

CHILDREN WANT PEACE

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Peace is for everyone to live in peace, tranquility, and harmony without interruption, harassment, conflict, and war. God gives peace and religion to teach and establish the values of peace for all His creatures in the universe.

Therefore, every religious person must be a role-model in spreading and practicing peaceful lives for all. This includes creating peace for the children.

Peace for children

Children are God's precious gifts whose potential need to be developed as the generation who create civilization. Children from childhood must live in positive parenting and environment so that when they become adults they will become mature physically, psychologically, socially and humanly as God's creatures who give meaningful lives to their environment.

In particular children need peaceful worlds. A world that gives them a sense of security, comfort, safety, and fun

so that they grow into people who live in an atmosphere of harmony. Living in harmony with himself and his environment both at home, school and other social spaces.

Children must also be protected from any action and environment with full of negative pressures, violence, sexual harassment, conflict, war, and things that are detrimental to their lives. In any war zones, refugee camps, and places which are unsafe, children and women often become victims physically and psychologically.

Also in some extent, poverty often makes children unable to enjoy a peaceful life, even though in any social stratum it is common for mistreatment of children. The mistreatment of children due to the weak perception on them occur in general, so that it becomes a universal problem in the entire world.

Thus, parents, relatives, social environment, and all powerful including the state must provide an atmosphere and peaceful treatment for children everywhere without exception. The life of children must also be free from all forms of conflict, war, oppression, violence and discrimination. Children fully need a peaceful life on earth.

Specifically, the state or each government also has a political or public-goods obligation to create a public space for the creation of a peaceful life for every citizen, including the children. The state or government must not create war and all forms of conflict and violence that cause the loss of peace. Children and citizens who are born in an atmosphere

with full of conflict, war and violence will tend to have negative trauma which usually triggers violence, extreme attitudes and loss of normal tolerance.

The Function of Religion

Religions teach the followers to live peacefully and spread peace with all humans without discrimination and with all God's creatures and their environment. On the other hand, any religion opposes conflict, violence, war, and all forms of actions that damage lives.

Islam, for example, is a religion that has the meaning of peace and salvation, which spreads the mission of rahmatan lil-'alamin (Surah Al-Anbiya: 107), which brings good to the universe without exception. The differences in religion, ethnicity, race, class, gender, etc. will not prevent all human beings from living peacefully without discrimination.

In the view of Islam, children must be protected and their potential life must be developed so that they do not become "durriyatan dhi'afa" (QS An-Nisa: 9), the weak generation who is weak physically, mentally, intellectually, socially, and humanely. As God's creatures they have the right to live well wherever they are.

In the context of creating peace, children must not only obtain peaceful treatment by anyone, but they must also be educated from childhood to become agents of peaceful life and spread the values of peace with others and their environment. We need to make children familiar to learn

friendship, affection, tolerance, and do acts of kindness with others and their environment since early years. Also, we need to give space for children to be ambassadors of peace wherever they live.

The values of peaceful life taught by religions have to do with compassion, tolerance, justice, and the kindness. These peaceful values are important to continue to be instilled and socialized in the lives of children in families, schools or educational institutions, and in every social environment. Family and education must function as an institution that instills and promotes a peaceful life for children and their environment that creates a culture of peace.

'Aisyiyah and the Child Peace Agenda

Religious organizations and civil society - other than the state or government - have an important role in creating and developing the role of peace and realizing a culture of peaceful life. These social organizations have a position and role as social agents of peace.

Aisyiyah-Muhammadiyah is an Islamic women's movement in Indonesia that was founded in 1917 which is engaged in various fields including education, health, social services, economic empowerment, community empowerment, and other community-based programs.

Aisyiyah has social experiences and programs for peace for children through educational programs. Educational institutions managed by Aisyiyah varies from Kindergarten

level, elementary and secondary level to tertiary level. Through child education, Aisyiyah was a pioneer in the establishment of early childhood education through Bustanul Atfhal Kindergarten. In 1919, 'Aisyiyah founded a play group or Fröbel Kindergarten which was later called Aisyiyah Busthanul Atfhal Kindergarten.

Through education, Aisyiyah instilled the values of compassion, honesty, togetherness, justice, tolerance, love for the country, and multicultural human values. With more than 19,000 kindergartens, hundreds of primary and secondary schools, and 13 colleges, each year Aisyiyah can create a culture and peaceful behavior for tens of thousands of children in Indonesia.

Another agenda carried out by Aisyiyah is the "child love movement" (GACA) program and "social advocacy" as a unity in the community movement for the protection of children and women whose actors are Aisyiyah volunteers in each local community environment.

Aisyiyah develops social and humanitarian advocacy programs and multicultural education in areas of conflict, disaster and socially vulnerable areas that have an impact on the development of peaceful life and conflict resolution. Aisyiyah also developed the "Women's Leadership" program to develop the potential and empowerment of women as social agents in the local community.

Aisyiyah's commitment and role in the program of realizing a peaceful life with nonviolence and mistreatment

of children is an effort to protect and fulfill the rights of child guaranteed by international conventions and the constitution in Indonesia. Therefore, Aisyiyah invites all parties in all countries and civil society forces to collaborate in realizing a peaceful world for children and to give great hope and a better way of life in creating peace for the peaceful future of the universal humanity.