



ISLAM & LIBERTY NETWORK

7th International Islam & Liberty Conference **ISLAMIC CASE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

11-12 November 2019

Jakarta

Islam & Liberty Network (L) Foundation

Partners

Fatayat Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia

International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), Malaysia

Religious Freedom Institute, USA

Supporters

Network for a Free Society

Atlas Network



7th International Islam & Liberty Conference

ISLAMIC CASE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Islam & Liberty Network is pleased to announce its 7th International Conference “Islamic Case for Religious Freedom” to be organized on 11-12 November 2019 in Jakarta. This conference is being held in partnership with Fatayat Nahdlatul Ulama (Indonesia), International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (Malaysia) and Religious Freedom Institute (USA). Speakers and participants include more than 20 eminent academicians, intellectuals, researchers, practitioners and community leaders from various countries from Asia, Africa, Middle East, USA and Europe. Topics include religious freedom, apostasy, blasphemy, status of minorities, and relationship with political and economic freedom in the Islamic discourse and Muslim context.

Religious freedom is the civic right of persons and religious communities to practice, express, change, renounce and spread their religion. Free expression of religion allows pluralistic religious organizations to exist within modern nation states. They provide volatile societies with models of peaceful coexistence. To ensure religious freedom, most governments provide constitutional safeguards and institutions.

Islam recognizes religious freedom on the basis of Quranic evidence such as “There shall be no compulsion in religion” (2:256). Religious freedom was later affirmed and demonstrated through the ‘Charter of Medina’, signed by the Prophet Muhammad and the citizens of Medina guaranteeing religious liberty for all communities.

This Conference is needed especially now, due to the growth of illiberalism at both political, economic and social levels, and not just within Muslim majority countries. As national security becomes a predominant concern, it is often used as an excuse for curbing civil freedoms, including religious freedom. We believe that this conference will help in the promotion of equality and human rights and their enforcement in Muslim majority countries. It will also help in improving general understanding about perceived gaps between Islam and religious freedom.

The organiser of 7th International Conference is the Islam and Liberty Network (L) Foundation, which is legally organised as a non-profit Labuan foundation registered in Malaysia and is governed by an international board of directors. Founded in 2011, it is a platform for researchers, academics and public intellectuals to explore and promote a Muslim case for religious, economic and political freedom by disseminating knowledge and developing human resources. We are funded by like-minded foundations and individuals.

For free registration in the conference, please follow this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdAIKw1TNXLo0L_YAM2vaut0G_Hw_nix13sM2MnReLqqid5j9Q/viewform.

ISLAMIC CASE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Agenda

Day 1: 11th November 2019

8.30 am: Registration

Inaugural Session: 9.00 am to 10.30 am

Opening Remarks

9.00 am: Anggia Ermarini, MKM, General Chairperson, Fatayat Nahdlatul Ulama

9.10 am: Ali Salman, CEO, Islam & Liberty Network

9.20 am: Timothy Shah, Vice President, Religious Freedom Institute

9.30 am: Opening Address:

KH Said Aqil Siradj, Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia

Key Note Address

10.00 am: Freedom of Religion and Apostasy: Issues, Responses and Developments
Mohammad Hashim Kamali, CEO, IAIS, Malaysia

10.30 am: Q&A

10.50 am: Group Photograph

11.00 am: Tea Break

Session 1: 11.30 am- 1.00 pm

Theory & Theology of Religious Freedom

Session Chair: Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, Deputy CEO, IAIS Malaysia

- The Concept of Freedom (Hurriyya) and Natural Rights in Classical Islamic Jurisprudence, *Hakan Çoruh, Australia*
- Between “Religious Intolerance” and “Holy Ignorance”: Discussion of Misconceptions about Religious Freedom, *Ali Hassannia, Iran*
- Apostasy, Religious Freedom and Individual Liberty: Textual and Contextual Analysis of Classical, Islamist and Post-Islamist Narratives
Fida Ur Rahman & Sumaira Batool, Pakistan

Lunch break: 1.00 pm- 2.00 pm

Session 2: 2.00 pm- 3.30 pm

Religious Freedom and Constitutional Frameworks

Session Chair: Farahnaz Ispahani - Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center

- Religious Freedom in a Muslim Democracy: Case of new Tunisian Constitution
Amel Azzouz, former member of Tunisian Constituent Assembly, Tunisia
- Revisiting Religious Freedom in 'Secular' and 'Islamic' Constitution
Azeemah Saleem, India
- The Ahmediyya question, the response of Muslim Scholars, and the (im)possibility of religious co-existence in Contemporary Islamic Thought
Hussain Gattoo Mujeeb & Zubair Ahmad Bader, India

Tea Break: 3.30 pm-4.00 pm

Session 3: 4.00 pm-5.30 pm

Religious Freedom, Harmony and Inclusion

Session Chair: Timothy Shah

- Secularism, Islamism and Religious Minorities: the Case of Bangladesh
A.K.M Iftekharul Islam, Bangladesh
- Dialectics of Religious Freedom and Harmony in Post-Reform Indonesia
Dicky Sofjan and Syamsul Asri, Indonesia
- IMAN: Efforts for Religious Freedom in Nepal
Mohd. Izharul Haque Mikrani, Nepal
- Discussant: *Robert Hefner - Director, Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA), Boston University*

End of Day 1

Day 2: 12th November 2019

8.30 am: Registration

Session 1: 9.00 am- 10.30 am

Blasphemy Law: Issues & Challenges

Session Chair: Irfan Engineer - Director, Centre for Study of Society and Secularism

- The Revival of Blasphemy Law in the Democratizing Indonesia
Zainal Abidin Bagir, Indonesia
- Blasphemy Law in Pakistan (video recorded lecture)
Ismail Royer, Fellow, Religious Freedom Institute
- Upholding The Principle of Proportionality in the Malaysian Hate Speech Laws
Muhammad Faisal Abdul Aziz, President Muslim Youth Movement Malaysia (ABIM)

Tea Break: 10.30 am- 11.00 am

Session 2: 11.00 am- 12.30 pm

Religious, Political and Economic Freedom: Inter-relationships

Session Chair: Rebecca Shah

- Does democracy positively affect religious freedom? A case Study of Pakistan
Saeed Ahmed Rid, Pakistan
- The Role of Freedom of Religion and Political Regime for Human Development Indices
Jani Kinnunen & Irina Georgescu, Finland
- Religious Freedom and Economic Development: A Conceptual and Empirical Review
Waqas Ahmed, Pakistan
- Islam, State and Freedom
Nasarudin Umar, Indonesia

Lunch Break: 12.30 pm- 1.30 pm

Session 3: 1.30 pm- 2.30 pm

Non-Muslims in Muslim-majority countries

Session Chair: Ali Salman

- Jews in Iran since the Islamic Revolution: Social Status and Anti-Semitism
Ankita Sanyal, India
- Reflections & Perspective from Malaysia
Eugene Yapp, Senior Fellow, Religious Freedom Institute, Malaysia

Session 4: 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Muslim & Non-Muslim Relationship

Session chair: Dr. Almut Besold

- The Jurisprudential Principles of Equality between Muslims and Non-Muslims in Sharia
Abbas Mehregan, Iran
- Attitude of Muslim Ummah towards Non-Muslims: Theory and Practice
Md. Thowhidul Islam and Dr. Md. Ataur Rahman Miazi, Bangladesh
- Minority at Home and Abroad: The Islamic Theory and its Challenge
Md. Moniruzzaman, Malaysia

Concluding Panel Session: 4.00 pm- 5.15 pm

Take-away messages: Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil

Vote of thanks: Ali Salman, CEO, Islam & Liberty Network

Future Strategy: Open Discussions (for speakers and session chairs only)

Reception: 5.15 pm- 5.45 pm

For details, contact support@islamandlibertynetwork.org