equality, and care for all, transcending the boundaries of race, gender, social status, and religion.

Moreover, we reflected on the complexities of decolonization, dismantling the legacies of oppressive power dynamics and colonial religion. We embraced the practice of hospitality, replacing acts of conquest and domination with acts of understanding, respect, inclusivity and relatedness.

As we conclude this conference, we carry with us a renewed commitment to embrace diversity, promote justice, and nurture compassion. We are inspired to drive positive change in our communities and beyond, working towards a world where every individual's rights are respected, and where equity and equality among religions prevail.

Let us continue our journey of decolonization, guided by the knowledge and insights gained during this conference. Together, we can create a more just, inclusive, and compassionate world, transcending the boundaries that divide us and celebrating the richness of our diverse spiritual traditions.