

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

at the 6th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues on

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

Delivered by : Kunthi Tridewiyanti and Asfinawati Ajub.

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

The National Commission on Violence against Women is a national human rights institution focused on the elimination of violence against women and the fulfillment of women's human rights in Indonesia. The commission was established in 1998, following a public outcry against sexual attacks on women, including rape, at the time of the downfall of the dictatorship era in Indonesia. Since 2011 at Komnas Perempuan we have established the role of Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion with national responsibility. The rapporteur monitors the human rights situation in regard to religious minorities, such as the *Ahmadiyah*, *Syah*, *Baha'i* and ancestral believers.

Session 4: Promotion of constructive interfaith dialogue, consultation and exchange

- We recommend that key stakeholders, such as the State, religious leaders, and academics, build a constructive interfaith dialogue based on equality and equity, to accommodate religious minority groups and other ethnic or faith groups that are criminalized.
- The Indonesian Government has issued a Joint Ministerial Decree between the Home Affairs and Religious Ministries establishing an Indonesian Religious Harmony Forum (*Forum Kerukunan Umat Beragama*). However, the Forum only accommodates the 6 religions and has been constructed on the basis of majority versus minority, creating divisions in society by allocating Forum membership proportionate to the number of Members' followers. By giving recommendations for permits for places of worship, this Forum has misused its role and moved from promoting tolerance in society to escalating conflict when the applications of religious minorities to build their places of worship are rejected.
- The dialogue should not become a forum that produces intolerance of religious minorities or a trial of them.