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Faith-Based Pathways to SDG 16: Interfaith Engagement for Sustainable Peace

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Abstract

Objective: This study examines the contribution of faith-based interfaith engagement to the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), which seeks to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. The research aims to analyse how religious values, particularly the principles of coexistence, compassion, and justice, foster constructive interreligious relations and sustainable peace in pluralistic societies. **Theoretical framework:** The study is grounded in faith-based peacebuilding theory, religious pluralism, and ethical approaches to interfaith dialogue. It draws on religious teachings and moral traditions that emphasise human dignity, mutual respect, social harmony, and peaceful coexistence. **Literature review:** Previous studies demonstrate that faith communities play a significant role in conflict prevention, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. Existing scholarship highlights the importance of interfaith dialogue, humanitarian cooperation, and religious education in strengthening peaceful relations among diverse communities. However, limited research has explicitly linked faith-based interfaith engagement to the implementation of SDG 16. **Methods:** This research employs a qualitative approach through an extensive literature review, historical analysis, and thematic interpretation of contemporary interfaith initiatives documented in academic publications, policy reports, and faith-based peacebuilding programs. **Results:** The findings indicate that faith-based interfaith engagement contributes substantially to sustainable peace through six key mechanisms: ethical dialogue, community reconciliation, humanitarian collaboration, inclusive education, social cohesion initiatives, and digital engagement against radicalisation. These mechanisms strengthen trust, reduce prejudice, promote inclusive participation, and reinforce peaceful social institutions. The study further demonstrates that such initiatives support several SDG 16 targets, including reducing violence, enhancing social inclusion, promoting access to justice, and strengthening accountable institutions. **Implications:** The findings suggest that policymakers, educational institutions, and religious organisations should integrate interfaith engagement into peacebuilding and development strategies to enhance social resilience and community harmony. **Novelty:** The study offers a novel SDG-oriented framework that connects faith-based interfaith engagement with measurable contributions to SDG 16, providing a comprehensive model for sustainable peacebuilding in multicultural societies.

Keywords: faith-based engagement, interfaith dialogue, sustainable peace, sdgs 16, social cohesion.

INTRODUCTION

The pursuit of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies has become a central objective of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16. Despite significant global efforts, many societies continue to experience religious tensions, identity-based conflicts, social polarization, and the spread of extremist narratives that threaten social cohesion and sustainable development. In this context, interfaith engagement has emerged as an important strategy for promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence among diverse religious communities. Religious institutions and faith-based organizations possess substantial social influence, moral authority, and community networks that can contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives [1]–[4].

Faith-based approaches to peacebuilding are increasingly recognized as effective mechanisms for fostering trust, reconciliation, and cooperation across religious boundaries. Through humanitarian activities, educational programs, community dialogue, and social services, religious actors help strengthen social solidarity and encourage inclusive participation in public life. These contributions align closely with the objectives of SDG 16, which emphasizes peaceful societies, access to justice, and effective institutions. Consequently, understanding the role of faith-based interfaith engagement has become increasingly important for both academic scholarship and policy development.

Previous studies have explored the relationship between religion, peacebuilding, and interfaith dialogue, demonstrating the positive influence of religious values on social harmony and conflict resolution. Other research has examined the role of faith communities in humanitarian cooperation, civic engagement, and community development. However, existing literature often discusses these themes separately and rarely analyses them through the specific framework of SDG 16. Furthermore, many studies focus on particular religious traditions, local case studies, or institutional practices without developing a broader conceptual model linking faith-based interfaith engagement to sustainable peace outcomes [1]–[4].

This study addresses these gaps by examining how faith-based interfaith engagement contributes to the realization of SDG 16 through dialogue, reconciliation, humanitarian cooperation, inclusive education, social cohesion, and digital peace initiatives. By integrating peacebuilding theory, interfaith studies, and sustainable development perspectives, this research proposes a comprehensive framework for understanding religion as a constructive force in advancing sustainable peace. And Islamic teachings emphasise justice, compassion, and peaceful coexistence, particularly in interactions with individuals from diverse religious backgrounds. Foundational verses in the Qur'an, such as *"There is no compulsion in religion"* (Qur'an 2:256) and *"To you be your religion, and to me my religion"* (Qur'an 109:6), underscore the importance of free will in belief systems and mutual respect among different faith traditions. These guiding principles shape Islamic perspectives on interfaith relations and underscore the faith's commitment to dialogue and cooperation. In pluralistic societies such as Kenya and Indonesia, where Islam is a dominant faith, these principles are particularly relevant, providing a framework for peaceful coexistence and collaboration among religious communities [1]–[4].

Kenya and Indonesia represent unique contexts for studying Islamic interfaith engagement. Both countries are home to significant Muslim populations and exhibit diverse religious landscapes, making them ideal case studies for exploring how Muslims actively participate in interfaith dialogue and contribute to peacebuilding initiatives. In Kenya, where Islam coexists with Christianity, and in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation with a rich religious diversity, Islam's call for justice and respect becomes crucial in fostering harmonious relations between communities. The principles of coexistence, embodied in the Qur'an, have shaped efforts in both nations to promote interfaith understanding and collaboration. These efforts align closely with the United Nations' Sustainable Development

Goal 16 (promoting peaceful and inclusive societies) and Goal 17 (strengthening partnerships across sectors and faiths) [5]–[8].

Despite these significant advancements, challenges to interfaith relations persist, particularly in the face of Islamophobia, the rise of extremist ideologies, and the politicisation of religious identity. Islamophobia, a form of prejudice against Muslims, continues to influence societal perceptions and interactions, undermining efforts for peaceful coexistence. Additionally, extremism distorts the true message of Islam, using violence to further divisive agendas, which presents a major obstacle to interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding. The politicisation of religious identity, often seen in political rhetoric, further exacerbates tensions, hindering the establishment of mutual understanding and respect between different religious communities [9]–[11].

The consequences of these challenges are far-reaching, not only impacting the Muslim community but also straining relationships with other religious groups and society as a whole. In countries like Kenya and Indonesia, the ability to navigate these complex realities is vital for fostering social cohesion and interfaith collaboration. Therefore, this paper aims to evaluate the Islamic approaches to interfaith relations, considering both the successes and the ongoing challenges. By analysing the strategies employed by Muslim communities in these nations, the paper will explore how Islamic teachings can play a constructive role in mitigating conflict, fostering understanding, and promoting inclusivity [12]–[14].

This analysis will also offer policy recommendations to enhance interfaith dialogue further and contribute to a more inclusive environment. Additionally, theological insights drawn from Islamic teachings will reinforce the faith's call for justice and peace in contemporary interfaith dynamics. Through this evaluation, the paper aims to deepen the understanding of how Islamic principles of justice, coexistence, and respect can be effectively applied to contemporary interfaith relations, making a meaningful contribution to global peacebuilding efforts [15]–[18].

LITERATURE REVIEW

The relationship between religion and peacebuilding has attracted growing scholarly attention in recent decades. Religious traditions are increasingly recognized not only as sources of spiritual guidance but also as important social actors capable of promoting social cohesion, reconciliation, and conflict transformation. Within pluralistic societies, interfaith engagement has emerged as a significant mechanism for fostering mutual understanding, reducing prejudice, and strengthening cooperation among communities with diverse religious backgrounds. Through dialogue, collaborative action, and shared ethical commitments, interfaith initiatives contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies [19]–[22].

Faith-based peacebuilding is grounded in moral principles such as compassion, justice, respect for human dignity, and responsibility toward the common good. These values encourage individuals and communities to transcend religious boundaries and work collectively to address social challenges. Contemporary studies highlight that faith-based organizations often possess extensive grassroots networks, enabling them to reach vulnerable populations and facilitate trust-building processes that may be difficult for state institutions to achieve. As a result, religious actors frequently play crucial roles in mediation, humanitarian assistance, education, and community development.

The literature also emphasizes the importance of interfaith dialogue as a tool for preventing conflict and strengthening social resilience. Effective interfaith engagement extends beyond theological discussions and includes practical cooperation in addressing poverty, inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion. Such collaborative efforts reinforce social solidarity while creating opportunities for constructive interaction among different religious

communities. In the digital era, faith-based organizations have also expanded their engagement through online platforms that promote tolerance, counter hate speech, and encourage peaceful discourse [19]–[22].

Despite these contributions, several conceptual and empirical gaps remain. Existing studies often examine religion, peacebuilding, or sustainable development as separate fields of inquiry. Limited attention has been given to the ways faith-based interfaith engagement directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 16, particularly through measurable pathways that support peace, inclusion, and institutional trust. Furthermore, the absence of an integrated framework connecting religious engagement with sustainable peace outcomes highlights the need for further research. This study seeks to address these gaps by developing a comprehensive understanding of faith-based interfaith engagement as a pathway toward achieving SDG 16 and sustainable peace. And Islamic scholars have a long tradition of engaging with interfaith themes, advocating for coexistence, mutual respect, and social responsibility. Classical scholars such as Al-Ghazālī and Ibn Taymiyya emphasised the importance of maintaining peaceful relations with non-Muslims. In modern times, Fethullah Gülen has offered an interpretation that promotes mutual respect and dialogue among different faiths. Contemporary African Muslim scholars like Prof. Ali Mazrui and Abdullahi An-Na'im emphasise the role of Islamic values in fostering pluralism and nation-building. They argue that the core principles of Islam can contribute to unity and peace within diverse societies. Meanwhile, in Southeast Asia, scholars like Azyumardi Azra and Nurcholish Madjid (Cak Nur) have championed the concept of Islamic pluralism (*tasāmuh*) and a civic interpretation of Sharia, advocating for a society where diverse religious practices can coexist harmoniously. Key concepts that emerge from the literature include coexistence (*ta'āyush*), mutual respect, Islamic pluralism, civic interpretations of Sharia, and social responsibility. All of these underscore the importance of peace, harmony, and shared human dignity [23]–[27].

However, several gaps remain in the existing literature. For instance, there is a limited focus on contemporary African contexts in interfaith dialogue, as evidenced by studies such as those by Guleid (2020) and Nyang (2004), which document Islamic peacebuilding efforts in Kenya. Additionally, the literature often overlooks how exclusivist ideologies within certain interpretations of Islam can hinder interfaith cooperation, as well as the impact of state policies on promoting or obstructing religious dialogue [28]–[33].

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative research approach to examine the contribution of faith-based interfaith engagement to sustainable peace and the advancement of SDG 16. A qualitative design was selected because it enables an in-depth exploration of values, experiences, practices, and social interactions that cannot be adequately captured through quantitative methods. The study combines three complementary methods: literature review, case study analysis, and semi-structured interviews. This methodological triangulation enhances the credibility, richness, and comprehensiveness of the findings [34]–[36].

The literature review serves as the foundation for the study by synthesising scholarly publications, policy documents, reports, and theological works related to interfaith engagement, peacebuilding, social cohesion, religious pluralism, and sustainable development. Particular attention is given to concepts such as coexistence, compassion, justice, reconciliation, and community partnership. The review also examines the relationship between faith-based initiatives and the objectives of SDG 16, including peaceful societies, inclusive participation, and effective institutions.

To complement the literature review, the study adopts a case study approach that explores selected examples of faith-based interfaith initiatives in diverse social and cultural contexts. These cases include programs related to interreligious dialogue,

humanitarian cooperation, conflict resolution, community development, educational reform, and digital campaigns promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The case studies provide contextual insights into how faith communities translate ethical principles into practical peacebuilding activities and contribute to social harmony [34]–[36].

In addition, semi-structured interviews were conducted with religious leaders, scholars, educators, community activists, and practitioners involved in interfaith engagement. The interviews were designed to gather firsthand perspectives on the opportunities, challenges, and impacts of faith-based peacebuilding initiatives. Open-ended questions allowed participants to share their experiences and reflections while ensuring consistency across interviews.

Data were analysed using thematic analysis. The collected information was systematically coded and categorised to identify recurring patterns, themes, and relationships. Key themes included interfaith dialogue, reconciliation, humanitarian collaboration, inclusive education, social cohesion, digital engagement, and contributions to sustainable peace. Through this analytical process, the study develops a comprehensive understanding of how faith-based interfaith engagement functions as a pathway toward achieving SDG 16 and fostering long-term peace in pluralistic societies [34]–[36].

The analysis focuses on identifying key themes, including the influence of Islamic ethics—particularly the concepts of *ta'āyush* (coexistence), *rahma* (compassion), and *'adl* (justice)—in shaping interfaith relations. It also explores the role of Islamic institutions and community leaders in countering extremism and promoting harmony within religiously diverse societies. The findings aim to offer a comprehensive understanding of how Islamic teachings inform and influence interfaith engagement and peacebuilding practices in Kenya and Indonesia [37]–[40].

Table 1. Summarizing The Research Method

Research Method	Description
Literature Review	A comprehensive review of existing academic and theological works to explore Islamic teachings on coexistence, peacebuilding, and interfaith relations. This provides a theoretical foundation for the study.
Case Studies	In-depth case studies of Kenya and Indonesia to examine the practical application of Islamic principles in fostering interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding in diverse contexts.
Semi-structured Interviews	Interviews with religious leaders, scholars, and practitioners in Kenya and Indonesia to gather firsthand insights into the role of Islamic institutions in interfaith relations and peacebuilding.
Data Analysis	Thematic analysis to identify key themes, such as the impact of Islamic ethics on promoting harmony, countering extremism, and fostering social cohesion in pluralistic societies.
Comparative Approach	Comparison of interfaith strategies in Kenya and Indonesia, identifying unique practices and challenges that shape Islamic interfaith engagement in different cultural and political contexts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Islamic Bridging Factors in Interreligious Relations

1. Qur'anic Ethics and Prophetic Precedents

The life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad SAW provide significant insights into the foundations of interreligious relations within an Islamic framework. His interactions with various religious communities Jews, Christians, and polytheists were characterised by a commitment to peaceful coexistence and mutual respect. The Constitution of Medina, which established a multi-religious society, served as a pioneering model for governance that upheld the rights of all citizens, regardless of their religious affiliations. Key Qur'anic principles, such as the command to "speak kindly to people" (Qur'an 2:83) and the call to "cooperate in righteousness" (Qur'an 5:2), highlight essential ethical standards that guide Muslims in their relationships with others. These teachings encourage dialogue, respect, and collaboration, promoting a society where diverse beliefs can coexist harmoniously [41]–[43].

2. Muslim-Led Interfaith Forums and Councils

In Kenya, the involvement of Muslim leaders in the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) illustrates the proactive role that the Muslim community plays in facilitating interfaith dialogue and conflict resolution [44]–[48].

These leaders often draw upon Islamic ethics to mediate disputes among various religious groups, thereby fostering understanding and collaboration. Similarly, in Indonesia, the two largest Muslim organisations, Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, have been instrumental in promoting interreligious engagement through various initiatives, including religious dialogue and community outreach programs. Their efforts not only reinforce the importance of mutual respect but also aim to build bridges of understanding among different faith traditions [49]–[52].

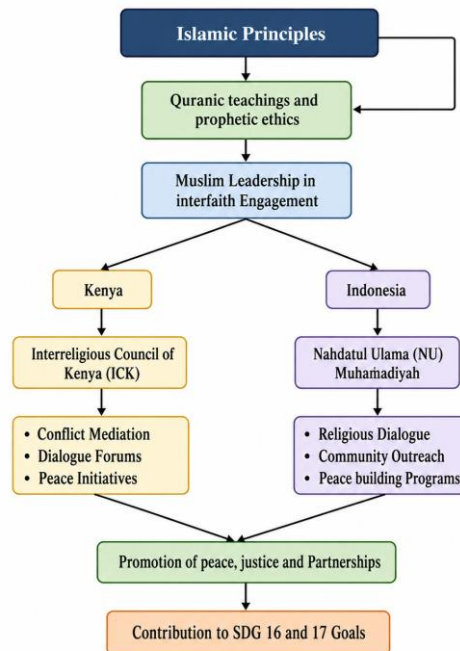


Figure 1. Muslim-Led Interfaith Engagement in Kenya and Indonesia

3. Zakat and Humanitarian Cooperation

Islamic charitable organisations, particularly zakat boards and waqf institutions, engage significantly in humanitarian work alongside non-Muslim entities in areas such as health care,

education, and disaster relief efforts. This collaboration reflects a fundamental aspect of the Islamic worldview, which mandates that serving humanity (*khidmah lil-nās*) transcends sectarian lines. By pooling resources and expertise, these initiatives address pressing social issues and demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of all people, regardless of their faith. The shared goal of alleviating suffering and promoting welfare reinforces the shared values inherent in both Islamic teachings and broader humanitarian principles [53]–[56].

4. Madrasa and Islamic Education Reforms

In both Kenya and Indonesia, there is a notable transformation occurring within Islamic educational institutions (*madāris*). These schools are increasingly incorporating civic education, ethical training, and interfaith understanding into their curricula. Such reforms aim not only to provide students with a robust foundation in Islamic knowledge but also to cultivate a generation of Muslims who are knowledgeable about and respectful toward religious plurality. By integrating these contemporary educational practices, *madāris* play a crucial role in preparing young Muslims to engage constructively in diverse societies, fostering an environment of cooperation and mutual respect among different faith communities [57]–[59].

5. Social Cohesion in Urban Muslim Communities

In urban centres like Mombasa and Jakarta, various Muslim-led initiatives address pressing social issues such as environmental justice, economic inequality, and youth engagement. These programs often involve collaborative efforts with non-Muslim organisations and communities, reflecting Islam's vision of *maslahah* (public welfare) that prioritises the common good. By working together across religious lines, these initiatives not only tackle immediate challenges but also strengthen social bonds and promote a sense of community. This collaborative spirit exemplifies the potential for interfaith partnerships to create a more just and equitable society, resonating strongly with the broader principles of compassion and cooperation espoused in Islamic teachings [60]–[62].

Persisting Challenges in Interreligious Relations

1. Misinterpretation of Jihād and Da‘wah

Extremist factions manipulate Islamic concepts like *jihād* and *da‘wah* to justify hostility. These distortions contradict the broader Islamic tradition of peaceful outreach and just resistance.

2. Islamophobia and the Marginalisation of Muslims

In Kenya, post-terror attacks have fueled suspicion toward Muslims. In Indonesia, Muslims who advocate for pluralism have sometimes been accused of diluting the faith. Islamophobia undermines genuine Islamic engagement with other faiths.

3. Political Manipulation of Religion

Politicians in both countries occasionally exploit Islamic rhetoric to divide communities. This manipulation damages Islam's image and hampers interfaith cooperation, which should be based on sincerity and *ihsān* (excellence).

4. Inequities in Religious Representation

Despite their numbers, Muslims in both countries often experience underrepresentation in national media and interfaith policy boards. This is especially evident in Christian-dominated sectors in Kenya and in non-Muslim majority provinces in Indonesia.

Table 2. Case Studies on Interreligious Relations in Kenya and Indonesia

Country	Location	Interfaith Initiatives	Key Outcomes/Impact
Kenya	Mombasa & Nairobi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Muslim scholars working with Christian clergy for peaceful elections – Collaboration for interfaith peacebuilding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promoted peaceful election processes – Reduced political and religious tensions
Indonesia	Yogyakarta & Aceh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arts-based peace projects (Yogyakarta) – Islamic law recalibration to be inclusive (Aceh) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strengthened community ties through art – Promoted justice and inclusivity in Sharia application

Table 3. Recommendations for Improving Interfaith Relations

Recommendation	Action Item	Expected Outcome
Promote Authentic Islamic Narratives	Develop media content showcasing Islamic tolerance (sermons, TV programs, podcasts)	– Counter misconceptions, foster understanding
Support Female & Youth Muslim Leaders	Empower youth and women as peacebuilders in interfaith initiatives	– Inclusive leadership, bringing fresh perspectives
Facilitate Qur'an-Based Dialogues	Host interfaith theological dialogues focusing on shared Abrahamic values	– Build mutual respect through shared ethics
Establish Islamic Chairs for Interreligious Studies	Position scholars to research Islamic principles of peaceful coexistence	– Academic contributions to interfaith understanding
Counter Online Radicalism with Islamic Ethics	Create digital content promoting mercy and compassion from the Sunnah and Qur'an.	– Combat online extremism with ethical Islamic narratives.

Table 4. Comparison Table – Kenya vs. Indonesia Religious Landscape

Aspect	Kenya	Indonesia
Muslim Population	~11% (minority)	~87% (majority)
Legal Framework	Secular (Christian-dominated)	Pancasila (inclusive pluralism)
Extremism Source	Al-Shabaab (external influence)	Homegrown (JAD, radical pesantren)
Key Islamic Actors	SUPKEM, Jamia Mosque	NU, Muhammadiyah, GusDurian
Interfaith Mechanisms	Local mosque-based forums	Madrasah tolerance, fatwas of peace

5. Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Islamic Interfaith Engagement

Islamic teachings that emphasise *‘adl* (justice), *rahma* (compassion), and *ta‘āyush* (peaceful coexistence) align closely with the vision of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In both Kenya and Indonesia, Muslim-led interfaith activities not only foster harmony but also tangibly contribute to multiple SDG targets. These include:

- a. SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Through Qur’anic-guided peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and justice-oriented leadership, Muslim communities help to build inclusive societies free from violence and extremism.
- b. SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: Interreligious councils, community coalitions, and humanitarian alliances embody multi-stakeholder partnerships based on mutual respect.
- c. SDG 4 – Quality Education: Islamic schools and *madāris* are reforming curricula to promote tolerance, civic values, and interfaith literacy.
- d. SDG 1 & 3 – No Poverty and Good Health: Zakat institutions collaborate with other religious and civil society actors in poverty alleviation, health outreach, and disaster relief.
- e. SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities: Muslim engagement in minority or marginalised communities reflects Islamic values of equity, fighting systemic discrimination and Islamophobia.

By rooting their interfaith actions in both Islamic theology and global development frameworks, Kenyan and Indonesian Muslim leaders are creating faith-based pathways to achieving Agenda 2030. This demonstrates how religion can be a driver of sustainable development, not merely a cultural identity marker.

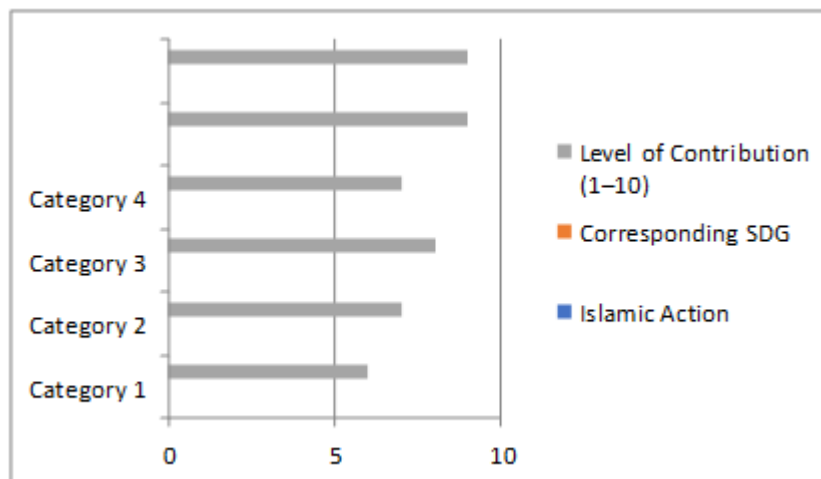


Figure 2. Level of Impact of Islamic Interfaith Activities on Selected SDGs

6. Digital Engagement & Moderated Fatwas

In both Kenya and Indonesia, Islamic councils and NGOs increasingly leverage digital platforms to communicate inclusive interpretations of Islam and promote interreligious understanding. For instance:

- a. The Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI) in East Java issued a fatwa on *dakwah* ethics emphasising anti-radicalism, tolerance, adherence to constitutional norms, and accommodation of local wisdom, specifically in digital media contexts—countering online extremism and fostering religious moderation.
- b. A qualitative study on MUI’s social media usage in Mandailing Natal District shows active efforts to build religious awareness and community solidarity through Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, illustrating engagement with pluralist values via digital outreach.
- c. Additionally, youth-led interfaith dialogue programs on YouTube—such as Deddy Corbuzier’s #LoginCloseTheDoor series—have proved effective in introducing religious concepts and bolstering public acceptance of interfaith discourse.
- d. These digital initiatives align with SDG 16 and SDG 17, as they:

- 1). Promote peaceful discourse online and combat radical narratives.
- 2). Strengthen partnerships across religious and generational lines via digital media.
- 3). Engage youth in building inclusive and respectful interfaith communities.

This modern, tech-savvy approach helps scale the impact of interreligious cooperation and nurtures a generation comfortable with pluralism and civic dialogue in both Kenya and Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that faith-based interfaith engagement represents a significant pathway for advancing SDG 16 and fostering sustainable peace in pluralistic societies. Religious communities possess unique moral authority, social legitimacy, and extensive grassroots networks that enable them to contribute effectively to peacebuilding efforts. Through interfaith dialogue, humanitarian cooperation, community reconciliation, inclusive education, and digital engagement, faith-based actors help create conditions that strengthen social cohesion, reduce prejudice, and promote mutual understanding among diverse groups. The findings reveal that sustainable peace is not solely dependent on political institutions or legal frameworks but also on the cultivation of shared values and collaborative relationships across religious boundaries. Faith-based initiatives contribute to this process by encouraging respect, compassion, justice, and responsibility toward the common good. These principles support the objectives of SDG 16 by promoting peaceful societies, strengthening inclusive participation, enhancing trust among communities, and reducing the risk of conflict and social fragmentation. Furthermore, the study highlights that interfaith engagement serves as both a preventive and transformative mechanism, addressing the root causes of intolerance while fostering long-term social resilience. Another important finding is the growing role of educational institutions and digital platforms in expanding the impact of interfaith engagement. Educational programs that promote tolerance and intercultural understanding, combined with digital initiatives that counter misinformation and extremist narratives, provide innovative opportunities for strengthening peacebuilding efforts in contemporary society. These developments demonstrate that faith-based approaches can adapt to changing social realities while maintaining their ethical foundations. The study contributes to the existing literature by presenting an integrated framework that connects faith-based interfaith engagement with the achievement of SDG 16. Rather than viewing religion solely as a cultural or spiritual phenomenon, the research positions faith communities as active partners in sustainable development and peacebuilding. Nevertheless, further research is needed to explore the effectiveness of specific interfaith initiatives across different cultural contexts and to develop measurable indicators for assessing their contribution to sustainable peace. Strengthening collaboration among religious organizations, policymakers, educational institutions, and civil society will be essential for maximizing the transformative potential of faith-based engagement in achieving peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies.

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Author Contribution

All authors contributed equally to the main contribution to this paper, some are the chairman, member, financier, article translator, and final editor.

Conflicts of Interest

All authors declare no conflict of interest.

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