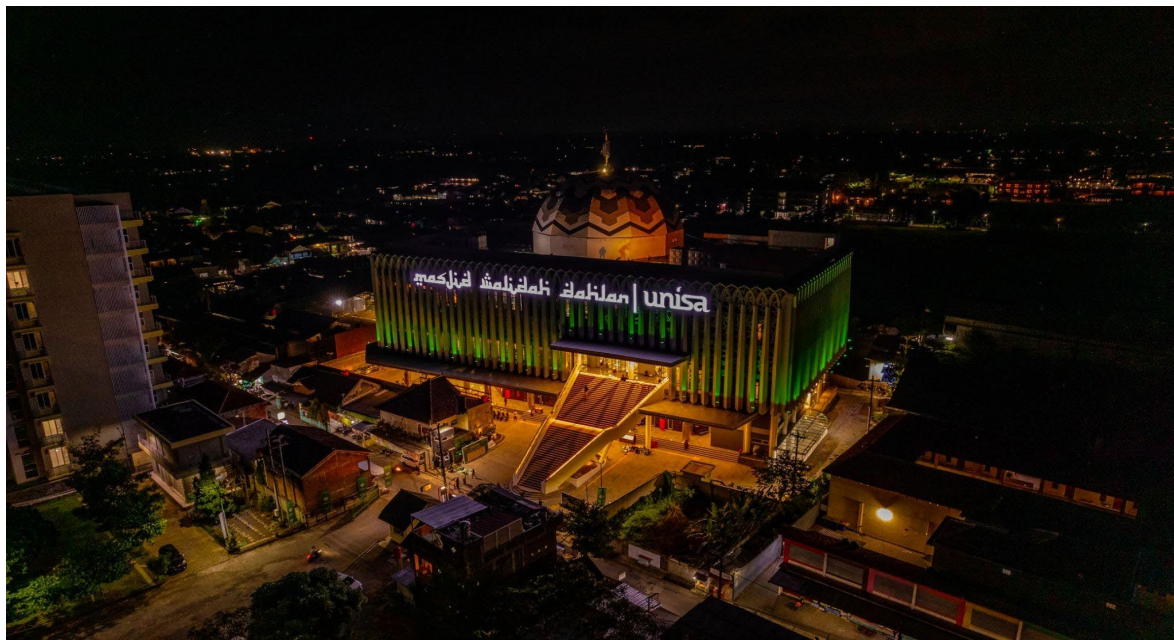




JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON WOMENS RIGHTS IN ISLAM



Date: 13-16 May 2024

Faith to Action Network, IICPSR-Al-Azhar University, Muhammadiyah, Aisiyyah, Universitas Aisiyyah Yogyakarta (UNISA) hosted the Global Conference on Women's Rights in Islam (GCWRI) from 14 to 16 May 2024 at the Convention Hall of the Walidah Dahlan Mosque, 'Aisiyyah University Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

As participants from Indonesia, Egypt, the United States of America, England, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Netherlands, Palestine, Kenya, Lesotho, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, South Sudan and Lebanon, we have converged here at a pivotal moment in our collective journey towards gender equality, equity and justice. The world is witnessing a growing movement to amplify the voices of women, challenging patriarchal norms, and demanding equal opportunities in different spheres of life.

We have come together to advance women's rights in Islam, equip women's rights activists with adequate knowledge and information to fight for the advancement of women's rights and release a joint publication that will be used by activists, scientists, and religious leaders in developing policies and strategies based on Islamic values and teachings. At this conference, we release this publication that captures theological and practical reflections and insights on women's rights in Islam from different parts of the world. Written by 24 authors from a wide range of countries, the publication provides updated accounts of the contribution of Islam towards promoting women's rights in the following areas:



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1. Gender equality in Islam
2. Women's participation in private, public and political life in Islam
3. Sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence
4. Women's property rights in Islam
5. Custody to children in Islamic law
6. Women and the right to bodily integrity in Islam

Islamic teachers of distinguished Islamic theological institutions and representatives of Islamic social organisations from various parts of the world have come together at this conference to offer reflections on the situation on the ground regarding the role of Islam in relation to the status of women.

Muslim theologians offer enlightening interpretations of Islam's teachings on women's rights in this book. Islamic practitioners share their lived experiences as they implement various programmatic interventions to respond to violations of women's rights within various communities. This synthesis between practice and theology has ensured that the book achieves high internal coherence and clarity.

We have reflected on some of the most contentious issues regarding women's issues in Islam. During the conference, these authors conducted a careful analysis of these themes and demonstrated how Islam validates women's rights and how Islam is well-equipped to promote a gender-just society. In their presentations, the speakers highlighted both how interpretations of the sacred text have been used to justify injustices towards women, and showcased some highly successful interventions based on other interpretations of the sacred text. From this conference, we are communicating a message of appreciating the positive, impressive and consistent work being undertaken by network members and partners to advance women's rights. We are moved, driven and informed by the sacred texts, teachings and practices of our faiths to uphold the rights and dignity of women and girls.

As speakers and participants, we seek to tell the story of the outstanding work being accomplished by us at household, community, national, regional and international levels. We would like the wider world to appreciate and emulate the work being undertaken by faith-based actors to promote women's rights, within the faith communities and beyond.

We will work together to amplify the narrative of faith actors as resourceful advocates towards advancing women's rights.

The following recommendations and conclusions have emerged from the conference:

1. Strengthening networking among religious leaders (including the Imams/ulama), government and civil society at the community, national, regional, local and global levels to work and to advocate the promotion, fulfilment, protection, and encouragement the enforcement of women's rights in Islam and peace in the world.



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2. Enabling more programs of capacity building for religious leaders including Imams/ulamas to understand contemporary women's issues, gender and environmental justice given the changing contexts during interpretation of religious texts. The expectation is implementing progressive values in dynamic environments using religious texts.
3. Encourage organizing caravans with Muhammadiyah, NU, Al-Azhar, Aisyiyah and Muslimat to educate Imams/ulamas and dialogue with communities, policy makers, the government and other stakeholders in Africa and Asia on religious and social issues that they need clarification.
4. Implementing progressive religious interpretations on women's rights in Islam, in teaching, making policy, running program and activities by considering the dialogue between texts, contexts, and connecting between the past and present scholars.
5. Making the value of gender justice in Islam alive at all levels of society within the framework of fulfilling women's rights in Islam both in domestic and public spheres.
6. Recognition and giving space for women to have meaningful participation in leadership and knowledge production
7. Recognition and giving space for women to have meaningful participation in producing religious thoughts, interpretations, fiqhs (Fatwa) etc.
8. Challenging harmful cultural practices and positions that present and make women as less equal to men e.g. the case of a mother being guardian during her daughter's marriage, female witness.
9. Recognizing the diversity of women's experiences as sources to deal with gender issues in Muslim world.
10. Abolishing all harmful practices against women (FGM/C, force marriage, child marriage, etc.) in the Muslim world which justified by blended cultural and religious norms.
11. Advocating for adequate opportunity for formation of future leaders by facilitating exposure exchange and scholarship as spearheaded by Muhammadiyah and Al Azhar University.
12. Documenting good practices and research that recognizes the agency classical and contemporary women scholars.



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