

Pokja Gender and Religion 2023

Leading to the NICMCR annual meeting in Yogyakarta in June, minimal activities by Pokja Gender were organized as substantial attention and effort were focused on ensuring the success of the annual meeting. Consequently, there were hardly any events organized during this period, except for finalizing the book publication. Despite our optimistic expectations to exceed the previous year's achievements, the planned FDG for 2023 did not materialize. The primary obstacle was a lack of assistance in coordinating the event. We aim to revive this event in 2024. Additionally, the second unrealized initiative involved a subsidy allocated for Pokja Gender members and affiliates to support the initiation or advancement of research projects aligned with Pokja gender themes, such as decolonizing Gender studies, ecofeminism, and other gender-related topics. We intend to explore this initiative further in the coming years, seeking guidance from the Steering Committee on the best practical implementation.

The activities organized this year include the continuation of previous projects and recurring events, such as popular webinars.

Book project

During the year 2023 there has been some progress on the book on experiences of activism carried out by religious communities and organizations. Editors have been editing all articles in Bahasa Indonesia and English. The printing agency has been making the final layout. The Gender Research Center at the University of Indonesia will submit the final version to the University of Indonesia publishing house.

Various challenges hampered the completion of the publication as scheduled. We invested time and effort to ensure the quality of each article met the highest standards. However, this meticulous editing of Bahasa Indonesia papers occurred after the translation into English, leading to additional revisions based on the latest Bahasa editor's edits. Ultimately, this process involved unnecessary steps and resulted in a significant amount of time being wasted, providing a valuable lesson for all involved. The delay was also caused by limited resources. The book launch is planned to coincide with the FGD event either in June or July 2024.

Webinars

On 26 October 2023, the Pokja Gender's webinar, themed "Spiritual Care & Planetary Health," was moderated by Frans Wijzen. In the opening the session, he introduced the NICMCR Pokja gender, and showed a bridge between pokja gender and pokja ekologi in working on environmental issues. The webinar delved into discussions on spiritual care, environmental crises, and gender issues, aligning with country-specific contexts. Prof. Hans Alma, the first speaker, highlighted the theme's conceptual meaning, offering practical examples from Dutch environmental activists and religious institutions. Fhadilah Kunaini, a teacher and spiritual leader at Pesantren Annuqayah in Indonesia, emphasized the historical efforts to instill environmental kindness in Santri (students) based on Islamic teachings. Christine Handayani, the managing director of the East Indonesian Women's Network (JPIT), discussed the essential role of women in responding to ecological challenges post-Seroja cyclone in NTT. The moderator, in conclusion, underscored the significant contributions of spiritual leaders, including

religious figures, in promoting planetary health and urged collective action for sustainability. Link: <https://nicmcr.org/spiritually-caring-for-creations-health/>

On 4 December, the Pokja Gender webinar addressed "Sexual Harassment & Violence on Campus," focusing on ensuring a secure academic environment conducive to knowledge and ethics transformation. Discussions emphasized the necessity of policies and decisive actions by both campuses and governments to address perpetrators. Prof. Siti Aisyah (UIN Makassar) discussed implemented regulations, challenges in holding perpetrators accountable, and the reluctance of victims to come forward due to concerns about the university's reputation. Mariken Blom, VU Amsterdam's student counselor, detailed procedures for handling harassment and shared approaches to encourage victims to discuss their experiences. Moderated by M Dluha Luthfillah (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), the webinar explored critical aspects of campus safety. Link: [Toward Eliminating Sexual Violence on University Campuses – NICMCR](#)