

RUANG sanuBari



Initiatives of Change
Indonesia

MONTHLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2026

Growing from Within: IofC Indonesia Looks Ahead

The National Consultation Meeting (NCM) is an annual gathering for the IofC Indonesian team to evaluate, identify direction, and collaborate to achieve greater impact in Indonesia.

Change begins with people who are willing to look within, listen to one another, and grow together. This spirit shaped the IofC Indonesia National Consultation Meeting, held on 8–9 August 2026 in Bandung, with around 20 Members, staff, volunteers, and guests.

The two-day meeting created space to reconnect, build trust, reflect on our work, and look ahead together. Through Quiet Time and small-group sharing, participants explored personal growth, service, family relationships, and the changes they hope to bring to their communities.

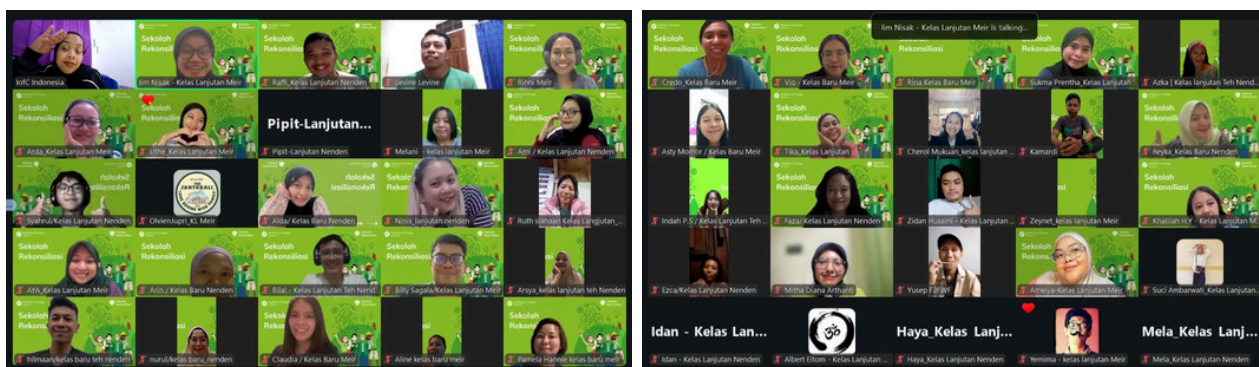
The meeting also produced several concrete outcomes: a shared calendar of activities for the coming period, stronger attention to data and learning across programmes, continued development of local partnerships, and clearer priorities for organisational sustainability.

The team agreed that sustainability will be a key focus for the next five years, supported by stronger teamwork, better systems, improved fundraising, and continued investment in people.



Inauguration of the School of Reconciliation (SR) across Three Time Zones 11 August 2026

On 11 August 2026, Sekolah Rekonsiliasi (SR) held its inauguration for the new semester. SR students are based across Indonesia, with Indonesian participants also joining from abroad, including Germany and Japan, reflecting the programme's growing reach beyond Indonesia.



IofC and FITK UIN Jakarta: Strengthening from Within 11 - 14 August 2026



IofC Indonesia and the Faculty of Teacher Training, State Islamic University Jakarta brought together 19 lecturers and 12 student representatives for a four-day Inner Development workshop.

Through reflection, mindful practices, role play, and the Friend for Life card game, participants explored self-awareness, emotional management, listening, and responsible leadership. The sessions highlighted a simple but powerful insight: supporting and leading others begins with understanding ourselves.

The workshop aimed to nurture healthier relationships, more supportive educational spaces, and young leaders who lead with awareness and integrity.

SR at the 3rd AKASHA National Consultation Programme (NCP) 14–16 August 2026

Sekolah Rekonsiliasi (SR) participated in the 3rd AKASHA National Consultation Programme (NCP) in Penang, Malaysia, on 14–16 August 2026, bringing together volunteers from Malaysia and Indonesia to share experiences and reflect on the future of Life-Centered work. Huda, Nenden, and Hayati represented Indonesia, with key follow-ups including strengthening organisational management, developing a membership system, and preparing for International Conferences in Penang (2027) and Indonesia (2029).



TBP Jogja 14 August 2026

This event showed that interfaith trust can sometimes be built not through argument or discussion, but through something as simple as sharing a meal at Bonaventura Monastery. For several TBP Jogja participants, the visit was not their first time entering a monastery, making the gathering a familiar and meaningful opportunity to connect across faiths.



Teachers for Change at SMKN 1 Cimahi & Sekolah Rajawali 20 & 24 August 2026



These two workshops formed a full cycle within the same educational institution: first the teachers were equipped with Change Starts with ME, while students were introduced to the same ideas through Growing Within. Structural change begins from both sides at once.

Teachers for Change invited teachers to look at themselves and reflect on whether the growth they want to see in their students is present within themselves. At Teachers for Change Sekolah Rajawali, Mike Lowe supported the facilitators with a range of stories they could share with the teachers.

TBP Team Visit to Church Baptis Indonesia 23 August 2026

This visit brought the TBP team and Mike Lowe to Church Baptis Indonesia in Bandung. It was another reminder that meaningful connections do not always need a measurable output. Interfaith trust is often built through consistent presence, genuine conversations, and the willingness to simply show up and connect with one another.



Inner Development for Students at Al-Qur'an Babussalam Islamic School 27 August 2026



Mike Lowe and Miftahul Huda facilitated an inner development session for students at Al-Qur'an Babussalam Islamic School. The session created a space for students to explore the idea of “Change Starts with Me”, encouraging them to recognise that meaningful change can begin with their own attitudes, choices, and responses. Through reflection and discussion, the students were invited to look inward and become more aware of how their actions can influence the people and environment around them.

A key part of the session focused on understanding and managing emotions. Students were encouraged to recognise, accept, allow, and work with their feelings, rather than immediately judging or suppressing them. The session highlighted that being aware of our inner experiences can help us respond to situations with greater understanding and care, both towards ourselves and others.

Training of Facilitators (ToF) TBP 28-30 August 2026

This ToF made clear that trustbuilding takes time: 30% of the 18 participants came from Jemaat Ahmadiyah Indonesia, a community that still faces social discrimination in many contexts. Their participation is the fruit of long dialogue, not a last-minute invitation. Mike Lowe's recurring theme across sessions, that emotional repression is part of the legacy of colonialism, surfaced again here. It gave a historical frame to personal healing work that has until now felt individual.



Women Creators of Peace x Men's Learning Circle 22 August 2026

This collaboration brought together 12 men and 12 women in separate spaces that arrived at the same finding: the need to be heard without being judged. Faza's testimony about becoming a mother without losing herself, and Mike Lowe's linking of male emotional repression to the history of colonisation and his own experience of divorce, show that gender equality work at lofC is not framed as a matter of winning and losing or of right and wrong. Both should be able to move forward together.



MENTALK Session 30 August 2026

MENTALK is a platform that lofC Indonesia is proud to present, creating a safe and open space for men to talk about sensitive issues that are often difficult to discuss. The session offered participants an opportunity to reflect on their experiences, expectations, and the social pressures surrounding masculinity.

The discussion captured an important perspective: in the end, men are victims of patriarchy too. This shift in perspective opens space for men to take part in the work of equality not simply as those being blamed, but as people who can also experience freedom from the expectations and limitations created by patriarchal systems.



Looking Deeper: Three Key Insights

First, institutional courage rests on a small circle

Miftahul Huda, Nenden Prawira, and Mike Lowe appeared in almost every core forum this month, namely NCM, Teachers for Change, CoP x MLC, Sekolah Rajawali, and TBP ToF. The consistency of values they maintain is both a strength and a vulnerability: it is effective for guaranteeing depth and alignment across programmes, but it also means the movement's continuity still rests on a handful of experienced facilitators. Growing new facilitators will be the next measure of maturity.

Second, time is a recurring constraint

The men's group at CoP x MLC found that under three hours was not long enough for everyone to open up and share stories they rarely tell. A similar pattern is observed at TBP Jogja and TBP ToF, which rely on one or two day formats to open wounds formed over years. The lesson is that the process of Connection, Correction, Direction, and Action naturally demands more time than is usually allotted.

Third, vulnerability as a method

The CoP team's impromptu evaluation at the NCM, teachers at Teachers for Change openly declaring change in front of the circle, the personal testimonies of Faza and Mike Lowe at CoP x MLC, and the honest admissions at Mentalk. All of them place the willingness to appear vulnerable in front of others as the instrument of change itself. This is why lofC's work is hard to evaluate through conventional quantitative indicators. The core result is a shift in how people treat themselves and each other, which only becomes visible in later activities as we saw in the themes of CoP x MLC resurfacing.



Closing August, Opening September

From the CoP team's impromptu evaluation at the NCM to the open admissions at Mentalk, the thread running through August was not simply connection or action, but the willingness to be corrected at the individual, team, institutional, and cross-country levels. The real challenge for September and beyond is not to keep doing the same things, but to widen the circle of people able to guide this process, while still allowing enough time for honesty to genuinely grow. This pattern will be tested again at Bandung Peace Week in September and at Circle of Peace, November to December 2026, when CoP explores its ten core points more thoroughly.

— The Initiatives of Change (IoC) Indonesia Team



Ruang SANUBARI is a monthly newsletter featuring brief updates, stories, reflections, and highlights from IoC Indonesia.

Each edition brings together moments from our programmes, community activities, and initiatives, offering a glimpse into our journey of building trust, nurturing connections, and creating positive change.

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