

Interfaith Harmony Week – Mosintuwu Poso INDONESIA

Mosintuwu Institute organized two important events in the series of Interfaith Harmony Week: the discussion of religious perspectives in peacebuilding, and peace dance. This event was attended by members of the Interfaith Women School 1st and 2nd batch. Discussion begins with a roundtable discussion at the 4 area of Interfaith Women School: Sayo, Patiwunga Watuawu, and Pamona village. Discussion was held in the village on 4, 6 to 8 February 2013. In all four areas discussion is attended 20 members consisting of Muslims, Christians and Hindus. This discussion discuss about religion perspectives in peace-building process in post-conflict areas. This discussion is not attended by religious leaders but rather emphasize how grassroots reflection on the religious perspective in peace. Participants were mostly women express their reflections as victim as well as survivors of the conflict in Poso. Most of the participants in the discussion agreed that the Poso conflict is not a religious conflict but a conflict of political interests. It was also agreed that religions have a mission of peace, so that the people must to engage in peace-building movement campaigning. This discussion also responds to the issue of terrorism in Poso who use religious issues. Muslim participants said that a people who involved in terrorism are not understand with their own religious and misinterpretation of the purpose of religion. Discussion then continued by discussing how the method could be developed together to campaign together interfaith movement in Poso. After a long discussion, it was agreed that the group of women who are members of the Interfaith Women School of will cooperate in the economy, the handling of cases of violence against women and children, and continue the discussion in collective action to clearing 100 houses of worship of Islam, Christianity, Hinduism in Poso district during 2013 and action dancing together for justice and peace. Action with 100 houses of worship are expected to provide an overview to the communities in Poso and in the world that religions can work together to build peace, and it is not impossible, including in post-conflict areas.

One form of other actions that followed was a campaign against violence in Poso through dance. This action was done in conjunction with One Billion Rising action conducted around the world. In Poso, the action followed by more than 100 women and children from 24 villages in Poso and consists of Muslims, Christians and Hindus is not just a campaign against violence on women and children, but also the first movement in public spaces by women and children to campaign for anti any form of violence in the resolution of problems in Poso. This action took place on February 14, 2013 in downtown Poso for 1 hour with a 500-meter dance.

The roundtable discussion is followed by a discussion between Mosintuwu Institute and the Muslim Youth in Poso (Himpinan Pemuda Alkhairat) that agree to broaden cooperation interfaith movement in Poso by involving youth.