

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH and R2P



Turning Hate into Love: Empowering Youth for Atrocity Prevention through Participatory Video Training Program

APPAP partner, The Habibie Center, conducted a [youth filmmaking program](#) between January and April 2022 called “Turning Hate into Love: Empowering Youth for Atrocity Prevention through Participatory Video Training Program”. The project was conducted in Indonesia and aimed to train young people from minority or marginalised communities.

Participatory video is a media tool where a group experiencing discrimination or persecution makes a film to convey their experiences. It is an effective and creative way of bringing people together to raise issues, voice opinions, and tell their stories to a wider audience.

The Habibie Center equipped 12 young Indonesians between 18-35

years old with knowledge of participatory video and skills in videography. They were given training for six days, where they learned how to make high quality participatory films, how to identify and analyse stories, how to present their work, and how to engage groups and communities in making social change.

After completing all training sessions, the participants returned to their respective communities and facilitated the communities in producing their own participatory videos. The facilitators continued to receive mentoring from trainers with The Habibie Center, to provide suggestions and help solve problems they faced. The project produced 12 participatory films of around 5 minutes long on average, to best engage

with social media users. The videos are to be published on the facilitators’ and The Habibie Center’s [social media](#) accounts. To conclude the project, a [public event](#) was held to showcase the produced videos and share lessons learned from the project.

How is the project contributing to the prevention of atrocity crimes?

The number of hate speech cases on social media has increased significantly since the pandemic broke out in 2020. Hate speech and hoaxes in cyberspace can escalate into violence in the real world, where minority and marginalised communities often become the target of verbal and physical attacks. Yet their voices are often neglected.

Through participatory videos, the 'Turning Hate into Love' project was expected to provide a form of healing for groups or communities who are victims of discrimination or persecution. It aimed to raise the voices of minorities or marginalised groups, to encourage dialogue among different social groups and thus help dissolve prejudices and stereotypes. Furthermore, the project advocated for equal rights for minority groups, so they can live with respect and dignity within their society, as well as produced positive content as an alternative narrative in the midst of the widespread hate speech. The project intended to create more empathy between the communities, turning hate into love.

Some minority groups, like the Ahmadiyya community, have been persecuted in various regions within Indonesia. They do not have a public platform to voice their concerns, and thus mainstream media usually tell stories about the Ahmadiyya community from the perspective of the Muslim majority. This project is meaningful to the Ahmadiyya community, as they have been able to produce videos from their own perspective. The participating community members hope that others will take lessons from their stories, so that they do not have to go through the same difficulties and discrimination.

Outcomes

The public event held at the end of the project drew significant interest from the public. The Habibie Center was approached by other communities asking if the project could be expanded, and if groups such as teenagers and people with disabilities could be included in future. The Ahmadiyya community in other cities also expressed interest in producing their own participatory videos and requested the facilitator to train them in the process.

Some of the facilitators were also invited by other communities and civil society organisations to present and discuss the project, which met the project objective to raise the voices of marginalised communities

and encourage dialogue between different groups of people.

Kompas, one of the leading media companies in Indonesia, published an article about our project with a title "[Meretas Jalan untuk Rekonsiliasi](#)" or "Paving the Way for Reconciliation". The article was published on page 2 of Kompas national newspaper (May 15, 2022) and on the [online portal](#). The article features stories from Sambas conflict survivors, Ahmadiyya community, transwomen and believers of unofficial religions. The article explains how the participatory videos can be a platform to raise voices and to educate the public about important issues that are far from the spotlight.



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