



Religious Moderation as a Pillar of Peace

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyse the role of religious moderation as a key pillar in realizing world peace amidst the increasing dynamics of identity-based conflicts and differences in belief. Religious moderation is understood as a balanced, tolerant, and non-extremist religious attitude in understanding and practicing religious teachings. This study uses a qualitative approach with a library study that examines various scientific literature, journal articles, and policy documents related to religious moderation and global peace. Data are analysed using content analysis techniques by identifying the concepts, patterns, and relevance of religious moderation in the global social context. The results show that religious moderation plays a strategic role in reducing the potential for conflict, strengthening interfaith dialogue, and building a culture of tolerance at the local and global levels. Core values such as justice, balance, tolerance, and respect for differences are important foundations in creating social harmony. Furthermore, the implementation of religious moderation through education, public policy, and the role of religious institutions has been proven to strengthen social cohesion and prevent radicalism. Thus, religious moderation is not only a theological concept, but also a socio-political instrument in building sustainable world peace.

Keywords: Religious moderation, tolerance, social conflict, interfaith dialogue.

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INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalization, which is characterized by openness of information, high human mobility, and very rapid development of communication technology, the world is facing increasingly complex social dynamics ([Frisnoiry, 2024](#)). On the one hand, globalization brings progress in various aspects of life such as economics, education, and cultural exchange ([Jadidah et al., 2023](#)).

However, on the other hand, this situation also presents serious challenges in the form of increased friction between identities, social conflict, and the strengthening of extremist narratives based on religion and ideology ([Ardiansyah & Setiyani, 2025](#)). Various conflicts occurring around the world demonstrate that differences, which should be a source of strength, are often used as an excuse to exacerbate divisions ([Sipuan et al., 2020](#)).

The phenomenon of religious and identity-based conflict demonstrates that the main problem in today's global society lies not only in differences in belief, but also in how people perceive those differences ([Malleleang et al., 2022](#)). In many cases, exclusive and extreme religious understandings have given rise to intolerant attitudes that lead to both horizontal and vertical conflict. This situation is further exacerbated by the uncontrolled dissemination of information in the digital space, which often serves as a fertile ground for the growth of hate speech, radicalism, and disinformation in the name of religion ([Pahutar, 2025](#)).

In this context, an approach capable of acting as a bridge to harmonize differences and reduce the potential for conflict is needed, namely religious moderation ([Kristeno & Derung, 2024](#)). Religious moderation is a concept that emphasizes a balanced, just, moderate (ghuluw) religious attitude, and respects diversity as part of the sunnatullah (the natural order) in human social life. Religious moderation is not interpreted as diminishing religious belief, but rather as strengthening the essential values of religion itself, which teach peace, compassion, and respect for fellow human beings regardless of religious, ethnic, or cultural background ([Harahap et al., 2023](#)).

Furthermore, religious moderation also has strong relevance in the context of building world peace. A peaceful world is determined not only by political and economic power, but also by the quality of social relations between individuals and groups of different faiths ([Manullang, 2025](#)). Therefore, religious moderation can be positioned as a crucial instrument in building a harmonious, inclusive, and just global civilization. The implementation of religious moderation values can be realized through education, public policy, the role of religious institutions, and strengthening religious literacy based on tolerance and dialogue.

Several previous studies have made important contributions to understanding religious moderation from various perspectives. Research by [Wahid \(2024\)](#) shows that religious moderation in educational settings can increase tolerance and reduce the potential for conflict between students of different religious backgrounds, through the internalization of inclusive values in the learning process. Research by [Rudiana et al. \(2025\)](#) reveals that integrating the concept of religious moderation into public policy in multicultural areas can strengthen social cohesion and reduce levels of religious-based social friction, particularly through dialogue and community participation. Meanwhile, research by [Anwar \(2022\)](#) confirms that religious moderation education applied to the younger generation through formal and non-formal institutions plays a strategic role in preventing the spread of radical ideology and strengthening awareness of the importance of peaceful coexistence. Although these three studies have provided important insights into the role of religious moderation, studies that

specifically position religious moderation as a key pillar in building world peace comprehensively in a global context are still relatively limited.

Based on these conditions, this research is crucial to conduct in-depth to examine how religious moderation can function not only as a religious concept but also as a primary foundation for building sustainable world peace. Using a library research approach, this study is expected to provide a theoretical contribution to enriching the scientific literature on religious moderation and strengthening its urgency in building a more peaceful, inclusive, and harmonious world order in accordance with universal humanitarian values.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a library research method ([Kusumawati et al., 2022](#); [Poltak & Widjaja, 2024](#); [Rahman et al., 2024](#)). This approach was chosen because the study aims to examine, understand, and analyze the concept of religious moderation as a pillar of world peace based on various relevant scientific literature sources. Data sources in this study consist of secondary data obtained from national and international journal articles, scientific books, research reports, and policy documents related to religious moderation, social conflict, and world peace. The literature used was prioritized in publications from the last 10 years to ensure relevance to the context of contemporary global developments. Data collection techniques were carried out through documentation by searching, reading, and identifying various sources relevant to the research focus. The collected data were then analyzed using content analysis techniques, namely by grouping, categorizing, and interpreting information based on main themes such as the concept of religious moderation, the values of peace, and their implementation in a global context ([Rahman et al., 2025](#)). The data validity in this study was achieved through source triangulation, which involves comparing various literature from different authors and sources to obtain more valid and comprehensive conclusions. Thus, this method is expected to produce an in-depth, systematic, and academically accountable study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the literature analysis, it was found that religious moderation is a key concept with a multidimensional role in building social stability and global peace. Conceptually, religious moderation is understood not only as an individual's attitude in practicing one's faith but also as a value system that regulates social interactions in a pluralistic society ([Susanti, 2022](#)). In various literature, religious moderation is always associated with four main indicators: national commitment, tolerance, non-violence, and acceptance of local culture and traditions. These four indicators form a framework for religious behavior that is balanced, non-extremist, and able to adapt to social diversity at the local and global levels ([Prakosa, 2022](#)).

Furthermore, the study results show that religious moderation is closely linked to efforts to prevent religion-based social conflict. Conflicts occurring around the world are often not caused by religious teachings themselves, but rather by narrow interpretations, excessive fanaticism, and the politicization of religion for specific interests ([Hidayati, 2023](#)). In this context, religious moderation functions as a social

and spiritual control mechanism that guides religious communities to understand their religious teachings in a more comprehensive, contextual, and humanistic manner. Thus, religious moderation plays a role in reducing the potential for extremism, radicalism, and intolerance that can threaten social stability ([Rosidin et al., 2025](#)).

From an educational perspective, the study also shows that educational institutions play a central role in internalizing the values of religious moderation. Education serves as a strategic platform for shaping students' character to be tolerant, inclusive, and respectful of differences ([Ningsih et al., 2025](#)). Integrating the values of religious moderation into the curriculum, learning methods, and school culture has been shown to increase students' awareness of the importance of peaceful coexistence. Furthermore, teachers and educators play a crucial role as role models in instilling the values of religious balance, ensuring that the learning process is not only cognitive but also affective and spiritual ([Fahrudin et al., 2025](#)).

At the public policy level, religious moderation has also been found to significantly contribute to strengthening social cohesion. Countries that successfully integrate the values of religious moderation into their policy systems tend to have lower levels of social conflict. This is evident in the strengthening of regulations supporting religious freedom, protection of minority groups, and the development of interfaith dialogue programs. Such policies not only strengthen national stability but also contribute to regional and global peace. Furthermore, in the context of globalization and the development of information technology, studies show that the challenges to implementing religious moderation are increasingly complex. Social media has become a highly vulnerable space for the spread of hate speech, religious hoaxes, and extremist narratives. Rapid access to information without adequate digital literacy leaves some members of the public susceptible to the influence of immoderate ideologies. Therefore, strengthening digital religious literacy is crucial as part of the strategy for implementing religious moderation in the modern era ([Muhtada & Diniyanto, 2021](#)).

In addition to these challenges, the study also revealed a dynamic of resistance from some groups who understand religion exclusively and literally. This group tends to reject the concept of religious moderation because it is perceived as weakening religious principles. However, upon closer examination, religious moderation actually strengthens the essence of religious teachings, which emphasize the values of compassion, justice, and peace ([Arikarani et al., 2024](#)). Therefore, a dialogical and educational approach is needed to introduce the concept of religious moderation to avoid misunderstandings in society.

In the context of world peace, religious moderation has been found to play a highly effective role as a soft power instrument. Values of religious moderation, such as tolerance, justice, and respect for differences, serve as the foundation for building a more humanistic international diplomacy. Countries that uphold the value of religious moderation tend to be more active in international forums focused on peace, cross-cultural cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution. This demonstrates that religious

moderation is not only relevant in the domestic context but also has broad global implications ([Agata, 2025](#); [Fitria et al., 2026](#)).

Furthermore, the study also shows that religious institutions play a strategic role in disseminating the values of religious moderation to the wider community. Religious leaders play a crucial role in shaping a calm and peaceful public opinion. Through sermons, preaching, and religious education, the values of moderation can be effectively conveyed to the community. Collaboration between the government, educational institutions, and religious leaders is key to strengthening the implementation of religious moderation in an increasingly complex society. Overall, the results of this study confirm that religious moderation is not merely a normative concept but also a practical approach that has a real impact on creating social and global peace. Religious moderation serves as a crucial foundation for building an inclusive, harmonious, and just global society. Therefore, strengthening the values of religious moderation is a pressing need to address the challenges of globalization, identity conflicts, and evolving social dynamics.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that religious moderation plays a crucial role as a pillar of world peace amidst the increasing dynamics of social conflict, extremism, and intolerance based on religion and identity. Religious moderation is not only interpreted as a balanced and moderate religious attitude, but also as a strategic approach to building social harmony, strengthening tolerance, and creating an inclusive and peaceful society. The study results show that implementing the values of religious moderation through education, public policy, interfaith dialogue, and the active role of religious institutions can reduce the potential for conflict and strengthen social cohesion in various communities. However, challenges such as the spread of radicalism, narrow fanaticism, and the negative influence of digital media remain obstacles to strengthening religious moderation. Therefore, collaboration between the government, educational institutions, religious leaders, and the community is needed to instill the values of moderation in a sustainable manner to create a harmonious, just, and civilized world peace in accordance with universal humanitarian values.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

W, P: Supervision, providing feedback, editing. **N, W:** Data curation, Conceptualization, validation, observations, **N, A & I, R:** writing-reviewing, and investigation

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that this research was conducted without any conflict of interest in the research.

DECLARATION OF USE OF AI IN SCIENTIFIC WRITING

The author(s) used [**Gemini**] during the preparation of this work to [**Grammatical Corrections**]. After utilizing the tool/service, the author(s) thoroughly reviewed and edited the content as necessary and assumed full responsibility for the publication's content.

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