



Initiatives of Change
Indonesia



Healing the Intergenerational Wounds

INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA
EXCHANGE REPORT

May 29 - June 18, 2024

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Executive Summary

The Initiatives of Change (lofC) Indonesia team embarked on a leadership and learning visit to Australia from May 29 to June 18, 2024, with a delegation of six members. The visit was made possible through various funding sources. Three participants—Nenden, Hayati, and Annisa—were generously supported by the Silvia Zubair Fund, while Huda and Bintang received financial support from lofC International. Siti Zaetun, demonstrating her commitment to the program, participated as a self-funded member.

The visit aimed to build capacity, foster collaboration, and strengthen relationships between the Indonesian and Australian lofC teams. The journey encompassed a range of transformative activities, including public trust-building events, workshops on intergenerational trauma, and Creators of Peace (CoP) facilitator training. By engaging in cross-cultural dialogue, reflecting on shared histories, and exploring grassroots peacebuilding strategies, the visit contributed significantly to advancing peace efforts between the two nations.

The outcomes of this visit lay the foundation for ongoing collaboration and future initiatives that will deepen the impact of lofC's mission in both Indonesia and Australia.



Introduction

The visit by the lofC Indonesia team to Australia represents a pivotal step in the ongoing relationship between the two countries' peacebuilders. lofC, with its long-standing history of facilitating reconciliation and trust-building across diverse communities, organized this leadership visit to strengthen ties and promote collaboration between Indonesian and Australian teams.

The visit had three key objectives:

- **Capacity Building**

To provide the Indonesian team with new insights, skills, and approaches for addressing social issues, particularly in the areas of intergenerational trauma and community reconciliation.

- **Collaboration**

To establish new partnerships and strengthen existing ones with Australian lofC members and other peace-focused organizations.

- **Shared Learning**

To exchange knowledge and experiences that could be adapted to each country's unique cultural and historical contexts, thereby fostering mutual growth in peacebuilding efforts.

This visit was not only a reflection of lofC's commitment to cross-border collaboration but also a crucial step toward realizing shared goals of healing and reconciliation in diverse societies.

Program Overview

The following table outlines the key activities and engagements during the two-week visit to Australia:

No	Date	Agenda	City
1.	29 - 30 May 2024	• Arrival & Preparation	Brisbane
2.	31 May - 2 June 2024	• Life Matters	Brisbane
3.	4th June	• Public event in Brisbane "Breaking Through to Trust in Our Diversity"	Brisbane
4.	5 - 7 June	• Creators of Peace Facilitation Training	Armagh, Melbourne
5.	5- 7 June	• Meeting lofC Friends and Indonesian students	Sydney
6.	8 June	• Public Trust-building Event: Listening and Learning	Armagh, Melbourne
7.	10 June	• Healing Historical Wounds Session	Armagh, Melbourne
8.	11 June	• Art Therapy	Armagh, Melbourne
9.	12 June	• Personal Talk & Care with Rob & Cheryl Woods • TBP Exchange Learning	Melbourne
10.	13 June	• Visit Conciliation Resources	Armagh, Melbourne
11.	14 June	• Meeting with Thursday Group	Melbourne
12.	16 June	• Celebrating Eid Adha • Smoke ceremony with Uncle Shane • Farewell	Melbourne
13.	18 June	• Departing to Jakarta	Melbourne Airport

Each of these events provided valuable opportunities for the team to learn, share, and reflect, building on the experiences and insights gained throughout the visit.

Awardee Profiles



Hayati Syafii

is a dedicated personal transformation leader from Madura, East Java, who works with change initiatives. She began focusing on the School of Reconciliation in 2014 and eventually became National Coordinator of lofC Indonesia.



Nenden Prawira

from Garut, West Java, strongly supports reconciliation and trust-building. As the Coordinator for Training and Culture at Peace Generation, she has significantly impacted hundreds of people through intensive classes and training programs.



Miftahul Huda

from Nganjuk, East Java, is the Trustbuilding Programme Manager and Chair of the lofC Indonesia Foundation. His contributions to cross-faith dialogue and community empowerment span decades, including hosting the Asia Pacific Youth Conference 2006.



Siti Zaetun

from Ciputat, South Tangerang, passionately advocates for gender equality and policy change. As an lofC Indonesia Board Member, she contributes to the Women-Creator of Peace initiative through her experience in grassroots activism and parliamentary engagement.



Annisa Ladhuny

from Banten is a dedicated facilitator for interfaith peace initiatives throughout Indonesia. She embodies the spirit of reconciliation and community building by holding positions at the Young Interfaith Peacemaker Community and Peace Generation.

Key Learnings & Reflections

Life Matters Workshop

31 May - 2 June, Brisbane

The Life Matters Workshop was a profoundly reflective and transformative gathering that delved deeply into family dynamics and the unresolved personal and familial conflicts that often ripple out to impact society as a whole. Facilitated by seasoned lofC members in Brisbane, including Barbara Lawler, the workshop attracted participants from various walks of life, including First Nations Australians, migrants, and individuals from different cultural backgrounds. This diversity enriched the discussions and gave life to the workshop's primary focus: the power of self-reconciliation in fostering harmony within families and, ultimately, in society.

The workshop highlighted how inner peace is a critical foundation for broader social peace. Through guided reflections and intimate group dialogues, participants were encouraged to examine personal wounds and conflicts that had long gone unaddressed. Many found that these unresolved issues within the family were directly linked to societal tensions they had observed or experienced. The sessions, expertly facilitated by Barbara and her team, offered practical tools for navigating these challenges, reminding everyone that healing begins with oneself.



One of the most profound realizations for participants was the understanding that personal healing is not a solitary journey—it is interwoven with the health of the family and the larger community. The Indonesian team, drawing on their work with the Trustbuilding Program and School of Reconciliation, shared powerful stories of fostering peace and reconciliation in their own communities. Their experiences resonated deeply with the audience, inspiring them to think about how similar approaches could be applied in their own contexts, whether in Australia or beyond.

This event was not only about personal transformation but also about the richness that multiculturalism brings to peacebuilding efforts. Australia's diverse and vibrant society served as a powerful backdrop for exploring how different cultures, histories, and traditions can come together to build something greater than the sum of their parts.

The emphasis on inclusive dialogue and mutual understanding fostered deep connections among participants, bridging divides and creating space for new collaborations. For the Indonesian team, these lessons were invaluable, offering fresh perspectives on how to address the complex tapestry of ethnic and religious diversity in Indonesia.



Public Event: Breaking Through to Trust in Our Diversity

4 June, Brisbane

Following the Life Matters Workshop, the team took part in a highly anticipated public event titled “Breaking Through to Trust in Our Diversity”, held at the SSI Access Gateway in Logan Central. This event attracted a wide range of participants, including community leaders, activists, and everyday citizens from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The discussions centered on the profound connection between personal peace, family reconciliation, and the broader process of building trust within communities—a theme that resonated deeply in the multicultural setting of Brisbane.

During the event, Nenden, Etun, Hayati, and Annisa from lofC Indonesia shared personal stories of transformation that illustrated the power of storytelling in fostering trust and mutual understanding. Their testimonies shed light on how personal journeys of healing and reflection can create ripple effects, influencing relationships within families and extending to the wider community. These narratives underscored the pivotal role that individual experiences can play in bridging societal divides.





The session, led by Miftahul Huda, provided a space for participants to reflect on the challenges of fostering trust in increasingly diverse societies. It encouraged meaningful dialogue, where attendees explored the complexities of multiculturalism, community tensions, and historical grievances. This event was particularly impactful in demonstrating that, despite differences in culture or background, trust-building is a universal need that can serve as a powerful tool in bridging divides, healing historical wounds, and fostering social cohesion.

The powerful exchange of experiences and insights during this session made it clear that storytelling is not just a means of sharing experiences but a vital process in building empathy and connection across diverse communities. For the Indonesian participants, the event offered new perspectives on how similar trust-building approaches could be adapted and implemented in their home context, particularly in addressing Indonesia's own complex social fabric.

Creators of Peace Facilitators Training

5-7 June, Melbourne

The Creators of Peace (CoP) Facilitators Training was a cornerstone of the visit, marking a pivotal moment in the journey toward empowering women peacebuilders. Facilitated by the seasoned team of Jean Brown, Cheryl Wood, and Chebet Vincent, this intensive three-day training was designed to equip participants with the essential skills needed to lead peacebuilding circles and facilitate meaningful dialogue, specifically among women. The training covered the 10 Gathering Points of the CoP module, which include vital themes such as inner peace, the circle of peace, forgiveness, and peace in practice, offering participants a comprehensive framework for facilitating transformative conversations.



What made this training especially impactful was the diversity of its participants. Women from a range of countries, including Indonesia, Myanmar, India, Africa, and Australia, came together, each bringing unique cultural perspectives and experiences to the table.

This diversity enriched the training process, as participants exchanged insights on the challenges and nuances of peacebuilding in their respective contexts. These cross-cultural interactions helped to create a dynamic learning environment, where the shared commitment to peace transcended geographical and cultural boundaries.



A key aspect of the training was its emphasis on personal growth and humility as critical components of effective facilitation. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their own biases, vulnerabilities, and personal journeys to inner peace, recognizing that a facilitator's inner state greatly influences their ability to create safe and transformative spaces for others. The Indonesian participants, in particular, noted that these sessions deepened their understanding of how inner peace is not only a personal achievement but also a necessary foundation for effective community facilitation.

In addition to theoretical learning, the training provided hands-on experience through micro-teaching sessions, where participants practiced the skills they had learned. This practical component helped reinforce the importance of listening deeply, fostering trust, and guiding groups through difficult conversations.

By the end of the training, participants felt better equipped to lead peacebuilding initiatives in their own communities, with a renewed sense of purpose and confidence in the power of women's roles in fostering peace.



Public Trust-building Event: Listening and Learning

8 June, Armagh, Melbourne

The Public Trust-building Event held on 8 June at Armagh in Melbourne was a highlight of the Indonesia-Australia visit, bringing together peacebuilders from both nations to engage in open dialogue around trust-building and learning from one another's experiences. The event, themed "Listening and Learning from Our Neighbours", was designed to explore how trust can be cultivated within diverse communities, particularly in contexts where historical wounds and intergenerational trauma have created divides.

Hosted by IofC Australia, the gathering included participants from various sectors, including community leaders, activists, and representatives from both local and international peace organizations.





A keynote address by Professor Greg Barton from Deakin University set the stage, offering a broad overview of the challenges surrounding tolerance, radicalism, and terrorism, particularly in the Indonesian context. Professor Barton's insights provided a valuable backdrop for the discussions, highlighting the critical role that trust plays in preventing extremism and fostering social cohesion.

The Indonesian peacebuilders, led by Nenden Prawira, shared their experiences in establishing the School of Reconciliation and emphasized the importance of family and community healing in addressing intergenerational trauma. Nenden highlighted the innovative use of the family genogram, a tool used to map out family histories and identify areas of pain and conflict that need to be addressed. Her presentation drew parallels between the challenges faced by communities in Indonesia and those experienced in multicultural societies like Australia, underscoring the universality of trust-building as a tool for reconciliation.

Miftahul Huda, the Trust-building Coordinator at lofC Indonesia, and Siti Nurwanti Hodijah (Nungky), a PhD candidate at Deakin University, also contributed to the discussions, sharing practical strategies for fostering trust at the grassroots level. Their experiences highlighted the need for sustained community engagement and the power of listening deeply to one another's stories as a way to heal historical wounds and prevent future conflict.

The event provided a rich platform for mutual learning. Australian participants reflected on their work with Indigenous communities and their ongoing efforts to address the historical injustices faced by First Nations people. Indonesian participants, in turn, shared the challenges and successes of addressing religious and ethnic tensions in their own communities, particularly in regions that have experienced conflict.

The spirit of listening and learning that infused the event fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, making it clear that trust-building is a continuous process that requires patience, empathy, and a commitment to healing. The dialogues emphasized the importance of grassroots efforts in creating sustainable peace, reminding everyone that the road to reconciliation begins with small, but significant, steps in building trust between individuals and communities.

This event not only strengthened the bonds between the Indonesian and Australian lofC teams but also demonstrated how intercultural learning can provide powerful insights for both nations as they continue their work in promoting peace and understanding. The lessons drawn from this trust-building event will serve as a foundation for future collaborations between the two countries, helping to build stronger, more resilient communities on both sides.

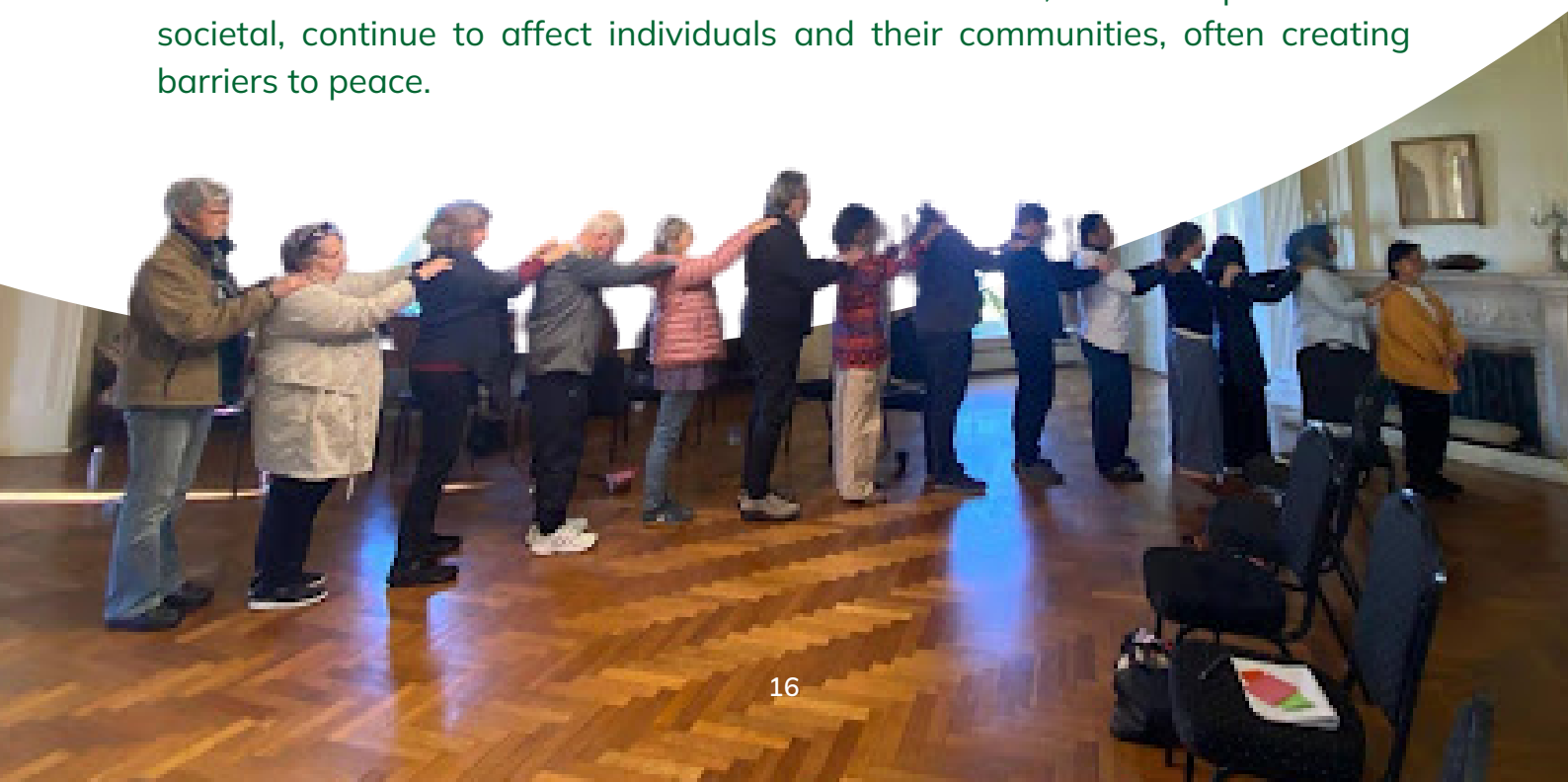


Healing Historical Wounds Session at Armagh

9 June 2024, Melbourne

The Healing Historical Wounds Session held on 9 June 2024 at Armagh, Melbourne, was a deeply moving and reflective gathering that addressed the challenges of intergenerational trauma and the lingering effects of historical injustices. This session, led by the Indonesian peacebuilders Miftahul Huda and Nenden Prawira, brought together lofC Australia members, peace activists, and community leaders, offering a safe space for participants to confront and explore their own personal and collective wounds.

The session began with an invitation for participants to share their highlight and lowlight moments within their lofC journeys, which served as a reflective exercise to bring to light the moments that have shaped their peacebuilding work—both the successes and the deep challenges. This sharing opened up honest conversations about how unresolved wounds, whether personal or societal, continue to affect individuals and their communities, often creating barriers to peace.



Nenden Prawira introduced the concept of family genograms—a tool that visually maps out family relationships and histories to identify points of conflict and pain. She explained how this method has been used in Indonesia's School of Reconciliation to help families and communities better understand the historical patterns that contribute to ongoing tensions. This approach sparked deep interest among participants, as it offered a tangible way to examine how personal and familial histories intertwine with larger societal issues.

The session also highlighted the critical role of listening in the healing process. Participants were encouraged to practice deep listening—an approach that requires both empathy and patience—when engaging with individuals who are still processing historical or personal pain. The ability to listen without judgment, and to create spaces where people feel heard, was framed as a cornerstone of trust-building and reconciliation.

One of the most significant outcomes of the session was the collective realization that healing historical wounds is not a one-time event but a continuous journey. Participants reflected on how unresolved conflicts from the past can continue to shape the present, affecting relationships within families, communities, and even nations. The dialogue emphasized that healing requires long-term commitment and the involvement of both individuals and institutions.





The session concluded with a forward-looking discussion on how these insights could be applied in both Indonesia and Australia. For the Indonesian participants, there was a renewed commitment to integrating these healing practices into their ongoing work, particularly through the Trustbuilding Program and the School of Reconciliation. For the Australian participants, the session provided a framework for addressing the historical injustices experienced by Indigenous communities and the importance of creating spaces for collective healing.

The Healing Historical Wounds Session at Armagh not only deepened the bond between the Indonesian and Australian teams but also reinforced the shared understanding that peacebuilding must address the wounds of the past to build a more just and peaceful future. The reflections and strategies discussed during this session will continue to inform the work of both lofC Indonesia and lofC Australia as they strive to heal communities and foster reconciliation.

TBP Exchange Learning

12 June 2024, Armagh Melbourne

An enriching exchange learning session took place with the Trust-Building Program (TBP) Australia team, hosted by Sarah Naarden and Uncle Glen, where the Turruk Program was introduced. This signature initiative of Initiatives of Change Australia is rooted in honoring the wisdom and resilience of Australia's Indigenous communities. Participants engage in culturally safe yarning circles and workshops that encourage critical and creative reflection, guided by the diverse perspectives of First Nations peoples. The program's core focuses on truth-telling about both historical and current realities, coupled with deep listening to enable transformation and purposeful action.



The Turruk Program is driven by five key principles:

- **Authentic Leadership**
- **Inclusive Dialogue**
- **Healing Historical Wounds**
- **Diverse Collaboration**
- **Trust-Building Futures**

The Australian team has masterfully adapted the Trust-Building Program (TBP) to address the national challenge of truth-telling about the history of Indigenous peoples in Australia. Despite the complexity and depth of this issue, their efforts have successfully engaged communities across the country, making it a mainstream conversation.

The exchange was not only meaningful but also filled with warmth, as everyone shared Indonesian food, laughter, and camaraderie, fostering a sense of long-standing friendship.

Strengthening Partnerships with Key Visits

13 June 2024, Melbourne

The Indonesian team engaged in a meaningful visit to Conciliation Resources Australia, a leading organization in conflict transformation and peacebuilding. During this visit, the team was introduced to their innovative card game, Friends for Life, designed as an interactive tool to spark dialogue and foster understanding among individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The game's creative approach provides a unique medium for promoting conversation, trust, and cooperation. This exchange not only offered the Indonesian team a deeper understanding of how creative tools can be used to facilitate peacebuilding but also opened discussions on areas of potential collaboration between the two organizations. Opportunities to adapt such interactive methods to the Indonesian context were explored, with a view to enriching local peacebuilding efforts.





A subsequent visit to Benevolence Australia further enhanced the team's experience, with the focus of discussions centering on interfaith dialogue, community resilience, and the pivotal role of compassion in promoting peaceful coexistence. Benevolence Australia's work in nurturing inclusive communities through faith-based initiatives provided the team with fresh perspectives on how spiritual values can drive community-based peace efforts. The discussions highlighted the importance of fostering spaces for open dialogue where differences are acknowledged and respected, allowing for the cultivation of deeper connections across religious and cultural divides.

These visits offered the Indonesian team valuable insights into innovative approaches to peacebuilding and strengthened the foundation for future cooperation with both organizations. The exchange of ideas and practices not only broadened the team's understanding of community-driven peace efforts but also provided inspiration for further integrating compassionate and inclusive strategies into their own initiatives in Indonesia.

Financial Report

Silvia Zubair

Fund

No	Description Spent	Receipt of funds IDR	Receipt of funds CHF	Payment In IDR	Payment in CHF	Balance in IDR	Balance in CHF	Check for receipts here
1	Received funds on May 27, 2024	53,242,500.00	3100	-	-	53,242,500.00	3100	SS FUND SZF+IofCInternational
2	Airfare ticket from JAKARTA to BRISBANE (Hayati, Nenden, Annisa)	-	-	17,913,300.00	1043	35,329,200.00	2057	receipt for ticket departure
3	Airfare ticket from Brisbane to Melbourne (Hayati, Nenden, Annisa)	-	-	6,307,500.00	367	29,021,700.00	1690	receipt
4	Airfare ticket from MELBOURNE to JAKARTA (Hayati, Nenden, Annisa)	-	-	20,366,625.00	1186	8,655,075.00	504	receipt
5	Ticket (pre departure/dummy) for Hayati, Nenden, Annisa	-	-	600,000.00	35	8,055,075.00	469	receipt for dummy, dummy ticket for departure, dummy ticker for leaving
6	Visa for Hayati, Nenden, Annisa	-	-	6,300,000.00	367	1,755,075.00	102	receipt
7	Local Transport (preparation/before departure)	-	-	495,075.00	29	1,260,000.00	73	receipt
8	Round Trip Travel Tickets to Airport (Hayati, Nenden, Annisa)	-	-	1,260,000.00	73	0	0	receipt travel to airport Jakarta, receipt travel from airport to Bandung
				53,242,500.00	3100	0	0	

lofC

International

No	Description Spent	Receipt of funds IDR	Receipt of funds CHF	Payment In IDR	Payment in CHF	Balance in IDR	Balance in CHF	Check for receipts here
1	Received funds on May 27, 2024	40,584,525.00	2,363	-	-	40,584,525.00	2,363	SS Fund SZF + lofC International
2	Airfare ticket from JAKARTA - BRISBANE (HUDA, BINTANG)	-	-	11,942,200.00	695	28,642,325.00	1,668	receipt
3	Airfare ticket from BRISBANE to SYDNEY (HUDA, BINTANG)	-	-	2,857,424.00	166	25,784,901.00	1,501	receipt
4	Airfare ticket from SYDNEY to MELBOURNE (HUDA, BINTANG)	-	-	4,448,422.00	259	21,336,479.00	1,242	receipt
5	Airfare ticket from MELBOURNE to JAKARTA (HUDA)	-	-	6,204,300.00	361	15,132,179.00	881	receipt
6	Airfare ticket from MELBOURNE to JAKARTA (BINTANG)	-	-	6,788,875.00	395	8,343,304.00	486	receipt
7	Ticket (pre departure/dummy) for Bintang and Huda	-	-	400,000.00	23	7,943,304.00	462	receipt
8	Visa for Bintang and Huda	-	-	4,200,000.00	245	3,743,304	218	receipt
9	Local Transport (preparation/before departure)	-	-	200,000.00	12	3,543,304	206	receipt
10	Round Trip Travel Tickets to Airport (Huda & Bintang)	-	-	840,000.00	49	2,703,304	157	travel to Jakarta, travel to Bandung (from airport)
11	Meals at the airport for all team	-	-	2,703,304.00	157	0	0	receipt meals
				40,584,525.00	2363	0	0	

Partnerships & Future Collaborations

One of the most profound outcomes of the visit was the establishment of new partnerships and the strengthening of existing ties between the Indonesian and Australian IofC teams. These partnerships represent a significant step forward in addressing shared challenges while advancing peacebuilding efforts on both sides. The collaborative spirit fostered during this visit laid a strong foundation for future joint initiatives, centered around healing, reconciliation, and trust-building.



Hybrid Class for School of Reconciliation in Australia

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the two teams, the Indonesian and Australian IofC teams have committed to organizing three hybrid classes that will focus on promoting self-reconciliation and inner work. These classes, which will take place in Brisbane, Melbourne, and for the internal IofC Australia team, will draw on the lessons learned from the Life Matters Workshop and the Creators of Peace (CoP) Facilitators Training. By integrating personal growth into peacebuilding efforts, these classes will aim to foster deeper personal healing while strengthening collective reconciliation efforts across both nations. The hybrid nature of these classes will also allow participants to engage virtually, expanding the reach of the initiative.

Life Matters Event in Bali 2025

Plans are currently underway for a collaborative Life Matters event to be held in Bali in 2025. Given the extensive connections that the Indonesian team has cultivated with local communities in Bali, this event will provide an invaluable platform for peacebuilders from both Indonesia and Australia to engage in meaningful dialogue and share their diverse experiences. The event is envisioned as a cross-cultural exchange that will serve as a model for future peacebuilding initiatives, showcasing the potential for collaboration in bridging cultural divides. By bringing the Life Matters approach to Bali, the event will help deepen the impact of these programs in both countries.

Support for Armagh & lofC Australia

During the visit, the Indonesian team expressed their ongoing commitment to supporting lofC Australia through practical contributions, such as internships and collaborative projects. These initiatives will see young Indonesians and experts contributing to key areas, including podcast production, fundraising strategies, and organizational management. By sending these young professionals to assist with lofC Australia's ongoing projects, the Indonesian team aims to enhance the capacity of both teams to address pressing social and cultural challenges through innovative and collaborative approaches. This support represents a key aspect of the ongoing partnership between the two teams, aimed at empowering both youth and seasoned peacebuilders.

Cultural Exchange Program

In an effort to foster deeper cross-cultural understanding, the Indonesian team has extended an invitation to young Australians from lofC Australia to participate in a cultural exchange program. This program will allow Australian participants to experience and learn about the cultural, social, and organizational dynamics of lofC in Indonesia, offering them firsthand insights into how peacebuilding efforts are shaped by local contexts. The exchange will not only strengthen personal and professional bonds between the two teams but will also create opportunities for participants to apply the lessons learned in their respective communities, thus expanding the impact of lofC's mission across both countries.

Lessons Learned

The visit to Australia offered the Indonesian lofC team invaluable insights that will not only shape their future peacebuilding efforts but also serve as a foundation for strengthening partnerships between communities in both countries. By engaging in reflective discussions, hands-on workshops, and meaningful cultural exchanges, the Indonesian team gathered important lessons that will inform their ongoing work in Indonesia, particularly within the Trustbuilding Program and the School of Reconciliation.



A silhouette illustration at the top of the page shows a person standing on the left, facing a group of people seated on the right, representing a speaker and an audience.

The Power of Storytelling

One of the most profound realizations from the visit was the transformative power of storytelling as a peacebuilding tool. Throughout the various workshops and events, it became clear that sharing personal stories of healing and transformation creates an emotional connection that fosters trust and mutual understanding, particularly within diverse communities.

In Australia, the Indonesian team witnessed how personal testimonies—whether from First Nations people, migrants, or peacebuilders—provided a way for individuals to express their pain, hopes, and resilience. These narratives allowed participants to see beyond their differences, recognizing shared human experiences of trauma and healing.

For the Indonesian team, this reinforced the importance of integrating storytelling into their own peacebuilding efforts. Personal stories can break down barriers, build empathy, and pave the way for reconciliation, even in deeply divided societies. In both Australia and Indonesia, storytelling serves as a bridge between the personal and the communal, enabling people to find common ground in their collective struggles for peace.

Importance of Inclusive Dialogue

The visit underscored the critical role that inclusive dialogue plays in peacebuilding, especially in diverse and multi-ethnic societies. Both Australia and Indonesia are home to a range of cultural, ethnic, and religious communities, many of which have experienced marginalization, historical injustices, or conflict. The workshops and events in Australia consistently demonstrated that fostering open, inclusive conversations about these histories is essential to addressing trauma and building sustainable peace.

In Australia, the Indonesian team observed how deep listening and respectful dialogue were used as tools to bridge divides between Indigenous communities and other Australians. Participants engaged in conversations that honored each person's history and perspective, creating a safe space for sharing pain, understanding, and healing. This approach reaffirmed for the Indonesian team that sustainable peace can only be achieved when all voices—especially those historically marginalized—are invited to the table.

For the Indonesian context, this lesson is particularly valuable in addressing the complex ethnic and religious tensions that exist in regions of the country. By creating spaces for inclusive dialogue that allow for the sharing of diverse experiences, the Indonesian team hopes to deepen trust and reconciliation efforts in their own work, fostering understanding across communities that have long been divided.



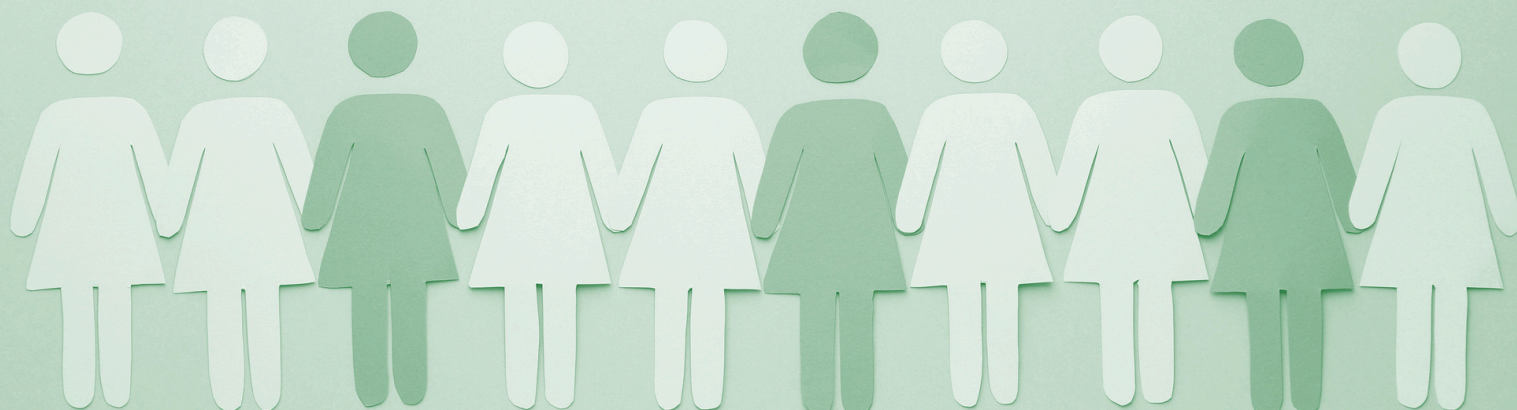


Intergenerational Trauma

A major theme that emerged throughout the visit was the importance of addressing intergenerational trauma. Whether in discussions with First Nations Australians or in reflections on Australia's colonial history, it became evident that unresolved trauma often persists across generations, influencing the behaviors, attitudes, and relationships within families, communities, and even nations. The lingering effects of historical injustices, such as colonization, war, and ethnic conflict, have created deep emotional and psychological wounds that must be addressed for true peace to take root.

For the Indonesian team, this insight reinforced the necessity of focusing on healing intergenerational wounds within their own peacebuilding efforts. Indonesia, with its complex history of colonialism, communal violence, and religious tension, has its own legacy of trauma that continues to affect relationships between different ethnic and religious groups. The team learned that healing these intergenerational wounds involves not only acknowledging past traumas but also creating spaces for younger generations to process and transform these legacies. The Trustbuilding Program and the School of Reconciliation in Indonesia will incorporate these lessons, placing a stronger emphasis on helping individuals and communities confront and heal from the traumas passed down through generations.

This focus on intergenerational trauma also highlighted the need for long-term engagement. Healing is not a quick process; it requires patience, ongoing support, and a commitment to addressing the root causes of conflict and division. The Indonesian team plans to apply these lessons to their ongoing work, helping communities acknowledge their past while fostering resilience and peace for future generations.



The Role of Women in Peacebuilding

Another critical lesson learned during the visit was the central role that women play in peacebuilding efforts. Through their participation in the Creators of Peace (CoP) Facilitators Training, the Indonesian team saw firsthand how women are uniquely positioned to lead healing and reconciliation efforts within their families and communities. The training emphasized that inner peace, personal reflection, and the cultivation of listening skills are essential components of peace facilitation. Women, often seen as nurturers and caretakers, have the potential to bring healing not only to their own lives but also to their families and communities through their leadership in peace initiatives.

For the Indonesian team, this realization reinforced the need to continue empowering women as peacebuilders. By equipping women with the tools and confidence to lead, they can become powerful agents of change in promoting peace, resolving conflicts, and addressing the social divides that persist in their communities. This insight also aligns with the principles of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, which emphasizes the critical role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The team plans to integrate these lessons into future iterations of the CoP program in Indonesia, further engaging women in their peacebuilding efforts and ensuring gender equality is prioritized in creating lasting change.

Acknowledgments

The success of this visit would not have been possible without the generous support of the Silvia Zubair Fund, lofC International, and lofC Australia. We would like to extend special thanks to Barbara Lawler and Mike Lowe, who served as gracious hosts during our stay in Brisbane and Melbourne. Special thanks to Dahlia Rera and Armagh residents who really served and welcomed us very well. We also thank the numerous lofC friends and participants who contributed their time and energy to making this exchange a success.





Conclusion

The Indonesia-Australia lofC leadership visit was a transformative experience that deepened connections between peacebuilders in both countries. Through workshops, public events, and reflective discussions, the Indonesian team gained valuable insights into peacebuilding strategies that will greatly inform their ongoing work in Indonesia. The partnerships formed during this visit have laid a solid foundation for future collaboration, with plans for projects such as hybrid reconciliation classes, the Life Matters event in Bali, and cross-cultural exchanges. These initiatives will help both teams expand the impact of their efforts in fostering peace and understanding across diverse communities.

The visit highlighted three key themes: the importance of cross-cultural dialogue, the need for personal and collective healing, and the power of grassroots initiatives in driving sustainable change. Cross-cultural dialogue emerged as an essential tool for building empathy and fostering trust among diverse communities, which will be crucial in Indonesia's reconciliation efforts. The emphasis on healing—both personal and collective—reinforced that peace requires addressing historical trauma and unresolved conflicts. Grassroots initiatives, as seen in both countries, were a reminder that real change often starts at the community level.

As the IofC Indonesia team returns home, they are committed to applying these lessons to their own programs, particularly the Trustbuilding Program and School of Reconciliation. Working alongside their Australian counterparts, they will continue building bridges, healing divisions, and promoting peace, ensuring the valuable lessons from this visit shape their future efforts to create a more peaceful and just society.





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