

Indonesia's National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan)

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Oral Statement at the

6th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues on

**"Beyond freedom of religion or belief:
Guaranteeing the rights of religious minorities"**

Madame Chair and distinguished experts and participants, thank you for your time today,

Firstly we would like to elaborate the distinction of religion and belief and its implication

- In the Indonesian context, the State differentiates six religion to other religion and between religion to belief. Only the six of the religion has given guarantee of protection and aid from the government while others has given only guarantee of their existence and to be warned not to violate provision under this law.
- The believer should supervised by government in a sense to lead them to the correct way. This situation results in discrimination against adherents to local beliefs, who also mostly belong to traditional and indigenous peoples' groups in the country.
- Although we fully agree on distinction of the belief and religion, the recommendation need to emphasis religion and belief as similar identification in regards of country's experience that people being discriminated because stigma as one who has not belong to certain religion.
- Therefore, we strongly recommend that the Forum emphasises the need for all countries to recognize both religion and beliefs equally as part of the State's obligation to protect individuals' rights to freedom of religion and belief. It also means that recognition of religion and beliefs should not depend on the State but in the decision of the people themselves.
- Law and policy on religious identity should not impact of discrimination. Religious column in national identity card should be abolish and if not should be possible for multi religion. Because it affect to the marriage and birth certificate, access to craftwork, health services, education and others

Blasphemy law

- State should give attention and freedom to religious minorities including revoke existence law on blasphemy.
- State should not intervene or take a side regarding of interpretation of religion as indicated by regulation nor implementing of blasphemy law. Interpretation of religion should not lie upon state.
- we recall obligation of state to ensure judicial authorities including constitutional court to meet the international human rights standard which state become a party in its decision

Positive practice

We also experienced positive practices when Ministerial of Internal Affair run their authorities of executive review to local regulation by sent clarification letter to 7 local government for the reason of misuse their authorities beyond capacity.

Women and Children

Laslty, we would like recommend that the Draft Recommendations reinforces CEDAW and CRC as relevant legal frameworks, since paragraphs 13 and 14 have allready highlighted that religious minority women and children face multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination.