

Religious Freedom and Interfaith Tolerance in Establishing Harmonious Society

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ABSTRACT

Religious freedom and interfaith tolerance are two fundamental aspects of creating a harmonious society. This research examines the interrelationship between religious freedom and tolerance in a multicultural society and identifies the main factors that lead to increased intolerance and discrimination against religious minorities. Using a literature study approach, this research analyzes various academic sources from reputable publications to understand the obstacles to realizing religious freedom and tolerance amid social diversity. The results show that rising intolerance is caused by a lack of understanding of religious differences, the influence of radicalism, and discriminatory policies towards minority groups. In addition, major obstacles to realizing religious freedom include low multicultural awareness, lack of interfaith dialogue, and the role of the media which often exacerbates negative stereotypes. Lack of diversity-based education also contributes to ignorance and prejudice that exacerbate social conflicts. Collective efforts from the government, educational institutions and society are needed to instill the values of tolerance through inclusive policies and effective multicultural education. The conclusion of this research emphasizes that religious freedom and tolerance should be strengthened through fair policy approaches, continuous education, and more open communication between religious groups. A more harmonious, inclusive and respectful society can be created.

INTRODUCTION

Religious freedom and interfaith tolerance are two key elements to creating a harmonious and peaceful society. Globally, countries with high levels of religious freedom tend to enjoy greater social stability. Research shows that religious freedom contributes to reduced conflict and improved social welfare (Grim & Finke, 2007). In contrast, restrictions on religious freedom often trigger tensions and conflicts between groups (Fox, 2016).

A particular phenomenon in countries with high religious diversity is that interfaith tolerance plays an important role in maintaining social cohesion. For example, in India, despite religious plurality, efforts to promote tolerance through multicultural education have helped reduce tensions between societies (Bhargava, 2006). However, challenges remain when government policies or majority groups try to dominate the public sphere, which can erode tolerance and fuel conflict (Jaffrelot, 2011).

Research shows that religious freedom has an impact on intergroup relations, and on economic and political development. Countries that guarantee religious freedom tend to have lower levels of corruption and higher public participation in democratic processes (Grim & Finke, 2011). Countries that facilitate religious freedom tend to have more inclusive, creative and productive societies. This suggests that religious freedom and interfaith tolerance are important for social harmony, and for the overall progress of society.

One of the main problems in trying to build a harmonious society is discrimination against religious minorities. Research shows that these groups often face restrictions on practicing their faith, reflecting growing intolerance (Intan, 2022). This phenomenon shows that although freedom of religion is guaranteed, the practice in the field often shows inequality in the treatment of groups with different beliefs. This situation creates injustice and can trigger social tensions.

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Tensions between conservative and moderate groups within a given religious society are a significant issue that can disrupt social stability and impede constructive interfaith dialog. Contestation between these two groups is often rooted in differences in interpretation of religious teachings, with conservatives tending to maintain a traditional and literal view of sacred texts, while moderates are more open to contextualized and inclusive interpretations. This tension can create an atmosphere of uncertainty and mistrust within the society, where group members feel pressured to choose sides, which can further fragment social cohesion. Hefner (2019) notes that when conservative groups seek to dominate the public sphere by upholding their values, they often deny the existence of dissenting views, which can lead to the marginalization of moderate groups. This inhibits constructive dialogue between the groups, and can exacerbate tensions with other religious groups, due to the inability to find common ground or mutual respect for differences.

Internal conflicts arising from these tensions can negatively impact overall social cohesion. Singh (2018) points out that when groups within one religion engage in disputes, this can create a negative image in the eyes of the wider society, potentially exacerbating stereotypes and prejudices against the entire religious society. This instability can trigger a chain reaction, where other groups feel threatened and respond defensively, creating a cycle of tension that is difficult to break. Efforts should be made to create space for inclusive and respectful dialogue, where all views can be heard and considered. Efforts to facilitate communication between conservative and moderate groups, and build a better understanding of differences in interpretation, can help ease tensions and strengthen social cohesion. Creating an enabling environment for constructive interfaith dialog is thus crucial to achieving social stability and promoting tolerance in diverse societies.

Intolerance embedded in religious education materials can reinforce negative stereotypes of other religious groups (Baidhaw, 2013). Some educational textbooks material intolerant material, which can influence students' perceptions and hinder peace building (Parker, 2018). The presence of such material in the education curriculum can deepen the divide between religious societies. When students are constantly exposed to this kind of material, they tend to build negative stereotypes against other religious groups, and feel no need to understand or respect differences.

The research of religious freedom and interfaith tolerance is important because it is directly related to the social and political stability of a country. When religious freedom is restricted or tolerance is not upheld, societies tend to experience social tensions that can develop into systemic discrimination or even religious-based violence. Restrictions on certain religious groups often contribute to radicalization, where individuals or groups who feel marginalized are more susceptible to extremism as a form of resistance to the injustices they experience (Grim & Finke, 2011). It is important to examine the factors that lead to interfaith tensions in order to design policies that are more equitable and inclusive for all members of society.

The urgency of this research is heightened by the global trend of rising religious intolerance, even in countries historically known for being democratic and upholding civil liberties (Fox, 2016). The proliferation of technology and social media also complicates the issue, as religious-based hate narratives are increasingly easy to disseminate and deepen social polarization (Howard, 2019). By examining the relationship between religious freedom and social harmony, this research can provide insights for policymakers and society at large to formulate strategies that can reduce conflict and strengthen tolerance in religious life.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the relationship between religious freedom and the level of interfaith tolerance to create a harmonious society. This research aims to identify the main factors that lead to increased intolerance and discrimination against minority religious groups. This research also seeks to examine the obstacles faced in realizing religious freedom and tolerance in a multicultural society.

RESEARCH METHOD

The literature study approach is a research method that relies on collecting and analyzing data from relevant written sources, such as books, scientific articles and official documents. This method is often used to explore theoretical concepts and practices related to a particular topic without conducting field data collection. This research is about religious freedom and interfaith tolerance, the literature study allows researchers to understand various perspectives and previous findings related to the topic.

The implementation of research using the literature study approach involved several stages. First, the researcher identifies and collects literature relevant to the research topic. These sources may include religious texts, previous research results,

and other scholarly literature. Next, the researcher analyzes the material of the literature to identify major themes, key concepts, and significant findings.

The advantage of the literature study approach lies in its ability to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research topic based on existing sources. However, this method also has limitations, such as dependence on the availability and quality of existing literature. Therefore, it is important for researchers to be selective to choose sources and critical to analyze the material of the literature.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Religious tolerance in the midst of diversity refers to mutual respect and acceptance of differences in religious beliefs and practices among individuals or groups who have different religious backgrounds. In a multicultural society, religious tolerance is very important to create social harmony and prevent conflicts that can arise due to different views. Scientifically, religious tolerance can be understood as the result of positive social interactions, where individuals learn to respect the values and beliefs of others, even if they do not fully agree or follow the teachings. Religious tolerance can be influenced by various factors, including education, experience of interfaith interaction, and understanding of pluralism. Education that emphasizes human values and intercultural understanding can help individuals develop tolerant attitudes, while positive experiences in interacting with people from different religious backgrounds can strengthen understanding and appreciation of diversity. Religious tolerance becomes passive acceptance, and involves active efforts to build dialog, mutual understanding and cooperation among different religious groups, ultimately contributing to social stability and peace in a diverse society.

Religious tolerance is important in a diverse society as it promotes social cohesion and stability, allowing individuals from different backgrounds to coexist peacefully. Religious tolerance promotes respect for different beliefs, which is important for protecting human rights and ensuring that everyone can practice their faith without fear of discrimination or conflict. Tolerance becomes the bridge that allows individuals to coexist without fear or hostility. Religious tolerance encourages dialog and understanding between different societies, which can lead to collaborative efforts to address common social problems. Religious tolerance helps to erase stereotypes and prejudices, creating an environment where individuals can learn from each other and appreciate the richness of diverse cultures and traditions.

In an increasingly globalized world, the ability to appreciate and respect religious differences is important for international relations and cooperation. Societies that promote religious tolerance are often more resistant to extremism and violence, as they build a culture of acceptance and empathy. As such, embodying religious tolerance is both a moral obligation, and a practical needed for building harmonious and thriving societies.

The Linkage of Religious Freedom and Interfaith Tolerance to Build a Harmonious Society

Religious freedom and interfaith tolerance are two fundamental pillars for creating a harmonious society. Freedom of religion gives individuals the right to choose, embrace and practice their religion without coercion or discrimination. Meanwhile, interfaith tolerance refers to mutual respect and appreciation of differences in beliefs among various religious groups. When these two concepts are applied simultaneously, they create an environment where religious diversity can coexist peacefully (Cliteur, 2012).

In Indonesia, which is known for its ethnic, racial, linguistic and religious diversity, interfaith tolerance is key to the nation's progress. Every religious believer has an obligation to recognize and respect other religions without discriminating. This emphasizes that tolerance is about accepting differences, and appreciating and respecting the beliefs of others.

Tolerance is also considered the key to realizing inter-religious harmony. Religious harmony will be realized if we are able to develop an attitude of tolerance, which is mutual respect for one another. This shows that tolerance is the foundation for harmonious relations between different religious societies. In addition, religious moderation plays an important role in a multicultural society. Philosopher John Locke saw that tolerance must be upheld so that people of different religions can coexist peacefully. This approach to religious moderation encourages religious adherents to interact, communicate and understand each other, further strengthening social harmony (Turner, 2012).

The implementation of religious freedom without tolerance can cause friction between religious societies, because freedom that is not balanced with mutual respect can cause conflict and tension. When individuals or groups feel that their beliefs are not respected or ignored by others, they may respond defensively or even aggressively, which can trigger divisions in society. For example, in situations where one group feels that their religious freedom is threatened by another group's practices or beliefs,

this can create unmaterial and tension that leads to open conflict. Conversely, tolerance without legally guaranteed religious freedom may not be sufficient to protect the rights of individuals to practice their faith. Informal tolerance, while important, does not needed guarantee that individuals will be able to carry out their religious practices unhindered. Without clear legal protections, individuals from minority groups may still face discrimination or exclusion, which may prevent them from freely expressing their beliefs. These two elements-religious freedom and tolerance-must go hand in hand to create a harmonious society. Religious freedom provides a strong legal foundation for individuals to practice their beliefs, while tolerance creates a supportive social environment where different people can freely express their beliefs. By integrating these two elements, societies can build bridges between different groups, reduce the potential for conflict, and create a space where all individuals feel safe and valued to practice their beliefs. This approach strengthens social cohesion, and enriches collective experiences in diverse societies, making diversity a source of strength and innovation.

In a society that upholds religious freedom and tolerance, individuals feel safe and respected to practice their faith (Casanova, 2019). This promotes harmonious relationships between citizens, reduces the potential for conflict, and increases social cohesion. Religious freedom and tolerance among religious societies are human rights that must be protected, and an important foundation for the creation of a peaceful and harmonious society.

Overall, the relationship between religious freedom and the level of tolerance among religious societies is very close to creating a harmonious society. Both complement and reinforce each other, ensuring that religious diversity does not become a source of conflict, but instead a richness that enriches social life. Efforts to promote and protect these two values must continue to be made to achieve sustainable social harmony.

Factors Causing Increased Intolerance and Discrimination against Religious Minority Groups

Intolerance and discrimination against religious minorities are complex phenomena influenced by a variety of factors. Discrimination arises from ignorance or stereotypes passed down through generations, which are then reinforced by media, education and political rhetoric. A deep understanding of these factors is important for formulating effective strategies to promote tolerance and inclusion.

One of the main factors contributing to faith-based discrimination is a lack of understanding and tolerance of different beliefs. When individuals or groups do not have adequate knowledge about other religions or beliefs, they tend to develop negative stereotypes that can fuel discrimination. This ignorance often results in fear and uncertainty, which can further trigger defensive or aggressive reactions towards groups perceived as different. These negative stereotypes can create a false image of the practices and values of other religious groups, reinforcing prejudice and intolerance. The media also plays an important role in reinforcing biased views towards minority religious groups by presenting news that tends to be one-sided, as expressed by Turner (2012). When the media highlights only negative or controversial aspects of a religious group, without providing adequate context or presenting diverse viewpoints, it can reinforce harmful narratives and deepen the divide between groups. For example, news coverage that focuses on extremist acts committed by individuals from a particular religious group can lead to unfair generalizations about the entire group, ignoring the positive contributions and values shared by the majority of its members. It is important to promote understanding and tolerance through better education about religious diversity, as well as encouraging the media to present more balanced and accurate information. We can reduce negative stereotypes and discrimination, and build a more inclusive and harmonious society, where different beliefs are valued and understood.

Another significant factor to trigger religious intolerance is a radical and fanatical understanding of religion. Religious radicalism often arises from extreme interpretations of religious teachings, where individuals or groups feel that they have absolute truth and assume that their beliefs should be followed by others. This kind of thinking can encourage intolerant actions in society, where individuals who hold radical views feel entitled to express their beliefs in aggressive or harmful ways towards other religious groups. Subjective and negative thinking towards other religions is also considered a major cause of religious intolerance. When individuals or groups develop biased and condescending views towards other religions, they tend to ignore human values and human rights that should be respected. Religious exclusivism, which is the belief that only one religion is true while other religions are false, can also exacerbate this situation, as expressed by Cliteur (2012). This exclusive belief creates a sharp division between “us” and “them,”

where individuals feel threatened by the existence and practices of other religions. This leads to interfaith conflict and tension, and can hinder constructive dialog and understanding between different groups. To address this issue, it is important to promote education that emphasizes tolerance, interfaith dialogue, and a deeper understanding of the diversity of beliefs. In this way, we can reduce radicalization and fanaticism, and build a more inclusive and peaceful society, where religious differences are valued and understood as part of the richness of human culture.

Differences in doctrine, ethnicity, race, and culture between religious believers, as well as differences between majority and minority groups, are important factors that can trigger inter-religious conflict, as expressed by Casanova (2019). When these groups have different beliefs and practices, tensions often arise that can develop into open conflict. For example, doctrinal differences in religious teachings can lead to misunderstandings and negative judgments towards each other, which can further reinforce stereotypes and prejudices. Ethnic and racial differences often interact with religious identity, creating layers of complexity that can exacerbate tensions. Majority groups may feel threatened by the presence of minority groups, which can lead to marginalization and discrimination. The lack of role of the government and country apparatus to handle inter-religious conflict situations can make matters worse, as injustice and dissatisfaction can create opportunities for certain provocateurs to take advantage of the situation. These provocateurs can fuel further tensions by spreading misleading information, manipulating people's emotions, or even committing acts of violence. When governments do not take proactive steps to encourage interfaith dialogue, protect the rights of minority groups, and enforce the law fairly, they indirectly provide space for conflict to flourish. It is important for governments and relevant agencies to play an active role in creating an enabling environment for tolerance and understanding, as well as addressing injustices that can fuel conflict. With an inclusive and fair approach, it is hoped to reduce the potential for interfaith conflict and build a more harmonious society.

The spread of false information, propaganda, divide and conquer, extreme mindsets and misinterpretation of religion are the main factors that contribute to the rise of intolerance in society. Inaccurate or misleading information can rapidly spread through various channels, including social media, and often triggers fear and hatred towards certain groups.

When individuals are exposed to propaganda designed to create division, they tend to internalize harmful stereotypes and prejudices, further reinforcing intolerant attitudes. As Turner (2012) points out, stereotypes and discrimination create negative views of other groups, and hinder constructive dialog and deeper understanding. In addition, a lack of knowledge or understanding of diversity is also a contributing factor to intolerance. When people do not have an adequate understanding of other cultures, religions or beliefs, they tend to develop defensive attitudes and reject differences, which can lead to intolerance. This ignorance is often accompanied by fear of the unknown, which can trigger negative reactions towards groups perceived as different. Therefore, it is important to increase education and awareness about diversity, and encourage positive intercultural interactions. By providing accurate information and building a better understanding of differences, we can reduce stereotypes and prejudice, and create a more inclusive and tolerant society. This approach will help address intolerance, and strengthen social cohesion and enrich collective experiences in diverse societies.

The existence of stigma or prejudice and regulations that limit the rights of minority societies are significant sources of discrimination against minority religious groups. Social stigma often arises from a lack of understanding and fear of difference, which can cause majority societies to perceive minority groups as threatening or inferior. This creates a hostile environment for individuals from minority groups, and can lead to discriminatory policies and regulations, such as restrictions on freedom of worship, access to education, or public services. When such regulations are implemented, they reinforce the marginalized position of minority groups and prevent them from fully participating in society. Political factors cannot be ignored in relation to this discrimination. Some groups or individuals often utilize religious issues to achieve certain political goals, using fear and hatred of other religious groups as a tool to gain support. Politicians or leaders may use divisive rhetoric to garner support from their voter base, by creating narratives that portray minority groups as enemies or threats to societal values. These tactics exacerbate interfaith tensions, and can trigger violence and wider conflict. It is important to address stigma and prejudice through interfaith education and dialogue, and to ensure that public policies support the rights of all groups, regardless of religious background. We can create a more inclusive and just society, where all individuals, regardless of their faith, can live safely and with respect.

Overall, various factors such as lack of understanding, radicalism, cultural differences, the spread of false information, and political factors contribute to the rise of intolerance and discrimination against minority religious groups. Lack of understanding often arises from individuals' inability to recognize and appreciate differences in beliefs, which can lead to negative stereotypes and prejudices. Radicalism, whether originating from individuals or groups, can exacerbate the situation by promoting ideologies that reject diversity and encourage violent acts against those perceived to be different. Poorly understood cultural differences can create a divide between majority and minority groups, often leading to conflict. The spread of false information through social media and other digital platforms also plays an important role in reinforcing intolerance, as misleading news can fuel fear and hatred towards certain groups. Political factors, where government policies and rhetoric can influence public perceptions of minority religious groups, also contribute to increased discrimination. When political leaders use divisive rhetoric or discredit certain groups, this can exacerbate social tensions and create an unsafe environment for minority groups.

It is important for governments, societies and individuals to work together to address these factors to create a more inclusive and tolerant society. Governments need to take proactive steps to formulate policies that support diversity and protect the rights of minority religious groups. This includes education that emphasizes the values of tolerance and respect for differences, as well as campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of peaceful coexistence. Society also has an important role to play in building bridges between different groups through interfaith dialog and society activities that involve all walks of life. Individuals, on the other hand, must commit to educating themselves about the beliefs and practices of others, and refuse to engage in the dissemination of false information that could damage inter-group relations. With strong collaboration between governments, societies and individuals, we can create a safer and more harmonious environment, where everyone, regardless of their religious background, can live with dignity and mutual respect.

Obstacles to Realizing Religious Freedom and Tolerance in Multicultural Societies

Realizing religious freedom and tolerance in a multicultural society faces complex obstacles. One of the main obstacles is the lack of understanding and

respect for religious differences. The unclear boundary between individual rights and group rights in society can trigger negative claims against different religious groups, such as accusations of deviance or infidelity. This suggests that the inability of individuals to accept differences is a major source of conflict in multicultural societies.

The development of extreme and radical religious understandings and practices is also a significant obstacle. Religious understanding that goes beyond the limits and extremes can lead to intolerant attitudes towards other religious groups, which in turn threatens harmony in a multicultural society (Baidhaw, 2013).

The lack of multicultural education that instills the values of tolerance contributes significantly to the obstacles to creating an inclusive and harmonious society. When individuals are not equipped with an adequate understanding of the importance of respecting differences, they tend to develop defensive or even aggressive attitudes towards religious minority groups. This can lead to increased discrimination and intolerance, as expressed by Casanova (2019). Without education that promotes an understanding of cultural and religious diversity, individuals may not realize the positive values that can be gained from interacting with people from different backgrounds. Multicultural education serves to broaden horizons and reduce stereotypes, by providing accurate information about the different traditions, beliefs and practices that exist in society. It also teaches the social skills needed to interact positively with others and build empathy and mutual respect. Baidhaw (2013) emphasizes that multicultural education plays an important role in shaping tolerant attitudes in society because through an inclusive learning process, individuals can learn to appreciate differences and understand that diversity is a strength, not a threat. Investment in multicultural education is important to reduce discrimination and to build a more cohesive and peaceful society where all individuals, regardless of their religious or cultural background, can coexist with mutual understanding.

Religious fanaticism and radicalism are significant obstacles to creating a harmonious environment, as these attitudes often lead to intolerance and interfaith conflict. When individuals or groups adopt fanatical views, they tend to see their beliefs as the only absolute truth, leading to a rejection of the existence and practice of other religions. This attitude can trigger tension and conflict, as fanaticism is often accompanied by a desire to dominate or change the beliefs of others,

which can lead to aggressive or violent actions. Radicalism, on the other hand, often involves extreme interpretations of religious teachings that can drive individuals to commit harmful acts, both against themselves and others. As expressed by Abbas (2011), radicalization can create an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty in society, where individuals feel threatened by extreme ideologies and unpredictable behaviour. Efforts to realize religious tolerance and freedom are becoming increasingly difficult, as societies are trapped in a cycle of tension and conflict caused by profound differences in views. It is important to address bigotry and radicalism through education that emphasizes the values of tolerance, interfaith dialogue and a deeper understanding of diversity. Society can build a stronger foundation for creating a harmonious environment, where differences are respected and individuals can practice their beliefs safely and freely. This approach will reduce the potential for conflict, and strengthen social cohesion and enrich the collective experience in a diverse society.

Lack of interfaith dialogue and positive interactions between religious groups can reinforce prejudices and negative stereotypes, further creating an unfavorable environment for tolerance and religious freedom. When individuals or groups do not have the opportunity to interact directly with people from different religious backgrounds, they tend to rely on inaccurate information or biased views that are often propagated through media or social narratives. This can lead to the reinforcement of harmful stereotypes, where certain groups are seen as threatening or inferior without a deep understanding of their beliefs and practices. Without efforts to understand each other through constructive dialog, misunderstandings and tensions between religious groups can increase, creating a cycle of mistrust and conflict that is difficult to break. Open and honest interfaith dialog allows individuals to share experiences, discuss differences, and find common ground, which is important for building mutual respect and empathy. When religious groups engage in productive conversations, they can overcome existing prejudices and reduce tensions, creating a safer space for religious freedom. It is important to encourage initiatives that facilitate interfaith dialogue, such as society forums, educational programs, and cross-cultural activities, which can help build bridges between different groups. In this way, society can move towards better understanding and create a more inclusive environment, where differences are valued and individuals can practice their faith safely and freely.

The role of the media to disseminate information is crucial, but it can be a significant obstacle if not managed wisely. The media has the power to shape public opinion and influence people's perceptions of certain groups, including in religious contexts. When reporting is done in a way that is biased or negatively emphasizes differences, it can exacerbate tensions between religious groups. For example, if the media more frequently highlights extremist acts committed by individuals from a particular religious group without providing adequate context or presenting a broader perspective, the public may develop adverse stereotypes and negative views of the entire group. This unbalanced coverage creates injustice, and hinders efforts to promote religious tolerance and freedom, as society becomes more polarized and less open to dialogue. Social media, as an increasingly dominant platform, often accelerates the spread of inaccurate or provocative information, which can trigger emotional reactions and conflict. It is important for journalists and media organizations to apply ethical principles in their coverage, including verification of facts, fair presentation, and accurate representation of all groups. By managing information wisely, the media can serve as a tool to build bridges between groups, promote understanding, and support efforts to create a more tolerant and harmonious society. Media literacy education is also important, so that people can more critically assess the information they receive and avoid getting caught up in divisive narratives.

Government policies that are unfair or discriminatory towards certain religious groups can exacerbate situations of intolerance and discrimination in society. When regulations restrict the rights of religious minorities, such as freedom of worship, access to education, or participation in public life, it creates an unfavorable environment for such groups. Biased law enforcement, where law enforcement officials are more likely to target or treat certain religious groups unfairly, can also create a deep sense of injustice among societies. This injustice undermines individuals' trust in government institutions, and reinforces existing negative stereotypes and prejudices, creating a cycle of discrimination that is difficult to break. When minority groups feel marginalized and disrespected, they may become more defensive and less open to dialogue with majority groups, which can further exacerbate interfaith tensions. This situation hinders the realization of religious freedom and tolerance in a multicultural society, as individuals feel that their rights are not recognized or protected. It is important for governments to implement fair and inclusive policies, which respect and protect the rights of all religious.

This includes creating regulations that support diversity, as well as ensuring that law enforcement is conducted fairly and without bias. With these measures, the government can act as a facilitator to build a more harmonious society, where all individuals, regardless of their religious background, can coexist with mutual respect.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this research confirms that religious freedom and interfaith tolerance play a crucial role in building a harmonious society. The global phenomenon shows that societies that uphold religious freedom tend to be more peaceful and stable, while intolerance is the main source of social conflict. The main factors leading to increased intolerance and discrimination against religious minorities include a lack of understanding of diversity, religious radicalism, and discriminatory policies that exacerbate social injustice. Obstacles to realizing religious freedom and tolerance in a multicultural society also include the lack of multicultural education, the biased role of the media, and the lack of constructive interfaith dialogue.

It is important for the government, educational institutions and society at large to actively promote the values of tolerance and inclusiveness. Policies that support religious freedom must be fairly enforced, and education efforts on diversity must be strengthened from an early age to build collective awareness of the importance of peaceful coexistence. The media also has a responsibility to convey unbiased information and educate the public on the importance of respecting differences. With a joint commitment from various parties, a more harmonious and just society can be realized, where every individual is free to practice their beliefs without fear of discrimination or oppression.

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