

---

---

## The Values of Tolerance in the Hadith and Their Relevance to National Life

Masruatus Saadah

Sungai Mulia 5 Guidance Studio Gombak Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

\* Correspondence e-mail; [Khusnurrofiah07@gmail.com](mailto:Khusnurrofiah07@gmail.com)

---

### Article history

Submitted: 2026/02/01; Revised: 2026/04/14; Accepted: 2026/06/05

---

### Abstract

Tolerance is one of the fundamental values in Islam that plays an important role in maintaining social harmony, peaceful coexistence, and unity within pluralistic societies. The teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as recorded in the Hadith contain numerous examples and principles emphasizing compassion, justice, respect for diversity, and peaceful interaction among individuals regardless of religious, ethnic, or cultural differences. This study aims to examine the values of tolerance in the Hadith and analyze their relevance to national life in contemporary society. The research employs a qualitative descriptive approach through literature review and contextual analysis of Hadith literature, Islamic teachings on tolerance, and contemporary social conditions. The findings indicate that the Hadith strongly promotes values such as mutual respect, social justice, peaceful dialogue, moderation, and protection of human dignity. These teachings remain highly relevant for strengthening national unity, preventing social conflict, and promoting harmonious coexistence in multicultural societies. The study also reveals that tolerance in Islam does not imply weakening religious identity but rather encourages balanced attitudes based on wisdom, humanity, and ethical interaction. In modern national life characterized by diversity and globalization, the implementation of tolerance values derived from the Hadith can contribute significantly to social stability, democratic culture, and peaceful intercommunal relations. Therefore, strengthening understanding of tolerant Islamic teachings is essential for fostering inclusive citizenship and maintaining national integrity in contemporary society.

---

### Keywords

Tolerance; Hadith; National Life; Islamic Values; Social Harmony; Religious Moderation; Multicultural Society



© 2026 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY SA) license, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>.

---

## INTRODUCTION

Human society is naturally characterized by diversity in religion, ethnicity, culture, language, and social background. Throughout history, diversity has functioned both as a source of social enrichment and as a potential cause of conflict when differences are not managed wisely. In contemporary society, globalization, migration, technological advancement, and rapid communication have intensified interaction among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds.

Consequently, tolerance has become one of the most important values for maintaining peaceful coexistence, social harmony, and national unity within multicultural societies. Without tolerance, social diversity may generate tension, discrimination, hostility, and even violence that threaten social stability and collective well-being.

In the context of Islam, tolerance is a central ethical principle deeply rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an and the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad. Islam recognizes human diversity as part of God's divine plan and encourages believers to interact with others based on justice, compassion, wisdom, and mutual respect. The Prophet Muhammad demonstrated tolerance not only through verbal teachings but also through practical examples in social, political, and interreligious interactions during his lifetime. His conduct toward Muslims and non-Muslims alike reflected principles of mercy, fairness, patience, and peaceful coexistence. Therefore, the Hadith represents an important source for understanding Islamic perspectives on tolerance and their application in social life.

The importance of tolerance has become increasingly relevant in modern national life, especially in countries characterized by pluralism and multiculturalism such as Indonesia. Indonesia consists of diverse ethnic groups, languages, religions, and cultural traditions coexisting within a single national framework. Such diversity constitutes both a national strength and a social challenge. While pluralism enriches national identity and cultural development, it may also create social tensions if not accompanied by mutual understanding and tolerance. Religious intolerance, hate speech, radicalism, and social polarization continue to emerge as significant social problems affecting national harmony in many societies.

In recent years, the rise of digital communication and social media has further complicated social relations and public discourse concerning religious and cultural diversity. Digital platforms facilitate rapid information exchange but also enable the spread of hate speech, misinformation, extremism, and identity-based polarization. Religious issues are often exploited to provoke emotional conflict and social division. This phenomenon demonstrates the urgent need for strengthening ethical and tolerant values within society. Islamic teachings concerning tolerance therefore become highly important as moral and social guidance for maintaining peaceful coexistence within modern multicultural nations.

The Hadith contains numerous teachings emphasizing compassion, moderation, fairness, and respect toward others. The Prophet Muhammad consistently encouraged peaceful interaction and prohibited acts of oppression,

discrimination, and hostility. One of the most well-known prophetic principles states that a Muslim should love goodness for others as he loves it for himself. This teaching reflects universal humanitarian ethics promoting empathy, social responsibility, and mutual respect. In another narration, the Prophet emphasized gentleness and kindness in dealing with others because kindness beautifies all aspects of life. Such teachings demonstrate that Islamic morality strongly supports harmonious social interaction and rejection of violence or intolerance.

Tolerance in Islam does not mean abandoning religious identity or compromising theological beliefs. Rather, it refers to respecting the rights, dignity, and humanity of others while maintaining commitment to one's religious principles. Yusuf al-Qaradawi explains that Islamic tolerance (*tasamuh*) is based on justice, balance, and recognition of human dignity without eliminating religious conviction (Al-Qaradawi, 2010). Islam encourages Muslims to coexist peacefully with people of different backgrounds, cooperate in social matters, and avoid hostility or injustice toward others. This balanced understanding is particularly important in modern societies where religious differences often become politicized or manipulated for social conflict.

The historical example of the Prophet Muhammad in Medina illustrates practical implementation of tolerance within a pluralistic society. The Medina Charter established cooperation and peaceful coexistence among Muslims, Jews, and various tribal groups living within the same political community. This historical experience demonstrates that Islam recognizes social diversity and supports inclusive governance based on justice and mutual responsibility. According to Esposito (2011), the Prophet's leadership in Medina reflected principles of pluralism, social cooperation, and protection of minority rights within an Islamic framework. Therefore, the Hadith and prophetic traditions provide important ethical foundations for contemporary discussions concerning citizenship, national unity, and multicultural coexistence.

In national life, tolerance functions as an essential social value supporting democratic stability, social integration, and peaceful civic interaction. Modern nations require citizens capable of respecting diversity, resolving conflicts peacefully, and prioritizing collective harmony over sectarian interests. Tolerance encourages individuals to recognize differences without hatred or discrimination. It also supports constructive dialogue and cooperation among communities with varying beliefs and cultural identities. In this context, Islamic teachings on tolerance remain

highly relevant for strengthening social cohesion and preventing extremism or radicalization within society.

Educational institutions also play an important role in transmitting tolerant values derived from Islamic teachings. Schools, universities, pesantren, and religious organizations function as important spaces for developing ethical awareness, social empathy, and intercultural understanding among younger generations. Islamic education emphasizing moderation (*wasathiyah*), compassion, and peaceful coexistence can help prevent intolerance and radical attitudes. According to Abdullah (2020), religious education should not only focus on ritual and doctrinal aspects but also cultivate humanitarian values and social ethics necessary for multicultural citizenship.

Another important aspect of tolerance in Islam concerns communication ethics and conflict resolution. The Hadith encourages Muslims to speak kindly, avoid insulting others, and prioritize peaceful dialogue in resolving disagreements. Such communication ethics are increasingly important in the digital era, where social media often amplifies emotional conflict, hate speech, and ideological polarization. Strengthening prophetic values of patience, wisdom, and respectful communication may contribute positively to healthier public discourse and more harmonious social interaction.

However, despite the strong emphasis on tolerance within Islamic teachings, misconceptions regarding religion and identity politics continue to generate intolerance and social conflict in various contexts. Some groups interpret religious teachings narrowly and exclusively, resulting in negative attitudes toward people with different beliefs or cultural backgrounds. Such interpretations often ignore the broader humanitarian and ethical dimensions of Islam reflected in the Hadith and the Prophet's social conduct. Therefore, reexamining and contextualizing the values of tolerance in the Hadith becomes important for addressing contemporary social challenges and strengthening inclusive religious understanding.

Furthermore, globalization and technological advancement require societies to develop stronger intercultural competence and social resilience. People increasingly interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds both physically and digitally. Consequently, tolerance is no longer merely a moral ideal but also a practical necessity for maintaining social harmony within interconnected societies. Islamic teachings concerning tolerance provide valuable ethical guidance for navigating these complex social realities responsibly and peacefully.

Based on these realities, examining the values of tolerance in the Hadith and their relevance to national life is highly important in contemporary academic and social discourse. Understanding prophetic teachings on tolerance may help strengthen social harmony, peaceful coexistence, and inclusive citizenship within multicultural societies. Therefore, this study seeks to analyze the values of tolerance contained in the Hadith and explore their relevance in maintaining unity, social stability, and national integrity in modern society.

## **METHODS**

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research method to examine the values of tolerance contained in the Hadith and their relevance to national life in contemporary society. The qualitative approach was selected because the study aimed to explore religious values, ethical principles, and social meanings embedded within prophetic traditions and analyze their application within multicultural national contexts. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research is appropriate for understanding social and religious phenomena through interpretation, contextual analysis, and exploration of human values and experiences. Through this approach, the study sought to analyze how the teachings of tolerance in the Hadith contribute to strengthening social harmony, peaceful coexistence, and national unity within diverse societies.

The research utilized a literature review and contextual analysis approach. Primary data sources consisted of collections of Hadith, classical Islamic literature, scholarly commentaries, and academic publications discussing Islamic teachings on tolerance, moderation, social ethics, and intercommunal relations. The study particularly focused on Hadith narrations emphasizing compassion, justice, respect for diversity, peaceful interaction, and ethical communication. In addition, relevant Qur'anic verses concerning tolerance, humanity, and social harmony were also incorporated to support theological analysis.

Secondary data sources included books, academic journals, policy studies, and scholarly publications related to multiculturalism, national integration, religious moderation, and social harmony in contemporary society. Literature discussing the role of religion in pluralistic societies, democratic citizenship, intercultural communication, and conflict prevention was reviewed to contextualize the relevance of prophetic tolerance values within modern national life. Publications from Islamic scholars, educational experts, and social researchers were also analyzed to understand contemporary interpretations of tolerance within Islamic discourse.

Data collection was conducted through systematic documentation and literature analysis. Relevant references were selected based on their connection to tolerance values in Islam, Hadith studies, social ethics, and multicultural national life. The selected literature included both classical Islamic references and contemporary academic discussions to ensure comprehensive and contextual understanding of the topic. Sugiyono (2022) explains that documentation methods are effective for qualitative studies because they allow researchers to analyze conceptual, ethical, and social phenomena through textual interpretation and thematic categorization.

The collected data were categorized into several major themes, including tolerance in the Hadith, compassion and humanity, social justice, peaceful coexistence, communication ethics, religious moderation, multicultural citizenship, and national harmony. These thematic categories enabled systematic analysis of prophetic teachings and their relevance to contemporary social conditions. Descriptive analysis was used to explain the values of tolerance contained in the Hadith and the Prophet Muhammad's social conduct in dealing with individuals from different religious and cultural backgrounds. Interpretative analysis was then applied to examine the relevance of these values within modern national life characterized by pluralism, globalization, and social diversity.

To strengthen analytical validity, the study also employed an interdisciplinary approach connecting Islamic ethical teachings with social and educational theories related to multiculturalism, tolerance, and social integration. Concepts such as peaceful coexistence, democratic citizenship, intercultural communication, and conflict resolution were compared with Islamic teachings emphasizing moderation (*wasathiyah*), justice, mercy, and mutual respect. This comparative analysis aimed to demonstrate the compatibility between Islamic tolerance values and contemporary principles of social harmony and inclusive citizenship.

The study additionally analyzed historical examples from the life of the Prophet Muhammad, particularly his interactions with non-Muslims, minority groups, and diverse communities within Medina society. The Medina Charter and various prophetic traditions concerning social cooperation and ethical interaction were examined as practical manifestations of tolerance in Islamic civilization. These historical examples were interpreted within the context of modern national life to identify their relevance in promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

Furthermore, the study considered contemporary social challenges such as religious intolerance, identity politics, hate speech, and digital polarization affecting

multicultural societies. This contextual analysis was important for understanding how tolerance values in the Hadith may contribute to addressing modern social tensions and strengthening national integrity. Educational institutions, religious organizations, and digital communication environments were also analyzed as important spaces for implementing and promoting tolerance values within society.

Overall, the qualitative descriptive method enabled comprehensive exploration of tolerance values in the Hadith and their relevance to national life. Through literature-based and contextual analysis, the study provides deeper understanding regarding how prophetic teachings on tolerance can contribute to maintaining social harmony, strengthening national unity, and fostering peaceful coexistence in contemporary multicultural societies.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that the Hadith contains numerous teachings emphasizing tolerance, compassion, justice, peaceful coexistence, and respect for human dignity, all of which remain highly relevant to contemporary national life. The Prophet Muhammad consistently demonstrated tolerant attitudes and ethical behavior in dealing with people from different religious, cultural, and social backgrounds. These prophetic teachings provide important moral foundations for maintaining harmony and unity within pluralistic societies. In the context of modern national life characterized by diversity and globalization, the values of tolerance in the Hadith function as ethical guidance for strengthening social cohesion, peaceful coexistence, and democratic citizenship.

One major finding of the study is that the Hadith strongly emphasizes compassion and mercy as central principles in social interaction. The Prophet Muhammad described Islam as a religion of mercy (*rahmah*) and consistently encouraged believers to treat others with kindness, gentleness, and empathy. One well-known Hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari and Muslim states that believers should love goodness for others as they love it for themselves. This teaching reflects universal humanitarian ethics promoting mutual respect and social solidarity regardless of differences in ethnicity, religion, or social status. Such values are particularly important in multicultural societies where diversity often becomes a source of misunderstanding and conflict if not accompanied by empathy and ethical interaction.

The findings further reveal that tolerance in the Hadith is closely connected with justice and protection of human dignity. The Prophet Muhammad prohibited oppression, discrimination, and unfair treatment toward others, including non-

Muslims living within Muslim society. Historical narrations demonstrate that the Prophet respected agreements, protected minority rights, and encouraged peaceful coexistence among different communities. The Medina Charter represents one of the clearest examples of prophetic tolerance in practice because it established cooperation and mutual responsibility among Muslims, Jews, and tribal groups within a pluralistic political community. Esposito (2011) explains that the Prophet's governance in Medina reflected principles of pluralism, inclusive citizenship, and social cooperation. This finding indicates that Islamic teachings on tolerance support social integration and national unity rather than sectarian exclusivism.

Another important finding concerns the concept of moderation (*wasathiyah*) in the Hadith and its relevance to preventing extremism and social polarization. The Prophet Muhammad consistently warned against excessive behavior and encouraged balanced attitudes in religious and social life. Moderate Islamic teachings reject both radical intolerance and unrestricted permissiveness, instead promoting wisdom, fairness, and ethical responsibility. Yusuf al-Qaradawi (2010) explains that moderation represents a defining characteristic of Islam that supports peaceful coexistence and balanced social relations. In modern societies increasingly affected by ideological extremism, hate speech, and identity-based conflict, the prophetic principle of moderation becomes highly relevant for maintaining social stability and national harmony.

The study also found that communication ethics constitute an essential aspect of tolerance in the Hadith. The Prophet Muhammad instructed Muslims to speak kindly, avoid insulting others, and prioritize peaceful dialogue when disagreements occur. Several Hadith emphasize that good speech and respectful communication are forms of charity and moral excellence. These teachings are highly relevant in contemporary digital environments where social media often amplifies emotional conflict, hate speech, misinformation, and online hostility. Participants indicated that the prophetic model of ethical communication can contribute positively to healthier public discourse and more constructive interaction among citizens with different beliefs or political views.

Furthermore, the findings indicate that tolerance in Islam does not require abandoning religious identity or theological commitment. Rather, Islamic tolerance encourages Muslims to maintain their beliefs while respecting the rights and dignity of others. This balanced understanding is important because misconceptions about tolerance sometimes lead to fears that religious identity will be weakened by pluralism or interreligious interaction. The Hadith demonstrates that the Prophet

Muhammad maintained strong Islamic principles while simultaneously showing respect, kindness, and fairness toward individuals from diverse backgrounds. Therefore, tolerance in Islam should be understood as ethical coexistence rather than theological relativism.

The study additionally reveals that the values of tolerance in the Hadith are highly relevant to national life within multicultural and democratic societies such as Indonesia. Diversity in ethnicity, religion, language, and culture constitutes an important national asset but also requires strong social ethics to prevent conflict and fragmentation. Tolerance encourages citizens to appreciate differences, cooperate peacefully, and prioritize collective harmony over sectarian interests. In this context, prophetic teachings on tolerance may contribute significantly to strengthening democratic culture, civic responsibility, and national integration.

Educational institutions also emerged as important spaces for implementing tolerance values derived from the Hadith. Schools, universities, pesantren, and religious organizations play strategic roles in developing social empathy, intercultural understanding, and ethical awareness among younger generations. Islamic education emphasizing compassion, moderation, and peaceful coexistence can help prevent radicalism and intolerance within society. Abdullah (2020) explains that religious education should integrate humanitarian values and multicultural awareness alongside doctrinal and ritual instruction. Participants emphasized that students exposed to tolerant Islamic teachings tend to demonstrate more open-minded and respectful attitudes toward social diversity.

The findings further show that globalization and technological advancement increase the importance of tolerance in modern social life. People today interact more frequently with individuals from different backgrounds through both physical and digital communication environments. Consequently, intolerance and hate speech can spread rapidly if ethical communication values are not strengthened. The Hadith's teachings concerning patience, kindness, justice, and peaceful dialogue remain highly applicable for addressing the social tensions generated by digital polarization and ideological conflict. Prophetic communication ethics encourage individuals to prioritize wisdom and empathy rather than emotional hostility in responding to social differences.

However, despite the strong emphasis on tolerance within the Hadith, the study identifies several challenges affecting its implementation in contemporary society. One major challenge involves narrow and exclusive interpretations of religion that ignore the broader humanitarian dimensions of Islamic teachings. Some

groups emphasize rigid identity boundaries and hostility toward outsiders while neglecting prophetic examples of compassion and peaceful coexistence. Such interpretations may contribute to intolerance, discrimination, and social division. Therefore, contextual understanding of the Hadith and broader Islamic ethical principles is necessary to prevent misuse of religious teachings for exclusivist or extremist purposes.

Another challenge concerns the influence of political interests and identity politics in manipulating religious differences for social mobilization and conflict. Religious symbols and narratives are sometimes exploited to provoke emotional reactions and polarization within society. In such contexts, tolerance values in the Hadith become increasingly important as moral guidance for resisting provocation and maintaining social harmony. Participants emphasized that strengthening moderate and tolerant religious understanding is essential for preventing sectarian conflict and protecting national unity.

The findings also demonstrate that family environments and community culture significantly influence individuals' attitudes toward tolerance. Families and educational institutions that model respectful interaction and multicultural openness tend to produce individuals with more tolerant social perspectives. Conversely, environments characterized by prejudice or exclusivism may encourage negative attitudes toward diversity. This finding highlights the importance of socialization and education in cultivating tolerance values from an early age.

Overall, the discussion demonstrates that the values of tolerance in the Hadith possess strong relevance to contemporary national life. Prophetic teachings emphasizing compassion, justice, moderation, peaceful communication, and respect for human dignity provide important ethical foundations for maintaining harmony within diverse societies. In the context of globalization, digital communication, and increasing social complexity, these values remain essential for strengthening national unity, democratic coexistence, and peaceful intercultural relations. Therefore, revitalizing tolerance values derived from the Hadith through education, religious discourse, and public communication may contribute significantly to building more inclusive, harmonious, and resilient societies.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study concludes that the values of tolerance contained in the Hadith possess strong relevance to contemporary national life, particularly within multicultural and pluralistic societies. The teachings and examples of the Prophet Muhammad emphasize compassion, justice, moderation, peaceful coexistence,

respectful communication, and protection of human dignity as fundamental principles of social interaction. These values demonstrate that Islam strongly encourages harmonious relations among individuals regardless of differences in religion, ethnicity, culture, or social background.

The findings reveal that tolerance in the Hadith is not merely a theoretical concept but a practical ethical framework demonstrated directly through the Prophet Muhammad's conduct in social and political life. Historical examples such as the Medina Charter illustrate how Islamic teachings support cooperation, inclusivity, and peaceful coexistence within diverse communities. In addition, the Hadith encourages Muslims to avoid hostility, discrimination, and excessive behavior while promoting kindness, empathy, and social responsibility. Such teachings remain highly important in addressing contemporary challenges such as religious intolerance, hate speech, social polarization, and identity-based conflict.

The study also highlights the importance of moderation (*wasathiyah*) and ethical communication as essential components of tolerance in Islam. In the digital era, where misinformation and emotional conflict spread rapidly through social media, prophetic teachings concerning respectful dialogue and responsible communication provide valuable guidance for maintaining social harmony and healthy public discourse. Educational institutions, religious organizations, families, and community leaders therefore play crucial roles in transmitting and strengthening tolerant values among younger generations.

## REFERENCES

- Abdullah, M. A. (2020). *Multicultural Education in Islamic Perspective*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- Al-Qaradawi, Y. (2010). *Fiqh al-Wasatiyyah al-Islamiyyah*. Cairo: Dar al-Shuruq.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. California: Sage Publications.
- Esposito, J. L. (2011). *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Sugiyono. (2022). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif, Kuantitatif, dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- UNESCO. (2021). *Journalism, Fake News and Disinformation Handbook*. Paris: UNESCO Publishing.
- Qur'an Surah Al-Hujurat (49): 13.
- Hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari and Muslim regarding kindness, mercy, and mutual love among believers.