

## **SOCIAL HARMONY IN MAINTAINING INTERFAITH HARMONY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MAQASHID SYARI'AH IN JAMBI**

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### **Abstract**

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*Social harmony is essential for fostering peaceful coexistence in multicultural societies, particularly in regions with diverse religious backgrounds like Jambi Province, Indonesia. This study investigates the role of Maqashid Syari'ah Islamic legal objectives in promoting interfaith harmony and social cohesion. This study employs a qualitative approach to explore the concept of social harmony and its significance in promoting inter-religious coexistence, specifically within the context of Maqashid Syari'ah in Jambi Province. The study highlights the importance of collective commitment from various societal actors, including religious leaders, community organizations, and local governments, in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding. The research identifies practical strategies for enhancing social cohesion, such as community engagement initiatives and educational programs emphasizing shared values and mutual respect among religious groups. This study underscores the relevance of Maqashid Syari'ah as a guiding framework for addressing contemporary challenges of intolerance and radicalism in Jambi Province. By promoting social harmony through the lens of Islamic teachings, the research offers valuable insights and practical solutions that can be adapted to other regions facing similar challenges. Fostering a tolerance and cooperation culture is vital for achieving sustainable peace and stability in diverse societies.*

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### **Introduction**

Social harmony is an ideal condition in which individuals live in line and harmony with common goals and show strong solidarity between members of society. Social harmony is essential for creating a peaceful and organized life in various communities (Ries Dyah Fitriyah 2024:12). This concept is vital for building strong and sustainable social relations in community life. Simply put, social harmony refers to a state of social relations that is dynamic, peaceful, and free from detrimental conflicts. This dynamic not only shows balance in social

interactions but also reflects the ability of society to face changes and challenges collectively. Social harmony is crucial in maintaining the stability and sustainability of community life.

Social harmony is reinforced by verses from the Quran and Hadith that emphasize compassion, solidarity, and mutual respect, such as in Surah al-Baqarah verse 185, which explains the ease for humans and the Hadith about brotherhood among Muslims, as well as Surah al-Hujurat verse 13, which explains the purpose of creation to know one another. These verses support the *maqashid sharia*, namely *hifdz an-nasl* (protecting offspring) and *hifdz an-nafs* (protecting oneself) through the creation of a harmonious environment.

In the classical perspective, as expressed in Confucian philosophy, a harmonious society is idealized as a state without contradiction and conflict (Ren, Wang, and Lv 2022:20). This condition reflects a life of harmony and mutual understanding between individuals and groups. This view places social harmony as the primary goal in community life. In Indonesia, which is known as a multicultural country with various ethnicities, nations, languages, and religions, social harmony has a significant meaning. This diversity is an inevitability that needs to be accepted and maintained as social capital for national development. This diversity becomes a strength if it can be managed well within the framework of social harmony.

However, the dynamics of national and state life often present various significant issues that have the potential to damage the order of life together. These issues include various social, political, and cultural challenges that can trigger societal divisions. Therefore, efforts to maintain social harmony require serious attention from all parties. In religious life, challenges to realize harmony between religious communities often arise. These challenges include potential conflicts related to the establishment of houses of worship, differences in spiritual understanding, and the mobilization of religious adherents in certain areas. If not handled properly, these things can lead to disputes threatening peace.

Inter-religious conflicts often occur due to differences in beliefs, values, and practices between different religious communities (Ummah 2022:2). If not managed properly, these differences can become a source of tension and even violence. Inter-religious dialogue and understanding are critical to avoid conflict in situations like this. Building social harmony in this context requires an approach that contextualizes the meaning of religious values (Kit 2020:10). Religious values must be internalized in everyday behavior to drive peace and harmony. Religion, often considered a source of identity, should be a social glue that strengthens solidarity between religious communities.

Social harmony can be realized in community life by internalizing religious values and a shared commitment to maintaining harmony. This is important for maintaining peace and becomes the foundation for sustainable national development. Within this framework, social harmony must continue to be fought for as an integral part of national and state life in Indonesia. Religion regulates human life better by understanding the basics of law and its intent, which is known as *Maqashid Syariah* in Islam.

*Maqashid Syariah* is an Islamic legal theory that aims to achieve human welfare in various aspects of life, individual and collective (Ismail, Arifin, and Rahmi 2020:19). In principle, *Maqashid Syariah* seeks to protect and maintain five main things that are basic human needs: religion (*hifzh al-din*), soul (*hifzh al-nafs*), reason (*hifzh al-'aql*), descendants (*hifzh al-nasl*), and property (*hifzh al-*

mal). Each aspect is closely related to creating a harmonious and just social life. In this context, Maqashid Syariah is not only normative in legal regulation but also ethical and moral, emphasizing justice, balance, and social cooperation.

Social harmony in maintaining harmony between religious communities from the perspective of Maqashid Syariah in Jambi Province is essential for several reasons, both from an academic, social, and practical perspective (Taufik, Syukri, and Bafadhal 2023:23). One of the unique aspects of this writing is the integration between traditional (classical books) and modern approaches to understanding maqashid syariah. This research will use references from classical sources, such as Al-Ghazali and Al-Syatibi, and modern studies from contemporary thinkers, such as Jasser Auda. With this approach, this research will significantly contribute to compiling a contextual thinking framework still rooted in authentic Islamic traditions.

### **Research Methods**

This study employs a qualitative approach to explore the concept of social harmony and its significance in promoting inter-religious coexistence, specifically within the context of Maqashid Syari'ah in Jambi Province (Borgstede and Scholz 2021:23). The primary research method consists of library research, supported by field observations and interviews with key stakeholders, including religious leaders, community representatives, and local authorities. By integrating these various data sources, the research seeks to elucidate how the objectives of Islamic jurisprudence (Maqashid Syari'ah) contribute to fostering peaceful coexistence among diverse religious communities in the region.

The data collection process involves an in-depth literature review, encompassing scholarly articles, government policies, and religious texts pertinent to inter-religious harmony and Maqashid Syari'ah. Field observations are conducted to identify practical examples of social harmony, while interviews provide valuable insights into local communities' challenges and opportunities in promoting tolerance and cooperation (Brinia, Poullou, and Panagiotopoulou 2020:34). This combination of methods ensures a thorough analysis that addresses the topic's theoretical and practical facets.

The analysis method used in this study is descriptive-analytical, focusing on interpreting findings through the lens of Maqashid Syari'ah. This framework evaluates how the preservation of fundamental values such as religion (deen), life (nafs), intellect ('aql), lineage (nasl), and wealth (maal) contributes to the creation of a harmonious society. The study contextualizes these principles within the pluralistic environment of Jambi Province, aiming to provide solutions and strategies that align with Islamic teachings while also respecting the diverse cultural and religious landscape.

### **Discussion**

#### **Construction of Social Harmony in Maintaining Interfaith Harmony**

Quranic verses and hadiths related to interfaith harmony include Surah Al-Hujurat verse 13, which states that humans were created into nations so that they may know one another, and the hadith on not committing oppression, which emphasizes the prohibition of oppressing fellow humans, including non-Muslims, because they are brothers and have the right to be treated fairly. Furthermore, Surah Al-Maidah verse 2 also encourages helping one another in righteousness

and piety, rather than in sin and hostility, which means building good relationships regardless of religious differences.

Social harmony represents a condition where individuals live in alignment and synergy with the objectives of their community (Huda et al. 2020:40). It is a state of coexistence often called solidarity within a society. This concept embodies a sense of togetherness, fostering mutual understanding and shared goals among community members. By achieving this state, individuals coexist peacefully and contribute to their society's well-being, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and collaboration. Social harmony refers to a dynamic and peaceful state of social relations. This condition highlights an environment where disputes and conflicts are minimized or effectively resolved through mutual agreement and understanding. It prioritizes balance and unity, ensuring that individuals within the society can thrive collectively. Such a perspective emphasizes that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the active presence of cooperation and understanding.

From a classical viewpoint, such as in Confucianism, social harmony is idealized as a life condition devoid of contradictions and conflicts (Prasetyawati 2020:19). This philosophical approach suggests a harmonious society where all members cooperate with shared values and principles. Confucian ideals often stress the importance of moral virtue and ethical conduct as foundational elements for achieving harmony, urging individuals to prioritize collective interests over personal desires. Social harmony embodies a set of core values that are highly esteemed across cultures. These values serve as guiding principles, reflecting the shared aspirations of humanity for peace and coexistence. They emphasize respect for cultural diversity while promoting unity, ensuring that different societal groups coexist and contribute to a shared vision of progress and harmony. The universality of these values underscores their relevance and applicability in diverse social contexts.

Integral to social harmony is incorporating local wisdom, which recognizes a society's unique cultural and historical contexts (Mohd Khalli, Sintang, and Kamu 2022:16). Local traditions, customs, and practices often serve as the foundation for promoting integrative values. These values act as a unifying force, bringing together people from different ethnicities, races, and religions. They foster a sense of belonging and mutual respect, promoting love, peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and non-violence. The inclusive nature of social harmony ensures that individuals from diverse backgrounds are united under ordinary principles of humanity and universal values. This unity is not achieved by erasing differences but by embracing and integrating them into the societal framework. By doing so, social harmony enables a collective appreciation of diversity, transforming potential sources of conflict into opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth.

Integrating diverse perspectives is vital in explaining social harmony's complexities. It requires a thorough understanding of how people perceive and interact with their social environment. These perspectives enrich the broader scope of social harmony by enriching its meaning and application. In this way, diversity is seen not as an obstacle but as an essential element that enhances societal unity and progress. From a sociological perspective, the diversity of viewpoints is a foundational aspect of social harmony. It is reflected in the structural relationships between individuals and groups, the processes facilitating interaction, and the outcomes resulting from these dynamics. This interplay between structure,

process, and outcome illustrates the multidimensional nature of social harmony, emphasizing its role in fostering balance and equilibrium in society.

Ultimately, social harmony is both a goal and a continuous process that requires active effort and commitment (Ilham, Amiruddin, and Arif 2020:23). Achieving harmony involves addressing structural inequalities, fostering meaningful interactions, and striving for outcomes that benefit all members of society. It is a dynamic and evolving state that reflects the collective aspirations for a peaceful, just, and equitable world where diversity is celebrated and shared values are upheld. To maintain religious and social harmony in the province, the role of institutions is crucial both at the macro level through the involvement of the Provincial Interfaith Harmony Forum (FKUB) and at the Regency/City FKUB scale (Rofiqi and Haq 2022:67). This role is demonstrated through various activities and programs implemented by FKUB, including socializing regulations on interfaith harmony, fostering interfaith dialogue throughout Jambi Province, establishing villages aware of interreligious harmony, and encouraging community participation in maintaining interfaith harmony. Through these institutional efforts, the goal is to achieve more significant interreligious harmony.

### **The Relationship of Maqashid Syari'ah in Strengthening Social Harmony**

The principles of Maqashid Syariah aim to achieve "general welfare" (*maslahah ummah*), which forms the foundation of a just and harmonious social life (Shofi, Bayhaki, and Hesani 2023:96). By prioritizing public benefit, these principles provide a framework for ensuring fairness and mutual respect in society. This focus on general welfare underscores the importance of creating conditions where all individuals can thrive, regardless of their background or beliefs. The concept of *maslahah ummah* not only aligns with the goal of social harmony and fosters an environment conducive to collective well-being. Thus, Maqashid Syariah's emphasis on general welfare is a cornerstone for establishing equity and promoting peaceful coexistence within diverse communities.

One critical aspect of Maqashid Syariah is its role in maintaining religious harmony by safeguarding the rights of individuals to practice their faith freely (Muzammil, Waryani Fajar Riyanto, and Nur Edi Prabha Susila Yahya 2023:11). These rights include the freedom to worship, the security to live peacefully, the liberty to think and express ideas, the ability to continue one's lineage, and the protection of property. These five foundational goals promote social justice across various spheres of life. By securing these rights, Maqashid Syariah provides a framework for equitable interactions among people of different faiths. Such a comprehensive approach ensures that justice and mutual respect are upheld, strengthening societal bonds.

The principle of preserving religion (*Hifzh al-Din*) is central in Maqashid Syariah, reflecting its commitment to safeguarding faith (Syahbudi 2021:31). This preservation extends beyond protecting Islam as the majority religion, encompassing efforts to create an environment where individuals of all faiths can practice their beliefs freely and securely. In a multicultural and multireligious society, preserving religion entails promoting religious freedom and nurturing harmony within diversity. Maqashid Syariah transcends its immediate relevance to Muslims and protects other religious communities' rights. This inclusive approach underscores the universality of sharia principles and their applicability in fostering interfaith harmony.

Preserving religion under Maqashid Syariah also involves creating a safe and supportive environment for all faiths (Mailiza and Busyro 2024:7). This principle aligns with the broader objective of fostering social cohesion by prioritizing the freedom to worship and eliminating barriers that hinder religious practices. Recognizing diverse beliefs as integral components of a harmonious society highlights Maqashid Syariah's inclusive outlook. Through such measures, the framework not only strengthens the practice of religion but also promotes respect and understanding among different communities. Consequently, this approach ensures that religious harmony becomes a defining characteristic of social life.

The emphasis on preserving the soul (Hifzh al-Nafs) under Maqashid Syariah further demonstrates its commitment to protecting human dignity and life (Fahmida and Irham 2024:32). This principle underscores the sanctity of human life and the importance of physical and emotional well-being. In the context of interfaith relations, preserving the soul translates into rejecting all forms of violence or harm against individuals based on their beliefs. By advocating for protecting human life irrespective of religion, Maqashid Syariah lays the groundwork for peaceful coexistence. This commitment to safeguarding life strengthens the social fabric and mitigates potential conflicts.

In ensuring the protection of the soul, Maqashid Syariah categorically opposes any form of discrimination or harm arising from religious differences (Yazid et al. 2024:61). This rejection of violence and intolerance reinforces the importance of mutual respect and understanding. By fostering a culture of peace, this principle helps to neutralize the divisive forces of radicalism and extremism. The emphasis on preserving human life as a shared value among all communities creates a sense of collective responsibility. Thus, applying this principle in interfaith contexts ensures the stability and security of society at large.

Protecting the mind (Hifzh al-'Aql) is another essential principle of Maqashid Syariah, highlighting the value of intellectual freedom and the pursuit of knowledge. This principle champions the right to think critically and express ideas without fear of persecution. In a pluralistic society, safeguarding intellectual freedom fosters dialogue and mutual understanding between religious communities. By encouraging the exchange of ideas, Maqashid Syariah promotes intellectual growth and strengthens the foundation for peaceful coexistence. This principle, therefore, contributes to bridging gaps and resolving misunderstandings among diverse groups.

Preserving lineage (Hifzh al-Nasl) reflects Maqashid Syariah's commitment to family and community well-being (Muttaqin, Nur, and Anshor 2022:12). This principle emphasizes the importance of maintaining social stability and upholding moral values. In a diverse society, preserving lineage involves respecting different groups' cultural and religious traditions. By ensuring that families and communities can thrive without external interference, Maqashid Syariah supports the preservation of societal harmony. This focus on lineage also fosters intergenerational solidarity, reinforcing the bonds that unite communities over time. The principle of protecting property (Hifzh al-Mal) highlights the significance of economic stability and fairness under Maqashid Syariah. This principle underscores the right to own and manage resources without fear of exploitation or theft. In religious harmony, safeguarding property rights ensures that individuals from all faiths can contribute to economic development without discrimination. By promoting equitable access to resources, Maqashid Syariah

strengthens the foundations of social justice. Economic inclusivity is crucial in fostering trust and cooperation among diverse groups.

Collectively, the principles of Maqashid Syariah provide a comprehensive framework for promoting justice, harmony, and well-being in society. By addressing various dimensions of human life, these principles ensure the protection of individual rights and collective interests. Their emphasis on inclusivity and mutual respect underscores their relevance in contemporary multicultural contexts. Through its holistic approach, Maqashid Syariah not only safeguards the welfare of Muslim communities but also contributes to the broader goal of universal harmony. This inclusive vision positions Maqashid Syariah as a vital tool for achieving peace and stability in an increasingly interconnected world. Maqashid Syariah underscores the significance of upholding freedom of thought and promoting knowledge (Hifzh al-'Aql) in interfaith engagements. It emphasizes the importance of respecting diverse perspectives and encourages constructive dialogue among various religious communities. Education and intellectual discussions regarding religious issues are essential for fostering harmony, dispelling misconceptions, and averting unfounded fanaticism.

Maqashid Syariah emphasizes the importance of maintaining legitimate offspring and building strong families (Hifzh al-Nasl). This is closely related to social ethics in interactions between different religious groups. Family values, children's education, and the next generation in a multireligious environment must be based on tolerance and mutual respect. Building a young generation with a good understanding of pluralism and religious tolerance will contribute to creating more lasting harmony. Maqashid Syariah regulates the protection of property and property rights, including the obligation to protect the rights of others (Hifzh al-Mal). In the context of interfaith relations, this principle includes safeguarding the property and assets of individuals or other religious groups and emphasizes the importance of economic justice in social interactions. Protecting the financial rights of religious minorities and ensuring fair distribution is one way to prevent conflicts based on social jealousy or economic inequality. Maqashid Syariah, in the context of interfaith harmony, can be a strong framework for creating social harmony. Maqashid does not only talk about legal legality but also about ethical and moral principles that guide social interaction toward peace and justice. In a heterogeneous society like Jambi, Maqashid can be used to balance the individual's right to practice religious beliefs and the wider community's need to live in harmony.

Maqashid Syariah supports interfaith dialogue because principles such as justice (al-'adl), balance (al-mizan), and compassion (rahmah) in Islamic teachings greatly support the realization of a peaceful and respectful society. Justice in Maqashid does not only mean giving rights to Muslims but also ensuring that other religious communities are recognized and their rights are respected. Social justice in Maqashid Syariah is about distributing material resources and recognizing and respecting individual rights in a broader social context. The principle of justice in Maqashid Syariah emphasizes the importance of preventing discrimination and providing fair treatment to all members of society, including in the context of interfaith relations. This involves a commitment to upholding human rights, such as the right to worship, live in security, and participate in social life without discrimination.

Imam Al-Ghazali emphasized that all Sharia commands aim to maintain the

welfare of humanity and prevent damage (mafsadah). Al-Syatibi also supports this opinion in his work *Al-Muwafaqat*, which emphasizes that the purpose of sharia is to maintain human welfare in this world and the hereafter. In the context of Jambi Province, which has religious and ethnic diversity, *mawashi Syariah* can be used as a normative basis for creating harmony between religious communities. Jambi Province has a long history of ethnic and religious diversity. Various religious groups live in one community, including Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. However, as in many other regions, the socio-cultural dynamics in Jambi face challenges in the form of friction between religious groups, which are often triggered by differences in views, socio-economic problems, or different interpretations of spiritual teachings. One of the biggest challenges is maintaining a balance between respecting differences and maintaining unity.

Tensions between religious groups often arise in minor conflicts that, if not immediately resolved, can develop into serious problems. For example, problems with permits for the establishment of houses of worship, differences in religious rituals, and the emergence of extremist groups trying to promote intolerant views. In situations like this, the concept of *maqashid sharia* becomes relevant to offer solutions oriented towards the common good. One of the biggest challenges facing society today is the increasing cases of intolerance and radicalism, which are often triggered by narrow interpretations of religion. With globalization and the development of digital technology, false or provocative information can spread quickly, worsening relations between religious groups. This study offers theoretical and practical answers to these challenges, using *maqashid sharia* as a guideline to promote tolerance and harmony. Thus, this research is relevant to the people of Jambi and can also be applied to other regions facing similar challenges.

### **The Role of Actors in Society in Building Social Harmony in Jambi Province**

Fostering social harmony in a multicultural society requires a collective commitment from all participants (Purwani and Arvianti 2020a:10). This commitment must be mutually reinforcing to ensure lasting peace and understanding among diverse ethnic groups. The foundation of harmonious inter-ethnic relations lies in the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, each playing a specific role in maintaining stability within their local communities. A multicultural society thrives on shared responsibilities, with each entity contributing its strengths and resources to promote inclusivity and mutual respect. These efforts are particularly crucial in regions where diversity is an integral part of the social fabric, requiring continuous dialogue and cooperation. This narrative highlights the roles of four key pillars that uphold harmony in multicultural communities: the local government, the police force, the community, and the armed forces. Each of these stakeholders has a distinct yet interconnected responsibility in fostering a peaceful coexistence. Together, they create a framework for addressing challenges, resolving conflicts, and promoting unity.

The first pillar in promoting harmonious inter-ethnic relations is the local government, which is represented by village officials (Subagyo 2021:15). These officials, including the village head and heads of neighborhood units (RT), play a crucial role in organizing and overseeing communal activities. Their responsibilities often include mediating disputes, facilitating dialogue among diverse groups, and implementing policies that promote equality and social justice. By serving as a bridge between government policies and community needs, village officials ensure that local governance reflects the multicultural nature of their



communities. They are instrumental in creating platforms for cultural exchange, fostering mutual understanding among residents, and addressing potential sources of tension. Their leadership and ability to foster collaboration among diverse groups are pivotal in maintaining a stable and inclusive society.

The second pillar is the police force, represented by Bhabinkamtibmas officers, who serve as Public Security and Order Development Officers (Purwani and Arvianti 2020b:12). Their role extends beyond maintaining law and order; they actively engage in building trust and fostering positive relationships with the community. Bhabinkamtibmas officers frequently conduct outreach programs to educate citizens about security measures and encourage proactive problem-solving. They also act as mediators during conflicts, ensuring that disputes are resolved fairly and without bias. By being accessible and approachable, these officers bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public, cultivating an environment of safety and trust. Their presence is particularly vital in preventing misunderstandings and addressing security concerns in a manner that respects the cultural sensitivities of diverse communities.

The third pillar is the community itself, represented by community and religious leaders who take an active role in social organizations. These leaders serve as cultural ambassadors, promoting the values of tolerance, respect, and solidarity among residents. Through their engagement in community events and religious activities, they provide platforms for interaction and understanding among different ethnic groups. Their ability to unite people around shared goals and values is a cornerstone of social harmony. Community leaders also play a vital role in conflict resolution by using their influence to mediate disputes and foster reconciliation. Their efforts often include organizing cultural festivals, interfaith dialogues, and educational programs to nurture a sense of belonging and mutual respect.

The fourth pillar is the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), represented by Babinsa officers, who serve as Village Development Officers (Jumriani et al. 2022:101). Babinsa officers focus on strengthening the resilience of local communities through development initiatives and security support. Their presence in villages ensures that national stability is reflected at the grassroots level. These officers actively engage in community development projects, including disaster preparedness, infrastructure improvement, and social welfare programs. By collaborating with local governments and community leaders, Babinsa officers contribute to a holistic approach to societal well-being. Their commitment to fostering unity and resilience underscores the importance of collective effort in addressing social challenges.

In conclusion, maintaining harmony in a multicultural society is a shared responsibility that involves the active participation of various stakeholders (Sulaiman et al. 2022:36). The local government, police force, community leaders, and armed forces each play a distinct yet interconnected role in promoting peace and stability. Their collaboration ensures that challenges arising from cultural diversity are addressed constructively, fostering mutual understanding and respect. By leveraging their unique strengths, these stakeholders create a foundation for sustainable harmony and inclusivity. This collaborative approach highlights the importance of dialogue, cooperation, and shared responsibility in building resilient and united communities. Together, they form a robust framework that safeguards the social fabric of a diverse and multicultural society.

### **Social Harmony in Maintaining Interfaith Harmony from the Perspective of Maqashid Syari'ah**

Maqashid Syariah is a foundational theory in Islamic jurisprudence designed to interpret sharia in a manner that promotes welfare and justice (Nurul Huda et al. 2023:8). Rooted in the teachings of classical Islamic scholars, this concept has evolved over centuries. Scholars like Al-Juwaini first introduced the idea, which was later refined by prominent figures such as Al-Ghazali and Al-Shatibi. In modern times, contemporary thinkers have continued to develop this framework to address the challenges of a changing world. At its core, Maqashid Syariah emphasizes the significance of aligning Islamic law with human well-being, ensuring justice and equity within society. This approach reflects the dynamic and adaptive nature of Islamic jurisprudence in addressing both historical and modern societal needs.

Central to Maqashid Syariah is the protection of five essential human needs: religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property (Darwis et al. 2022:78). These five elements, known as *al-daruriyyat al-khamsah*, form the cornerstone of human welfare as envisioned by Islamic law. The safeguarding of these aspects is seen as critical to establishing a balanced and harmonious life for individuals and communities. For instance, protecting life emphasizes the sanctity of human existence, while preserving intellect encourages the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. Similarly, safeguarding lineage ensures the stability of family structures, and protecting property provides economic security. Collectively, these principles highlight the holistic nature of Islamic law in addressing diverse aspects of human existence.

One of the most significant contributions of Maqashid Syariah is its ability to foster social harmony in diverse societies. By promoting ethical and moral principles, it offers a framework that transcends mere legal stipulations. Social harmony is achieved when relationships among individuals and communities are grounded in mutual respect, fairness, and justice. Maqashid Syariah encourages Muslims to engage with others in ways that uphold these values, regardless of religious or cultural differences. This approach aligns with the Quranic emphasis on justice and compassion as guiding principles for human interaction.

In a pluralistic society, Maqashid Syariah provides a framework for fostering peaceful and cooperative relationships between Muslims and people of other faiths. It underscores the importance of justice and inclusivity in interfaith interactions. By focusing on common values such as the protection of life, property, and dignity, Maqashid Syariah promotes a shared commitment to collective welfare. This approach encourages mutual understanding and respect, contributing to the creation of a harmonious social fabric in multicultural communities. A central concept within Maqashid Syariah is *maslahah 'ammah*, which refers to the collective welfare or common good. This principle underscores the purpose of Islamic law in promoting benefits and preventing harm for society as a whole. *Maslahah 'ammah* is not restricted to the Muslim community; it extends to all of humanity, reflecting the universal nature of Islamic teachings. This inclusive approach ensures that Islamic principles contribute positively to the broader society, fostering unity and cooperation among diverse groups.

Sharia, when interpreted through the lens of Maqashid Syariah, becomes a tool for promoting inclusive welfare. It seeks to balance the rights and responsibilities of individuals while addressing the collective needs of society.

This interpretation emphasizes the universality of Islamic values, making them relevant and beneficial to people of all backgrounds. By prioritizing justice, equity, and compassion, Islamic law serves as a means to enhance social cohesion and address pressing societal challenges.

Maqashid Syariah emphasizes justice and welfare as foundational principles for interfaith relations (Matsum 2023:54). These values encourage Muslims to engage with individuals of other faiths in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation. By focusing on shared human values, Maqashid Syariah fosters a sense of solidarity and collaboration among diverse communities. This approach not only strengthens interfaith ties but also ensures that Islamic teachings remain relevant and constructive in a globalized world.

The principle of *maslahah* within Maqashid Syariah emphasizes that Muslims should treat non-Muslims with justice and compassion, thereby creating a safe, just, and harmonious social environment for all religious groups. This principle is especially relevant in Jambi Province, home to various religious communities, where interfaith cooperation can be achieved through mutual respect and appreciation for diversity. In addition to the common good, the principles of justice (*al-'adl*) and balance (*al-mizan*) are essential elements of Maqashid Syariah. Justice in Islam emphasizes fair and non-discriminatory treatment in interactions between both Muslims and non-Muslims. This principle is crucial for promoting religious harmony, as it ensures that the rights of all individuals are respected, including their right to practice their religious beliefs.

Applying the principle of justice in Jambi Province can help address inter-religious tensions by emphasizing equality before the law and promoting fairness in social interactions. Balance, closely related to justice, highlights the importance of harmonizing individual rights with social responsibilities. This approach fosters a society that respects and values each other across different religious groups. The concept of religious pluralism within Maqashid Syariah is essential for understanding inter-religious interactions. Pluralism in Islam does not imply that all religions are the same; instead, it recognizes the diversity of beliefs and respects individuals' rights to choose and practice their faith. Islamic history, particularly during the Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) era, illustrates the application of pluralism through social agreements like the Medina Charter. This charter established guidelines for relationships between Muslims and non-Muslim communities based on principles of justice and cooperation. It emphasizes that, despite differences in beliefs, all religious groups are entitled to equal rights under the law. In Jambi Province, fostering interfaith dialogue rooted in the principles of Maqashid Syariah can be an effective way to maintain harmony and promote mutual understanding amid religious diversity.

Maqashid Syariah is a theoretical framework that provides a flexible and contextual approach to addressing social issues, including religious harmony (Arisman, Harmanto, and Sobirin 2023:28). By utilizing concepts such as justice, balance, public welfare, and pluralism, Maqashid Syariah can help analyze the challenges multireligious communities face in Jambi. This study will employ Maqashid Syariah as an analytical tool to evaluate the application of Islamic values related to harmony and justice within a complex socio-cultural context. This approach will also assist in formulating ethical and pragmatic solutions for public policy, guiding regional leaders and religious figures in creating policies that promote social harmony and address potential interfaith conflicts.

## Conclusion

This study highlights the critical role of Maqashid Syari'ah in fostering social harmony and interfaith coexistence in Jambi Province, Indonesia. By emphasizing principles such as justice, balance, and public welfare, Maqashid Syari'ah provides a robust framework for addressing the challenges posed by religious diversity and potential conflicts. The research demonstrates that promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding is essential for mitigating tensions and fostering a culture of mutual respect among different religious communities.

The findings indicate that collective efforts from various societal actors—including religious leaders, community organizations, and local authorities—are vital in implementing strategies that enhance social cohesion. Initiatives such as community engagement programs and educational outreach can significantly contribute to building a more inclusive society where diversity is celebrated and shared values are upheld. Moreover, the study underscores the importance of addressing structural inequalities and fostering meaningful interactions among community members. By prioritizing the general welfare and the preservation of fundamental human values, Maqashid Syari'ah not only aligns with the goals of social harmony but also promotes an environment conducive to collective well-being.

In conclusion, the application of Maqashid Syari'ah offers practical solutions to contemporary issues of intolerance and radicalism, making it a relevant and effective approach for fostering peace and stability in multicultural societies. The insights gained from this research can serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, community leaders, and scholars seeking to promote interfaith harmony and social justice in Jambi Province and beyond. Ultimately, the commitment to nurturing a culture of tolerance and cooperation is essential for achieving sustainable peace in diverse communities.

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