



***THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIES FOR  
PROMOTING RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN  
A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY***

**STRATEGI PEMERINTAH DALAM  
MENINGKATKAN TOLERANSI BERAGAMA DI  
MASYARAKAT MULTIKULTURAL**

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***Abstract***

*This study aims to analyze the innovative strategies implemented by the government to strengthen religious tolerance in a multicultural society. Facing the challenges of harmony and understanding between religions, the government's role in promoting religious tolerance is becoming increasingly important. This study uses library research methods and qualitative approaches with content analysis techniques to produce a comprehensive data analysis by the principles of qualitative research. The*

*study results show that the government's effective strategy in promoting religious tolerance in multicultural societies includes inclusive policies, multicultural education, interfaith dialogue, law enforcement, and inter-agency cooperation. By implementing these strategies, multicultural societies can live harmoniously, respect each other, and build a peaceful religious life. To achieve peaceful religious life in a multicultural society, individuals, religious groups, governments, and social institutions must respect diversity and jointly promote harmony between religions. This collaboration will be key to realizing a peaceful and harmonious religious life.*

**Keywords:** Government Strategy, Religious Tolerance, Multicultural Society

## Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis strategi inovatif yang diterapkan oleh pemerintah dalam memperkuat toleransi beragama di tengah masyarakat multikultural. Menghadapi tantangan keharmonisan dan pemahaman antar agama, peran pemerintah dalam mempromosikan toleransi beragama menjadi semakin penting. Dalam penelitian ini, menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan dan pendekatan kualitatif dengan teknik content analysis untuk menghasilkan analisis data yang komprehensif sesuai dengan prinsip-prinsip penelitian kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa strategi efektif pemerintah dalam mempromosikan toleransi beragama di masyarakat multikultural mencakup kebijakan inklusif, pendidikan multikultural, dialog antaragama, penegakan hukum, dan kerja sama antar lembaga. Dengan menerapkan strategi-strategi ini, masyarakat multikultural dapat hidup secara harmonis, saling menghormati, dan membangun kehidupan beragama yang damai. Untuk mencapai kehidupan beragama yang damai dalam masyarakat multikultural, penting bagi individu, kelompok agama, pemerintah, dan lembaga sosial untuk bersama-sama menghargai keberagaman dan mempromosikan kerukunan antar agama. Kolaborasi ini akan memainkan peran kunci dalam mewujudkan kehidupan beragama yang damai dan harmonis.

**Kata Kunci:** Strategi Pemerintah, Toleransi Beragama, Masyarakat Multikultural

## INTRODUCTION

Research on government strategies in promoting religious tolerance in multicultural societies is a very important study to be carried out, especially in countries with significant religious diversity. Religious diversity in multicultural societies is often a source of tension and conflict that can affect social and political stability (Gianni, 2020). Social and political stability is an important factor in maintaining the security and

well-being of a country. Strong religious tolerance can contribute to social and political stability by preventing ethnoreligious conflict, encouraging social inclusion and political participation, strengthening interreligious relations, protecting human rights, and building public trust.

Indonesia is a country with a very significant religious diversity. The majority of the Indonesian population adheres to Islam, but there are also population groups that adhere to Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. In addition, there are also traditional beliefs and other religions adopted by some Indonesian people. This religious diversity is one of the characteristics of Indonesia as a multicultural country. However, this religious diversity is also often a source of tension and conflict between religious groups (Ilyasin & Tohet, 2020; Purwani & Arvianti, 2020). Therefore, the government of Indonesia has made various efforts to strengthen tolerance among religious groups, such as through policies that support religious diversity, establishing institutions of dialogue between religions, and education and training programs that promote the values of tolerance and harmony (Karimullah, Faizin, & Islami, 2023). Nevertheless, there are still problems and challenges in strengthening religious tolerance to build harmony between religious groups in Indonesia.

Strengthening religious tolerance in Indonesia is an important task that must be done to maintain social and political stability amid significant religious diversity. Education and training that promotes the values of tolerance and harmony among religious groups can be a solution to reduce conflicts and tensions between religious groups in Indonesia. This education and training can be carried out in schools and the community, involving religious figures, academics, and the general public. Then, Inter-Religious Dialogue is one way to strengthen religious tolerance in Indonesia. In this dialogue, representatives of different religions can gather to discuss with each other and deepen their understanding of each

other's beliefs. This can help build mutual understanding and tolerance among religious groups. In addition, promoting a culture of tolerance can be done through various media, such as art, music, and literature. This can help build awareness and understanding of the importance of tolerance between religious groups and strengthen social bonds among different religious groups.

The establishment of inclusive religious institutions is also important to do, such as pesantren or churches that are open to all religions, can help strengthen religious tolerance in Indonesia. These institutions can be a place to interact with each other and build mutual understanding between religious groups. This can be done through social media campaigns or websites promoting tolerance and harmony between religious groups. By making these efforts, Indonesia can become a more tolerant and peaceful country amid significant religious diversity. Although governments have adopted various strategies to encourage religious tolerance, less effective implementation can be an obstacle. Lack of coordination between relevant government agencies or inadequate resources can hinder religious tolerance programs' success. An integrated and synergistic effort is needed in a multicultural society to achieve significant results.

Education plays an important role in strengthening religious tolerance (Karimullah, 2022a). However, there are problems in curricula and teaching methods that are inadequate in promoting understanding and respect for religious differences. The government must widely integrate educational measures on religious tolerance into the curriculum, such as weaning training for educators. Then, the government must have a clear and consistent legal framework that protects religious freedom and prevents religious discrimination. However, there are sometimes imbalances in law enforcement, where perpetrators of religious intolerance are not faced with adequate sanctions. Strict and fair law enforcement is necessary to protect the rights of individuals and religious groups.

Sometimes religious issues are exploited by political groups to strengthen their support or create societal polarization. This could hinder the government's efforts to encourage religious tolerance. The government must maintain independence and neutrality in religious issues and promote dialogue and mutual understanding between religious groups through effective communication. Effective communication and extensive awareness campaigns are essential in building religious tolerance. However, the challenge of communicating a message of tolerance and changing existing perceptions can become an obstacle. The government must develop appropriate communication strategies, use social media and digital platforms, and involve religious leaders, community leaders, and influencers to empower people to accept religious differences.

This study aims to identify and analyze the various strategies used by the government in promoting religious tolerance in multicultural societies. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the government and society in building stronger religious tolerance in a multicultural society. They can be a reference for future research related to the same topic. This research is an important contribution to understanding government strategies for fostering religious tolerance in multicultural societies. The results of this study can be a source of reference for the government, educational institutions, and civil society in developing policies and programs that are more effective in creating harmony and understanding between religions in a multicultural society.

## **METHOD**

This study uses a library research method with a qualitative approach to examine the government's strategy for encouraging religious tolerance in a multicultural society. The following are the steps to be taken in the library research method with a qualitative approach: first, identify sources of information. Identify sources of information relevant to the research topic,

such as books, journals, and articles related to government strategies in encouraging religious tolerance in multicultural societies. Second, collect and analyze data. Collect and analyze data from identified information sources. Data can be analyzed using content analysis techniques by identifying general themes related to government strategies promoting religious tolerance in multicultural societies. Third, interpret the data by connecting the general themes identified with previous theories and research. Fourth, conclude. Appropriate conclusions must be drawn after the data has been collected, analyzed, and interpreted. The conclusions obtained can be used as a reference for formulating recommendations or suggestions for the government and society in building religious tolerance in a multicultural society. In the library research method with a qualitative approach, ensuring that the sources of information used are of high quality and can be accounted for. In addition, it will ensure that data analysis is carried out according to the principles of qualitative research to produce comprehensive results.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Understanding and Concept of Religious Tolerance**

Religious tolerance is an attitude of mutual respect and respect for differences in religion and beliefs between individuals and groups in a society. Religious tolerance is based on the belief that every individual and group has the right to practice their beliefs without discrimination or unfair treatment. Religious tolerance also includes the courage to dialogue and understand differences in religion and belief and foster an attitude of tolerance and respect for the diversity of religions and cultures in society.

It is essential to continue strengthening and developing an attitude of tolerance and respect for the diversity of religions and cultures. Thus, everyone can build an inclusive, harmonious, and peaceful environment

for all individuals. Through education, interreligious dialogue, and social activities, all individuals can raise awareness about the importance of mutual respect for differences and foster mutual understanding among religious and cultural communities. Accepting and respecting differences can build a solid foundation to strengthen social ties and create a more advanced, fair, and prosperous society for all citizens.

Everyone can create safe and inclusive spaces for all through concrete steps, such as introducing lessons on religious and cultural diversity in education curricula, holding interfaith meetings to share experiences and understandings, and organizing events and festivals that celebrate diversity. Promoting dialogue between religious communities and building strong communication bridges is also essential so that each individual can feel valued and recognized for their presence in society. In addition, it is necessary to adopt public policies that favor pluralism and protect the rights of all individuals regardless of their religion or culture. It is essential to involve religious figures, community leaders, and social organizations in these efforts so that they can play an active role in educating and positively influencing society.

Awareness of the importance of tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity must also begin early, through education in the family. Educating children about the values of mutual respect, empathy, and justice will help shape a generation that is more open and receptive to differences. With strong determination and continuous efforts, it can create an inclusive society that values religious and cultural diversity. When individuals can live together in harmony, support, and complement each other, it will achieve progress and prosperity as a nation.

The concept of religious tolerance also considers the importance of avoiding attitudes of religious fanaticism and intolerance that can trigger conflicts and social tensions in society (Ishak, Ranaivo, & Manitra, 2022).

Therefore, religious tolerance must be lived and practiced by every individual and group in society to strengthen unity and cohesion. Strengthening unity and cohesion in society can be done by developing a strong attitude of religious tolerance (Eko & Putranto, 2019). This can be achieved through several efforts, including: first, education and socialization. Proper and continuous education and socialization on the importance of religious tolerance can build better awareness and understanding of religious and cultural diversity in Indonesia. Second, build dialogue and cooperation. Establishing dialogue and cooperation between different religions and groups in society can help strengthen unity and cohesion. This can be done through discussion forums, seminars, and joint social activities. Third, appreciate the differences. Respecting religious and cultural differences and mutual respect between groups can help encourage religious tolerance. This can be done by upholding equal rights and fair treatment for everyone regardless of religion, race, or social group. Fourth, build trust. Building trust between religious and cultural groups through positive and productive interactions can help reduce tension and conflict between groups. Fifth, encourage participation. Encouraging active participation of the community in efforts to strengthen religious tolerance can help strengthen unity and cohesion within the community. This can be done through joint religious activities, social activities, and participation in government programs to strengthen religious tolerance.

In Indonesia, religious tolerance is a fundamental value in the life of the nation and state, reflected in the spirit of unity in diversity. This means that despite religious and cultural differences, Indonesians can live harmoniously and respect each other (Karimullah, 2022b). Harmony and mutual respect are important parts of religious tolerance. Religious tolerance means being able to respect the religious differences and beliefs of others without being judgmental or condescending. In the context of



religious diversity in Indonesia, religious tolerance can strengthen unity and unity among various religions and different communities.

In carrying out the concept of religious tolerance, it is important to understand that each individual or group has the same right to choose and practice their respective religion. Therefore, respecting each other and upholding justice for all individuals without discrimination is necessary. In building a harmonious attitude of religious tolerance, it is also important to pay attention to the community's social, cultural, and political context. Governments, religious leaders, and communities must work together to shape policies and programs that promote religious tolerance and minimize potential conflicts. Thus, a harmonious and peaceful environment was created between religious groups and peoples.

Different religious groups and societies can refer to groups with differences in faith, religion, ethnicity, race, and culture. In Indonesia, various religions, such as Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and various tribes and ethnicities share traditional beliefs (Haryanto, 2019). Each of these religious groups and societies has different characteristics and uniqueness, and these differences must be respected and recognized for their existence. In the context of religious and social diversity in Indonesia, it is important to build an attitude of religious tolerance that respects these differences. Religious tolerance must be applied inclusively; it considers all religions and societies without discrimination or favoritism towards certain groups. This will strengthen the Indonesian nation's unity and create a harmonious and peaceful life among various religious groups and communities (Habibah & Setyowati, 2021).

Creating a harmonious and peaceful life among different religious groups and communities is the main goal of building religious tolerance. A harmonious and peaceful life can be created if each individual or group is

strongly aware and committed to respecting differences, avoiding conflict, and upholding the principles of justice and equality before the law. Cooperation and collaboration between the government, religious leaders, and the community are needed to create a harmonious and peaceful life among various religious groups and communities. The government should play an active role in developing policies that can facilitate the creation of religious tolerance and minimize interreligious conflicts. Meanwhile, religious leaders can provide education and socialization on the importance of religious tolerance and develop interreligious dialogue to build a better understanding between religious groups.

Communities can also actively build religious tolerance by respecting differences and maintaining harmony among various religious groups and communities (Wibisono, Louis, & Jetten, 2019). To create a harmonious and peaceful life among various religious groups and communities, it is also important to pay attention to social, cultural, and political aspects that may affect the dynamics of diversity in society. By considering all these factors, it is expected to create a harmonious and peaceful environment between different religious groups and communities.

A religious group is a group of people who share the same religious beliefs and practices. In a multicultural society such as Indonesia, various religious groups such as Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and other beliefs exist. Meanwhile, a society is a group of individuals living together in a region or area with something common regarding culture, customs, norms, and social values. The society also consists of various groups, such as religious groups, ethnic groups, socioeconomic groups, and professional groups.

In religious tolerance, different religious groups and communities must live together in harmony and respect each other, despite differences in religious beliefs and practices. It is important to create an inclusive

environment, respect differences as part of the diversity that exists in society, and avoid discrimination or acts of intolerance that can trigger conflicts between religious groups and communities. Governments, religious leaders, and society must work together to build tolerance and harmony among religious groups and communities.

Conflicts between religious groups can be triggered by various factors, including differences in religious beliefs and practices, differences in culture, customs, and social values, as well as the existence of injustice and discrimination in relations between groups. In addition, external factors such as politics, economics, and the environment can also trigger conflicts between religious groups. The trigger for conflicts between religious groups can be acts of intolerance carried out by certain groups, such as discrimination, humiliation, persecution, and violence. In addition, fake news or hoaxes related to religion can also trigger conflicts between groups. To prevent conflicts between religious groups, efforts are needed to build awareness of the importance of religious tolerance and harmony between religious groups. Governments, religious leaders, and society as a whole need to work together to address differences and prevent acts of intolerance. In addition, there is also a need for efforts to strengthen laws and systems that are fair and uphold human rights so that all religious groups and communities feel valued and recognized in an inclusive environment.

An inclusive environment is an environment that can facilitate diversity and accommodate the needs of all individuals and groups in society without discrimination or unfair treatment. In the context of Religious Tolerance, an inclusive environment must accommodate different religious beliefs and practices. In an inclusive environment, all individuals and groups should have equal rights and be recognized for their existence without discrimination or marginalization. All individuals and groups should also be given equal opportunities to develop themselves and meet their

needs without discrimination or unfair treatment. To create an inclusive environment, there is a need for awareness and attitudes of tolerance and harmony between groups in society. In addition, governments, community institutions, and religious leaders must work together to build an inclusive environment by educating people about the importance of religious tolerance, accommodating differences, and opposing discrimination and intolerance. This can be done through various programs, such as dialogue between religious groups, social programs, and educational programs.

### **Government Policy in Promoting Religious Tolerance**

The Indonesian government has issued various policies and programs to encourage religious tolerance in the community. Here are some examples of government policies encouraging religious tolerance, among others: the diversity policy. The Indonesian government has issued various policies to promote diversity and national unity (Hefner, 2021). The policy primarily concerns human rights, recognizing and protecting minority rights, and support for local religious practices and Customs. Second, the integration of Religious Education. One way the government has taken to promote religious tolerance is by strengthening religious education in schools. The government has integrated religious studies with social, cultural, and historical materials so that students can understand religious values and tolerance.

Third, The Religious Tolerance Program. The government has also launched various programs to promote religious tolerance, such as interfaith and intercultural training, dialogue, and cooperation between religious groups in social and cultural activities. Fourth, Law Enforcement. The Indonesian government has passed a law prohibiting discrimination based on religion or belief. This includes the protection of human rights and religious freedom, as well as the enforcement of laws against acts of intolerance and religion-based violence (Ishak et al., 2022). Fifth,

Development Policy. The government also pays attention to infrastructure and social development in areas with high religious and cultural diversity. This is done to strengthen social cohesion and encourage tolerance between groups. To promote religious tolerance, governments must strengthen and enhance the effective implementation of these policies. The government must also evaluate and assess these policies to determine how much they successfully encourage religious tolerance in the community.

Religious tolerance in Indonesian society is a very important thing considering that Indonesia is a country that has a very significant religious diversity (Radjab, Genda, Haris, & Abdullah, 2020). Indonesian society consists of various religions and beliefs, such as Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and traditional beliefs. Despite differences in religion and belief, Indonesians have a strong culture of tolerance. This is reflected in many aspects of life, such as religious activities, traditional ceremonies, and everyday life. There are many examples where Indonesian people from different religions live harmoniously, respect each other, and help each other in everyday life.

The government also facilitates Interfaith Dialogue, provides space for diversity, and adopts a policy of multiculturalism. However, although the culture of religious tolerance has become a hallmark of Indonesian society, there are also cases of intolerance that occur in society, such as religious conflict, discrimination, and religion-based violence (Ishak, 2022). Therefore, it is necessary to continue strengthening religious tolerance in Indonesia through education, dialogue, and cooperation between religions. Thus, Indonesian people can continue to live together in peace and harmony and respect religious diversity.

Respecting religious diversity is important in building harmony and tolerance among religious people. Here are some ways to respect religious diversity: first, respect the beliefs of others. It is important to respect and

recognize the right of each individual to practice his religion according to his own beliefs. Do not ridicule, denigrate, or impose certain religious views on others. Second, open your mind. Open your mind to different understandings and perspectives on religion. Don't narrow your view to just your own religious beliefs or practices. Ask questions, learn, and seek information to expand your knowledge of other religions. Third, build dialogue and good communication. Invite people from different religions to talk, share knowledge, and understand each other's religious perspectives. Listening attentively and exchanging information can strengthen understanding and appreciation of religious differences.

Fourth, participate in religious celebrations. Participate in other people's religious celebrations. Attending religious events such as holiday celebrations, worship, or ceremonies can show appreciation and concern for their religious practices. Fifth, maintain an attitude of respect and tolerance. Avoiding discrimination, prejudice, or intolerance towards other religions is important. Respecting differences and respecting the religious rights of others are important actions in maintaining harmony and harmony. Sixth, build an interreligious friendship. Create friendships and good relationships with people of different religions. Through positive social interaction, building understanding, overcoming stereotypes, and strengthening religious bonds. Seventh, promote interreligious dialogue. Invite people to engage in interreligious dialogue and activities that promote understanding and tolerance. This can be done through discussion forums, seminars, workshops, or other interfaith activities. By respecting religious diversity, everyone can create a society that is inclusive, respectful, and committed to interreligious peace.

The government and society can strengthen religious tolerance in Indonesia by increasing understanding and knowledge about religion and other beliefs. The government and the community can hold educational programs or seminars about different religions and beliefs. This can help

strengthen understanding and reduce negative stereotypes or prejudices against different religions or beliefs. Then, build cooperation between religions and beliefs. Community and religious leaders may work together on positive social or religious activities, such as humanitarian activities, community service, or joint religious celebrations. It can help build mutual trust and cooperation between religions by encouraging dialogue and open discussion between religions and beliefs. Governments and communities can hold open forums or dialogues that promote an inclusive approach and respect for diversity. This can help build mutual respect and deepen understanding between religions.

Improving access to accurate and positive information about religion and belief is also important to strengthen religious tolerance in Indonesia. Governments and mass media can present accurate and positive information about religions and beliefs. This can help minimize the spread of false or negative information about a particular religion or belief that could lead to conflict. In addition, adopting inclusive policies and respecting diversity can also be done by the government. The government can adopt a policy of multiculturalism and respect the diversity of religions and beliefs in society. This can help strengthen the understanding and culture of religious tolerance in Indonesia. Strengthening religious tolerance in Indonesia allows people to live together in harmony and peace despite different religions or beliefs. This can help strengthen the nation's unity and promote Indonesia as a pluralistic and inclusive country.

Strengthening religious tolerance in Indonesia can help advance Indonesia as a pluralistic and inclusive country. This is because the diversity of religions and cultures in Indonesia is very large, so tolerance is an important key to maintaining harmony and peace in religious and social life. By strengthening religious tolerance, Indonesians can coexist peacefully and respect each other without conflict or discrimination based on religion. This can also help strengthen the nation's unity and encourage

Indonesia's progress as a developed and inclusive country that is ready to compete at the global level.

Indonesia, a pluralistic country with a huge religious and cultural diversity, has great potential to become a developed and inclusive country ready to compete globally. By strengthening religious tolerance and diversity, Indonesia can exploit the potential that exists in this diversity to advance the nation and state. In the era of increasingly rapid globalization, diversity and tolerance are important keys for a country to compete and advance globally. By maintaining harmony and unity in diversity, Indonesia can show itself as a stable and open country and attract investors and tourists from various countries. In addition, encouraging religious tolerance can also open up opportunities for Indonesian people to learn from various cultures and religions in Indonesia. By learning from different cultures and religions, Indonesians can develop diverse creativity and innovation, which can help Indonesia compete on a global level. In this regard, the government can also play an important role in encouraging religious tolerance and diversity. The government can issue policies that support religious tolerance and diversity and promote the values of tolerance in education and society. Thus, Indonesia can become a developed and inclusive country that is ready to compete at the global level.

To compete at the global level, Indonesia must be able to create an environment that is inclusive and tolerant of differences. This is important because people from different cultural and religious backgrounds dominate the global market. By strengthening religious tolerance in Indonesia, people will be more open to interacting with people from different countries and cultural backgrounds, thus expanding business networks and increasing job opportunities. In addition, strengthening religious tolerance can also improve Indonesia's image in the eyes of the international community. Indonesia will be regarded as a country that



upholds human values, values differences and can create a peaceful and harmonious environment. This will positively impact various sectors, including tourism, investment, and diplomatic relations with other countries. In this regard, the role of the government is very important in encouraging religious tolerance in society. The government should strengthen regulation and incentivize people who can create an inclusive and tolerant environment for differences. In addition, the government can also conduct campaigns and socialization to increase public awareness of the importance of religious tolerance in the life of society, nation, and state.

Religious tolerance is important in society, nation, and state because Indonesia has significant religious diversity (Japar, Sahid, & Fadhillah, 2019). Strong religious tolerance can create a harmonious and peaceful environment between different religious groups and communities, thus strengthening unity and unity within them (Eko & Putranto, 2019). In addition, religious tolerance can also help build an investment climate conducive to economic growth in Indonesia. With an inclusive environment, investors will be more confident and interested in investing in Indonesia to help advance Indonesia as a pluralistic and inclusive country ready to compete globally.

Investors will be more confident and interested in investing in Indonesia with an inclusive environment. Inclusive environments create spaces that allow the participation of all stakeholders, including minorities, marginal groups, and individuals with diverse backgrounds. In an inclusive environment, investors can see justice, equality, and adequate legal protection. With an inclusive environment, investors will experience substantial diversity as an asset for their business growth. They will see opportunities in the variety of the Indonesian population and feel confident that all segments of society can be reached and become potential markets. Investing in a business that caters to

consumers' diverse needs and preferences will have a greater chance of success. In addition, an inclusive environment will reflect the Indonesian government's and society's commitment to human rights, social justice, and diversity. This will strengthen Indonesia's image in the eyes of the world as a country that values diversity and can create equal opportunities for all individuals. Investing in Indonesia will also support sustainable and inclusive economic development. They can contribute to job creation, skills training, and infrastructure development to benefit all Indonesians. Investments focused on sectors that have the potential to reduce social and economic inequalities will provide long-term benefits to the country and society. Overall, an inclusive environment will give a positive impetus for investors to invest in Indonesia. This will help promote Indonesia as a pluralistic and inclusive country able to compete globally. Investments backed by inclusive values will strengthen the foundations of the economy, create opportunities for all citizens, and bring benefits for sustainable growth.

Religious tolerance is also important in maintaining national security and stability. If there is a conflict between religious groups, it can trigger instability and threaten national security. Therefore, encouraging religious tolerance is essential to maintain national security and stability. Religious tolerance plays an important role in building a pluralistic, inclusive, and globally competitive Indonesia. Religious tolerance needs to be instilled early on through education and a correct understanding of the values of tolerance so that a peaceful, harmonious, and respectful society can be created.

Mutual respect is important in strengthening religious tolerance in society. This means recognizing and respecting the right of every individual to have a different religion or belief without discrimination or degrading treatment. Mutual respect means not committing harassment, humiliation, or discrimination against another person's religion or beliefs.

This includes respecting their place of worship, honoring their holy day or religious celebration, and not imposing religious beliefs or views on others. Mutual respect also means listening well and being open to different opinions, beliefs, and values. Respect differences of opinion and maintain a dignified dialogue and mutual respect in discussions about religion and belief. In addition, mutual respect also involves an attitude of empathy and understanding toward the experiences and feelings of others. Accepting that each individual has a spiritual path and the right to exercise it peacefully.

Building a culture of mutual respect through education, awareness, and campaigns supporting tolerance and respect for religious differences is important (Damirovich, Ibragimovich, & Sattarovich, 2022). Governments, educational institutions, religious groups, and civil society can work together to raise awareness and engage communities in efforts to strengthen mutual respect in everyday life. By respecting one another, communities can create an inclusive, harmonious, and peaceful environment where every individual feels valued and accepted regardless of differences in religion or belief. This strengthens religious tolerance and builds a solid foundation for a harmonious society, nation, and state life.

### **The Effectiveness of Government Policies and Programs in Promoting Religious Tolerance**

The effectiveness of the policy can be measured based on the extent to which the policy achieves the objectives set (Mahrus & Karimullah, 2022). Several factors can affect policy effectiveness, including policy design, implementation, and external factors affecting policy outcomes. Policy effectiveness is strongly influenced by good design. Policies that are clear, measurable, and have specific goals will have a higher chance of achieving the desired results. In addition, policies that consider various aspects, such as social, economic, and environmental impacts, also tend

to be more effective in achieving broad goals. The policy implementation process also plays an important role in determining its effectiveness. Policies that are not implemented properly or do not have adequate support can experience obstacles and difficulties in achieving the goals set. It is important to ensure that sufficient resources are available, adequate administrative capacity, and the existence of effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms throughout the implementation process.

In addition, the external environment can also affect the effectiveness of the policy. For example, economic, political, or social changes can impact policy outcomes. In addition, community participation and support are also important factors in determining policy effectiveness. Policies that get broad support from stakeholders and the general public tend to be more successful in achieving the desired goals. Policy effectiveness measurement can involve various methods, such as quantitative and qualitative evaluation, impact analysis, and collection of relevant data and information. It is important to conduct continuous evaluations to monitor policy progress, identify obstacles or problems that arise, and make necessary changes to improve the effectiveness of such policies.

The effectiveness of government policies and programs in promoting religious tolerance can be evaluated by considering the following factors: first, compliance with objectives. The success of policies and programs in encouraging religious tolerance can be judged by the extent to which they achieve the goals set (Wijaya Mulya & Aditomo, 2019). This goal must be clear and measurable, for example, in reducing intolerance or increasing interfaith participation in social activities. Second, execution and implementation. The effectiveness of policies and programs also depends on their implementation and implementation. It is important to evaluate the extent to which the policy is well executed, whether there are adequate resources, clarity of procedures, and active participation of various relevant parties. Third, Community Participation. Community

involvement and active participation are very important in strengthening religious tolerance. In evaluating the effectiveness of policies and programs, it is necessary to see the extent to which the community is involved in the decision-making process, implementation, and monitoring of policies. If people feel involved and have ownership of the policy, the chances of success will be greater.

Fourth, Social Impact. Evaluation of the effectiveness of policies and programs should also consider the resulting social impact. Have these policies and programs promoted a more inclusive, harmonious, and respectful environment? Is there an increased awareness and understanding of the values of religious tolerance in society? Fifth, continuous evaluation and improvement. Evaluation of the effectiveness of policies and programs should be an ongoing process. It is necessary to identify shortcomings and obstacles in the implementation and make the necessary improvements to increase its effectiveness. In conclusion, evaluating the effectiveness of government policies and programs in promoting religious tolerance involves considering the objectives set, implementation and implementation, community participation, the resulting social impact, and ongoing evaluation and improvement efforts.

Continuous improvement is one of the key factors in promoting the effectiveness of government policies and programs in strengthening religious tolerance. Steps can be taken to make continuous improvements through regular monitoring and evaluation. The government needs to conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs that have been implemented. This evaluation can be done by collecting relevant data and information, such as surveys, interviews, or statistical analysis. This monitoring and evaluation help identify existing policies and programs' weaknesses, constraints, and successes. Then, the government receives input and feedback from the public. It is important to involve communities, religious groups, and other stakeholders in

providing input and feedback regarding policies and programs that have been implemented. By listening and considering their perspectives, governments can improve existing policies and programs and identify areas where there is a need for improvement.

Adjustments to policies and programs also need to be considered well by the government. The government can adjust existing policies and programs based on the evaluation results and feedback. Improvements can be made by fixing ineffective aspects, changing implementation strategies, or adopting new approaches that suit the needs and challenges of collaboration and partnership. Governments can work with religious groups, civil society, educational institutions, and the private sector to develop initiatives and programs to strengthen religious tolerance. This collaboration can lead to more holistic solutions and expand the scope of policy implementation. In addition, Education and public awareness are also very important to be involved in this issue. Continuous improvement can also be made through educational efforts and increasing public awareness of the importance of religious tolerance. Inclusive Education, curricula that teach the values of tolerance, and awareness campaigns can help change people's mindset and behavior in respecting religious differences. Continuous improvement must be the government's long-term commitment to promoting religious tolerance. Through continuous monitoring, evaluation, and improvement, policies and programs can become more effective, relevant, and responsive to community needs, strengthening religious tolerance in Indonesia.

To make the program more effective in strengthening religious tolerance, some steps can be taken: first, clear goal setting. Programs must have specific and measurable goals in promoting religious tolerance. These objectives should be measurable and evaluated to determine how the program achieves the expected results. Second, Needs Analysis. Conduct an in-depth analysis of the needs of society regarding religious tolerance.

It involves understanding the challenges and problems communities face in building religious tolerance and identifying the target groups most in need of attention. Third, active community participation. Actively involve the community in the program's planning, implementation, and evaluation. Listening to people's opinions and perspectives helps ensure that programs reflect their needs and aspirations, as well as increasing levels of acceptance and engagement in program implementation. Fourth the cross-sectoral approach. Adopt a cross-sectoral approach involving various stakeholders, including government, religious institutions, civil society, educational institutions, and the private sector. Cooperation between sectors broadened the program's reach and allowed greater resources to be placed in efforts to strengthen religious tolerance.

Fifth, regular evaluation and monitoring. Conduct regular evaluations and monitoring of the program to assess its effectiveness. Evaluation can be done through data collection, surveys, interviews, and field monitoring. Evaluation results are used to identify program successes and challenges and provide a basis for future program improvement and development. Sixth, capacity building. Conduct training and capacity building for parties involved in implementing the program, such as facilitators, teachers, religious leaders, and community leaders. Increasing their knowledge, skills, and understanding will strengthen their ability to promote religious tolerance and resolve conflict. Seventh, dissemination of information and public campaigns. Conduct information and public campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of religious tolerance. This can be done through mass media, social media, educational materials, and community activities that address issues of religious tolerance. By adopting a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach, programs can be more effective in strengthening religious tolerance in Indonesia. It is important to continue to make continuous evaluations and improvements to increase the program's positive impact.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of research on government strategies in encouraging religious tolerance in a multicultural society, several recommendations can be proposed, including: first, Awareness Raising and Education. The government needs to raise public awareness about the importance of religious tolerance and its benefits in a multicultural society. This can be done through public campaigns, education programs, and training for religious leaders and educators to promote a better understanding of religious diversity. Second, Inclusive Policies and Legal Protection. The government should adopt inclusive policies recognizing and protecting every individual's religious rights. This includes freedom of religion, protection from discrimination, and strict enforcement of laws against religious rights violations. The government must also provide effective mechanisms for individuals to report religious intolerance or discrimination cases. Third, the Promotion of Interfaith Dialogue. The government can facilitate dialogue between religious leaders and people of different faiths. The dialog should include a better understanding of different religions, conflict resolution, and joint efforts to promote tolerance and interfaith harmony. Fourth, Collaboration with Religious Institutions. The government can build partnerships with religious institutions to promote religious tolerance. This collaboration can involve social, cultural, or humanitarian activities involving various religious communities to build interfaith understanding and trust. Fifth, Monitoring and Evaluation. The government needs to monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies and programs promoting religious tolerance. This will help identify successes and challenges and allow adjustments and improvements to implemented strategies. These recommendations can assist the government in promoting religious tolerance in a multicultural society. However, it is important to remember that the implementation of this strategy must be comprehensive and involve the active participation



of all relevant parties, including the government, religious communities, civil society organizations, and individuals in society.

## **CLOSING**

Effective government strategies in promoting religious tolerance in a multicultural society involve inclusive policies, multicultural education, interfaith dialogue, law enforcement, and inter-agency cooperation. Implementing these strategies allows multicultural societies to live in harmony, respect each other, and build a peaceful religious life. Peaceful religious life refers to a situation in which individuals of different religions can live together in harmony, respect each other, and cooperate without conflict or tension related to religious differences. Peaceful religious life requires commitment from all parties, including individuals, communities, religious organizations, and governments. By building understanding, respecting differences, and working together to create an inclusive environment, peaceful religious life can be realized in a multicultural society.

Realizing peaceful religious life in a multicultural society involves respecting diversity and promoting interfaith harmony. In a multicultural society, the concerted efforts of individuals, religious groups, governments, and social institutions to promote tolerance, mutual respect, and interfaith harmony will play an important role in realizing peaceful and harmonious religious life. Peaceful and harmonious religious life refers to a situation where individuals of different religions live in harmony, respect each other, and work together to build a better society. Through the joint commitment of individuals, religious groups, religious leaders, the government, and society as a whole, peaceful and harmonious religious life can be realized in a multicultural society.

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