

**NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 2021** 

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#### FOREWORD

#### **Everyone can be Agent of Change**

Collaboration for tolerance is essential in today's preservation peace efforts. Likewise, а partnership between the government, the community, religious leaders, schools, and teachers is important so that the rights of every citizen can continue to be protected and fulfilled.

We must continue to maintain the treatment of past conflicts and increase a sense of tolerance. Persuasive prevention efforts are much more critical than responsive efforts when there is a conflict.

We are grateful to be in partnership with local organizations in three provinces, West Java, East Java, and South Sulawesi. This collaboration becomes a fundamental foundation to achieve our common goal, increasing understanding of the values of tolerance, pluralism, gender equality, and social inclusion.

On the other hand, we also salute and appreciate the meaningful participation from teachers and parents in CREATE's activities. Participation like this is proof that we cannot separate the success of our mission from the role of teachers and parents. We believe that the commitment and involvement of teachers and parents is a strong modality for the younger generation to embrace and manage differences in the future.

We also salute the youth generation who dare to express their opinions. Youth voices are fuel to foster change and to solve crisis of tolerance in our society.

Because everyone has the right to speak, everyone can be an agent of change.

#### **Mohamad Migdad**

DISCI AIMER

Project Manager CREATE Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial (An affiliated organization of Hivos)

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#### **NEW PARTNER**

### New Partners in Three Provinces and The Participation of Three Islamic High Schools in South Sulawesi

Creative Youth for Tolerance program (CREATE) aims to improve pluralism and tolerance in schools using art and culturalbased approaches. CREATE was designed to address worrying signs of intolerance and the promotion of exclusivist religious practices and beliefs in schools which also contribute to threatening the Indonesian democracy and shared values.

Entering the second year of the program, CREATE recruited new partners in the three targets, Youth Interfaith Forum on Sexuality (YIFOS) in West Java, Center for Marginalized Communities Studies (CMARs) in East Java, and Lembaga Advokasi dan Pendidikan Anak Rakyat (LAPAR) in South Sulawesi. CREATE also has a new partner at national level who will play an important role as media relation and engagement, Rombak Media. These partners will help CREATE program to build more substantial engagement with the local government, facilitate quick responses to critical cases, and align the program with the appropriate contexts in each target province. In addition, local partners will help CREATE in providing efficient and effective management and support for the Field Officers and Art Facilitators, who are also based in target provinces. While nationally, Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial will play active roles in coordination and implementation together with one national partner and Perkumpulan Pamflet Generasi. Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial will also assist the local partners, including provide them with intensive capacity buildings and day-to-day guidances.

Exciting news came from South Sulawesi. Three Islamic state high schools (madrasah) in South Sulawesi, MAN 1 Makassar, MAN 2 Makassar, and MAN 3 Makassar joined the collaboration with CREATE.

The collaboration began in April 2021. During the partnership, CREATE consortium intensively communicate with schools regarding the implementation of program activities. In addition, schools will support the implementation of program activities by actively participating in various CREATE activities.

### **CREATE Consortium Organizations - Year 2**





#### RAMADAN TOLERAN

### **Create Talks for Teacher and Parents**

One of the activities that focus on increasing awareness of the issue and improving the capacity of parents and teachers to promote and monitor tolerance and pluralism practices at schools is CREATE Talks "Ramadan Toleran." In these series of talks, CREATE invited powerful local actors in tolerance, pluralism, and peace issues of three targeted provinces to share their knowledge and ideas with teachers and parents.



#### **CREATE Talks "Ramadan Toleran" in South Sulawesi**

CREATE Talks for Teachers and Parents in South Sulawesi took place on Wednesday, 28 April 2021. The speaker for this activity was Lian Gogali, Founder of Mosintuwu Institute, a grassroots organization based in Poso Regency, Central Sulawesi. The chairperson of the webinar was Harnita Rahman, who is the Director and Founder of Kedai Buku Jenny, a literacy community in Makassar, South Sulawesi. The webinar was conducted on Zoom and broadcasted live through Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial's YouTube channel. As the main activity of the CREATE Talks, Lian Gogali as the main speaker provided information on the urgency of women leadership beyond terror based on her experience in her hometown, through her safeguards in mentoring and establishing Sekolah Perempuan in Poso. Currently, Lian is developing a critical education curriculum with villagers through the Village reform school in 25 villages in Central Sulawesi and initiating the Mosintuwu Garden. Together with Sekolah Perempuan graduates, since 2016 they have developed a team of women village reformers who are actively engaged in the movement for sovereignty in the village. More than 100 women who graduate from Sekolah Perempuan become actively involved in the village's decision-making processes, including becoming village heads, as well as leading the community by creating jobs or doing advocacy in the village.

Lian emphasized the importance of building an alternative post-conflict history and unraveling the previous history. It is important for women and children to organize to unravel the sentiments and stories about conflicts that are widely publicized in the mass media and open stories of tolerance.



#### **CREATE Talks "Ramadan Toleran" in West Java**



The theme of the CREATE Talks "Ramadan Toleran" on 29 April 2021 was: "West Java as province with least Freedom of Religion and Beliefs: "The Role of Parents and Teachers." The resource person spoke about how intolerance works and how parents and teachers could anticipate the signs of intolerant practices.

Gus Roy, as known as Roy Murthado, shared the story of the daily experiences of teenagers who have started to join as sympathizers of intolerant religious leaders, and the experiences of teenagers who have become victims of intolerance practices due to their minority backgrounds.

After bringing the participants to brainstorm the experiences of teenagers, the resource person described the daily experiences of parents of adolescents who were the targets of lectures by antidiversity religious leaders. These anti-diversity religious leaders brought suspicion of other communities as the source of problems and disasters that occurred in Indonesia.

Gus Roy described the concept of the "Paradox of Freedom" is related to the causes of intolerant acts that have occurred so far. Freedom of information should become a space for the dissemination of ideas and knowledge. However, in reality, freedom of expression on the contrary became a 'blanket' to protect and justify the ideas of puritanism, including practices of racial hatred and religious hatred.



#### **CREATE Talks "Ramadan Toleran" in East Java**

CREATE Talks for Teachers and Parents in East Java took place on May 3, 2021. The speaker for this activity was Khanis Suvianita, a volunteering for COVID-19 psychologist Hotline and psychologist for the victims of violence for women, youth and minority groups. The chairperson of the webinar was Lina Agnesia, CREATE's Art Facilitator from East Java. The webinar was conducted on Zoom and broadcasted live through Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial YouTube's Channel.



Khanis Suvianita, as the main speaker, provided information on how the pandemic changed the behavior and psychological conditions of youth and children. Khanis emphasized there was a big difference after children were forced to stay at home most of their time; before the pandemic, children and youth could meet their friends outside while now they should live at home longer than usual and their world was limited to the small room and screen of their gadget.

The intimate interactions are now done virtually. However, many youths are not aware that their conversations, videos, and pictures they post on social media could cause a backfire for themselves. In some cases, there were women students who got threatened by their boyfriends using intimate video calls, pictures, and screenshots of their conversations.

Being isolated at home with supporting facilities and environment is a privilege. Not all children and youth get adequate space and facility to access the distance learning and to have a proper break from fatigue. The "break" here can be in the form of a spacious room and house and the relations among parents and between them and their parents.

### "The material presented is perfect, especially for me as a teacher. One thing that really impressed me was the statement from Gus Roy that 'if a wrong behavior is allowed, it will be justified.'"

Dwi Yuli Koraini - Teacher, Participant from West Java

### "Consultation with experts for mental health problems is essential and needed, especially during a pandemic. So teachers, lecturers, parents, and students must take care of each other's health."

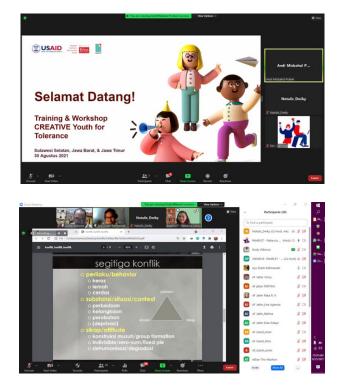
Agie Nugroho Soegiono -Lecturers, Participant from East Java



#### YOUTH ACTIVIST FOR TOLERANCE

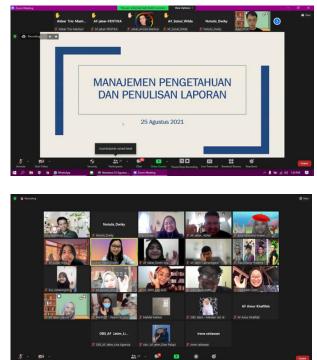
### **Capacity Building for Field Officers, Art Facilitators, and Digital Facilitators**

The basic knowledge training for Field Officer (FO), Art Facilitators (AF), and Digital Facilitator (DF) in the capacity building series was held on August 24-25, 2021, August 30-31, 2021, and September 1, 2021. All activities were conducted using the Zoom Meeting Room.



This capacity building series covered three topics by three different resource persons. Dody Wibowo, a part-time lecturer at Master Program in Peace and Conflict Resolution of Universitas Gadjah Mada, and had led the baseline study team for the CREATE program, presented the first topic on tolerance and pluralism. Then, Dody would present a discussion to strengthen participants' understanding concerning individual responses to diversity in general.

The second topic was gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), which was presented by Elsa Desi Mampakrouw, a Paralegal of the National Indonesian Social Change Organization (OPSI) in the Community Empowerment and Assistance program or LGBT groups and women sex workers.



This session discussed the layers of identity affecting the rights of individuals to achieve equality and inclusion she had discovered during her work experiences.

The third topic, art pedagogy, was presented by Angga Wijaya, a program manager, lecturer, and one of the authors of PRESISI (Strengthening the Character of Independent Students through an Art Creation), in collaboration with the Directorate General of Culture, Ministry of Education and Culture in 2020. Angga described the learning strategies, especially regarding certain characters and values, through a projectbased art approach.



#### TEACHER TRAINING AND WORKSHOP

### **Teachers in Peacebuilding: Collaboration for Tolerance**

After securing commitments with 23 schools and 3 Islamic senior high schools in three target provinces, CREATE will continue conducting activities that encourage students to take active roles in promoting tolerance and pluralism in schools as well as engaging teachers and parents to get involved considering their important roles in promoting and monitoring tolerance and pluralism at school.

Teachers, in particular, have an important role in creating peace in the educational environment. In addition to providing students with education through teaching and learning process, teachers can also facilitate necessary changes to promote tolerance and peace at school. In various contexts, teachers are the first to have direct contact with students in the learning process and inculcate noble values to nurture tolerance both among students and in the wider school environment.

One of the activities that focus on improving the capacity of teachers to promote and monitor tolerance and pluralism practices at schools was a series of training and workshops for public high school and Islamic state high schools (madrasah) teachers in each targeted district in West Java, East Java, and South Sulawesi, namely Bandung, Bogor, Surabaya, Malang, Makassar, and Gowa.





Malang Pelatihan dan Lokakarya "Guru Bina Damai: Kolaborasi untuk Toleransi"		27 Juli - 11 Agustus 2021
Toleransi, Perdamaian, dan Bina Damai.	Selasa, 27 Juli 2021	10:00 - 17:00 WIB
Konflik dan Kekerasan.	Kamis, 29 Juli 2021	11:00 - 17:00 WIB
Intoleransi di Indonesia.	Selasa, 3 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WIB
Ke(tidak)setaraan Pen- didikan di Indonesia	Kamis, 5 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WIB
Lokakarya Tindak Lanjut Registrasi via	Rabu, 11 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WIB
Link Registrasi: https://bit.ly/RegistrasiGuruBinal		

Gowa Pelatihan dan Lokakarya "Guru Bina Damai: Kolaborasi untuk Toleransi"		27 Juli - 11 Agust 2021
Sesi pelatihan/ lokakarya	Hari dan tanggal	Waktu
Peran Guru dalam Toler- ansi dan Bina Damai	Selasa, 27 Juli 2021	10:00 - 17:00 WITA
Memahami Konflik dan Kekerasan	Kamis, 29 Juli 2021	11:00 - 17:00 WITA
Intoleransi di Indonesia	Selasa, 3 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WITA
Ke(tidak)setaraan Pen- didikan di Indonesia	Kamis, 5 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WITA
Lokakarya Rencana Tindak Lanjut Registrasi via	Rabu, 11 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WITA
Link Registrasi: https://bit.ly/RegistrasiGuruBinal		

Bogor Pelatihan dan Lokakarya "Guru Bina Damai: Kolaborasi untuk Toleransi"		27 Juli - 10 Agustus 2021
Sesi pelatihan/ lokakarya	Hari dan tanggal	Waktu
Toleransi, Perdamaian, dan Bina Damai	Selasa, 27 Juli 2021	10:00 - 17:00 WIB
Konflik dan Kekerasan	Kamis, 29 Juli 2021	11:00 - 17:00 WIB
Intoleransi di Indonesia	Selasa, 3 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WIB
Ke(tidak)setaraan Pen- didikan di Indonesia	Kamis, 5 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WIB
Lokakarya Tindak Lanjut Registrasi via	Rabu, 11 Agustus 2021	12:30 - 17:30 WIB
Link Registrasi: https://bit.ly/RegistrasiGuruBinal		



In this series of training and workshops, CREATE invited powerful local actors and professional facilitators to deliver modules for the activity that incorporate messages of tolerance, pluralism, equality, and social inclusion, as well as encourage teachers to develop interactive teaching tools for tolerance education in schools.



"Many students have difficulty in attending online schools. This difficulty may occur due to the impact of economic limitations; many parents also do not work or only have one cellphone in one family, and sometimes have to take turns. Teachers can put efforts on assessing the conditions of their students and set up the environment that will allow social tolerance between students and teachers."

> Nasrul Qosim Teacher - SMAN 8 Surabaya





#### YOUTH CAMP AND VIRTUAL FIELD VISIT

### **Strengthening Students Capacity for Tolerance and Pluralism**

Youth Camp activity was held on July 10 - 31, and Virtual Field Visit on August 7, 2021. These activities were held for at least 40 participants in each of the three classes. Class A consists of senior secondary school students or equivalent from West Java, Banten, and DKI Jakarta, Class B from East Java, and Class C from South Sulawesi, DKI Jakarta, and Banten.

#### **Youth Camp Implementation**

The event was executed in parallel in the three classes by presenting the same topic with different schedules. There are four topics given to the participants: Tolerance and Pluralism, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Building Moderate Character, and Creative Activism.

On the tolerance and pluralism topic, the facilitator presented the differences between tolerance and pluralism and the importance of enabling and creating spaces where different groups, even those with vulnerable and marginalized identities, can celebrate their differences.



On the gender equality and social inclusion topics, the facilitator presented materials related to gender and sex differences, the concept of equality, and particular identities that can be categorized as vulnerable and marginalized compared to more dominant groups. Such activities executed in classrooms facilitate the participants to understand their privileges, which was expected to encourage them to sound the voice of more vulnerable individuals.

On Building a Moderate Character topic, the facilitator emphasized the importance of instilling a compassionate and tolerant attitude, having a decent character or doing a good thing for one's purposes rather than to be applauded or praised by others, and holding a significant religious value for goodness and benefit.

The last topic in the Youth Camp activity was Creative Activism, which aimed to instill an understanding that activism could be performed anywhere and anytime, depending on the issues that the participants were interested in. Through this discussion, participants were encouraged to utilize their artwork or favorite hobbies as a channel to address several issues that they were interested in.



#### **Virtual Field Visit Implementation**

The Virtual Field Visit was held at the end of the forum, this activity allowed participants to interact with individuals from various identities in Indonesia through discussions and art/creative activities. These two activities complement students' knowledge and provide alternative online activities to fill students' weekends.



PENGALAMAN BERKESAN APA YANG KAMU TEMUKAN SAAT VIRTUAL FIELD VISIT?



In class A (West Java, Banten, and DKI Jakarta), participants discussed with Atu Tati, the representatives of AKUR Sunda Wiwitan. AKUR Sunda Wiwitan is a community of ancestral beliefs in Sunda applying human values and principles to protect nature.

Atu Tati introduced the belief of Sunda Wiwitan and shared their challenges as the spiritual group in Indonesia. Atu Tati also advised the youths to preserve the diversity as it is entirely possible to realize. We need to grow a bighearted character and perceive diversity as something that can be passed through together by loving one another. Participants were asked to send artwork about diversity to be displayed at the beginning of the Virtual Field Visit forum. Then, the participants showed their artworks to be selected as the most favorite ones.

Moreover, participants were invited to watch a short video with the theme of tolerance and diversity. After watching the video, the participants immediately discussed activities and experiences with the speaker in each class.





Youth Camp & Virtual Field Visit CREATE Exercise Kunjungan ke "AKUR Sunda Wiwitan" KELAS A









In class B (East Java), participants were invited to visit and get acquainted with the Sanggar Rengganis community in Malang, East Java.

The participants were invited to discuss about traditional dances from East Java and Ludruk (traditional dramas from East Java). In this discussion, participants were also informed about the history of the Ludruk dance performed by transgender people.

In the closing session of the Youth Camp and Virtual Field Visit activities in class B, the facilitator provided participants with the opportunity to share their impressions and messages during the training series from the first day. One of the participants said that joining the Youth Camp and Virtual Field Visit series was a memorable experience. Participants had learned about respecting people of different identities. They are agreed that everyone should view others as equals and cooperate with each other regardless of their identity background.

The Virtual Field Visit activity in class C (South Sulawesi, DKI Jakarta, and Banten) began with an exhibition of 8 participants who collected 1-2 of their works. The works displayed were in the form of poetry, videos, illustrations/posters/pictures, and photography.

After the exhibition, participants were invited to meet with a representative from Cadar Garis Lucu to discuss diversity and tolerance. Cadar Garis Lucu is a community of niqab wearers who are trying to dispel stereotypes against women wearing the veil, especially since the Makassar bombing incident in the early 2000s through an Instagram account with a witty approach.



This discussion was also attended by the Makassar Sehati Community (KSM), a community of gender diversity and sexual orientation focusing on advocating and providing various education and assistance.

The speaker from Makassar Sehati Community (KSM) explained that the Bugis people have recognized five different genders existed since the Pre-Islamic era in Indonesia. Characters in the Bugis people, such as Bissu, are now increasingly extinct, and gender variations often receive persecution since they are considered not in line with certain morals or religious teachings.



Moreover, Speaker from Cadar Garis Lucu explained that in the Quran, differences are a necessity, and the people shall manage these differences, not contradict them. It is necessary to make assimilation by accepting and appreciating variety.





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