

# EDUCATING RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN INDONESIA AS A BASIS FOR STRENGTHENING NATION UNITY

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### **Abstract**

Under the spirit of state motto, *Bhineka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity) and state philosophical basis, *Pancasila* (The Five Principles), Indonesia, as the democratic state, persistently keeps unity. This article, yet, is more concerned with how important educating religious tolerance is. The issue of religious tolerance, as far as the study is concerned, deserves serious attention, since it indicates very virtual aspect of societal arrays in that the government is trying to pursue harmonious life among people in the country. Official laws and regulations have been served to protect and respect individual right to choose their own beliefs, and interfaith in the context of inter-religion relationship in the country. They, among others, include the amended 1945 Constitution (Chapter XA, Human Rights, Article 28 E, point 1, 2), Decrees of Ministry of Religious Affairs, and other relevant regulations preserving harmony among different religious followers. Apart from the existing rules of religious lives, the tolerance has been often threatened by 'deviant' actions among the extremists or the fundamentalists. In this respect, religious tolerance education is mandatory. In a sense, educational system promoting religious tolerance in the country offers the citizens moral education that covers civics and religion subjects/courses introduced at all levels of education.

**Key words:** diversity, unity, life harmony, tolerance, educational system

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