

Executive Summary of the Guideline and Module of Women's Preachers for Solidarity and Religious Tolerance

Fatayat-JISRA Program on FoRB

This Guideline and Module are a result of a prolonged discussion among the team members appointed among the Fatayat NU of West Java and experts invited specifically for the JISRA program. During the first year of the JISRA program, Fatayat NU of West Java focuses on the intrareligious pathway by strengthening the capacity of young women's preachers at Fatayat.

Several discussions in developing the Guideline and Module we conducted accommodating several stakeholders from different backgrounds. We invited government representatives, NGOs, Youth organizations, other Islamic majority groups, minority groups like Ahmadiyya, Shi'ites, indigenous religions, Christians, and Baha'i to our FGDs. The responses were very positive, and they were supportive of the Fatayat NU Dakwah Guideline and Module. There were 25 participants in each FGD coming from various religious backgrounds and organizations. From the discussions, we received constructive feedback and comments from different organizations in order for the Guideline and Module ready to be disseminated and implemented.

We entitle the book "The Guideline and Module for Solidarity and Religious Tolerance" which consist of eight (8) chapters accommodating the characteristics and strategies of Fatayat NU Preaching activity. They include an introduction on how to use the Guideline and the Module, the core principles of organization, Islamic texts on tolerance and the practices of the prophet Muhammad and his Companions towards other religions, reinterpreting Islamic texts on women issues, and accommodating the Indonesian principles of diversity. These themes equip women's preachers with related knowledge for their preaching activities in their communities. In the Module, we also provide some cases currently faced in the Indonesian context that need to be addressed to develop critical thinking among the communities. Such cases include the case of sexual violence against women, religious persecution, and child abandonment.

In the first fourth chapter, the book explains the principles that the Fatayat hold in spreading the message of Islam namely Islam *rahmatan lil alamin* (Islam is the religion of blessing for the universe). Islam should bring peace and harmony not only to human kinds with different ethnic and religion, but also to nature. Thus, in its preaching strategy, the preachers should utilize kind words and be full of wisdom. Besides, the book also presents several strategies for preaching activities accommodating the new media.

The last fourth chapter describes the sources of the material in the preaching activities, mainly from the Qur'an and Hadith on the verses related to religious tolerance and the method on how to understand these texts focusing not only on their literal meanings but also on their context. By accommodating textually and contextually in understanding Islamic texts will hinder the rigid understanding of both sources. In addition, the book also provides the practice of the Prophet and several inspired figures who practice tolerance behavior toward different religious adherents. Indonesian context with the diversity of ethnicity and religions is very relevant to be accommodated in this book to strengthen the spirit of nationality i.e. *Bhineka tunggal ika* (unity in diversity). Women's issue is also our main concern delivered in this book. As Fatayat is a women's organization, issues related to women's daily experiences are addressed such as women's health and reproductive rights, sexual violence against women, and discrimination against women (FGM and child marriage).

This Guideline and Module have been disseminated among the Fatayat women's preachers through Training of Trainers (ToT). There were 30 *daiyah* invited, which most of whom came from the two targets area of JISRA Program namely Garut and Tasikmalaya regency in West Java, Indonesia. Through this ToT, we aimed at strengthening the capacity and skills of Fatayat *daiyah* in order that they have an open-mindedness and respect other religions in their preaching activities. Our hope is that by strengthening these skills the women's preachers of Fatayat can not only influence their communities to become tolerant but also work together in several religious and community activities to carry out duties as agents of peace. In addition, the books also are published for public so they can be used widely by anyone who has interest in the issue including as teaching materials at university.