



NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Refleksi dan
dan
Global
Indonesia

ANNUAL
REPORT

20
25

SMALL VOICES
AMIDST A NEW REGIME

PREFACE

The year 2025 was a year of full transition. The new government brought a wave of hope, but also uncertainty for groups that have long been on the margins of public policy discourse—especially the Gender and Sexuality Diversity (RGS) community. In this context, Perkumpulan Suara Kita (Our Voice) chose to stand tall as both a safe space and a space for struggle. We realize our voice may be small, but it is precisely because it is small that we have learned to be sharper, clearer, and braver in voicing the unheard.

This annual report records our collective work over the past year: from inclusive policy advocacy and capacity building for grassroots communities to sustainable assistance. We do not just work to survive, but also to grow—developing strategies, building alliances, and expanding humane narratives of diversity. Amidst social and political pressure, we see how the RGS community demonstrates extraordinary resilience: supporting and strengthening one another while continuing to create dignified living spaces.

I express my deepest gratitude to the entire Suara Kita team, partners, volunteers, and the community that is our source of spirit. Without the courage and persistence of friends in the field, this report would not exist. May this document not only be an administrative record but also a reminder that social change begins with the courage to speak—even if it is small and slow, as long as it is continuous.

Bambang Prayudi

Director of Perkumpulan Suara Kita





Small Voices Amidst the New Regime

In the first year of a new government filled with promises of change, Suara Kita remained a consistent small voice for the rights and existence of the Gender and Sexuality Diversity group. Amidst political dynamics that often ignore diversity issues, we witnessed how the community showed incredible resilience—surviving, adapting, and building safe spaces and cross-identity solidarity.

This report tracks those footsteps: from inclusive advocacy and assistance to challenging stigma in public narratives. This small voice may not always be loud, but its persistence serves as a marker for hope and fairer change.

We also note how cross-sector collaboration—with academics, students, journalists, artists, and grassroots communities—has expanded the reach of inclusion messages. Through discussion forums, digital campaigns, and creative works, these marginalized voices now have the space to be heard and appreciated as an important aspect of the national narrative.

Amidst structural challenges and social pressure, we choose to remain present: listening, accompanying, and nurturing hope. Every small step and shared story is part of a larger movement toward a society that recognizes diversity as a strength, not a threat.

Verawati BR Sitompul
Board of Directors, Suara Kita

PROGRAM REPORTS

Support from partners such as Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Embassy of Ireland, and the Free to Be Me program is not just about funding, but about building a mutually strengthening advocacy ecosystem.

**APCOM –
GLOBAL
AFFAIRS
CANADA (GAC)**

**EMBASSY
OF
IRELAND
II**

**FREE 2
BE ME**



APCOM - GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA (GAC)

Mendukung Hak-Hak LGBTQI di Asia: Menghubungkan Suara untuk Inklusi Sosial-Ekonomi dan Hak Asasi Manusia LGBTQI di Asia

In a hotel in the Kota Tua (Old Town) area of Jakarta in April 2025, the atmosphere felt different. No big banners with political slogans, no stiff speeches from government officials. Instead, there were chairs arranged in a circle, small tables covered with colorful papers and faces that looked relieved—as if they had finally found a space where they could breathe without fear.

38 organizations from various regions came together to unify voices that were previously scattered into a collective force. They brought stories of discrimination in schools, healthcare refusals, and job losses due to identity.

“Many of the discussions became collective reflections, especially on access to healthcare and the fulfillment of human rights for vulnerable groups,” said Rully Malay, activist from the Waria Crisis Center in Yogyakarta.

National Workshop



The stories that emerged at the forum were often heartbreaking. However, there's a shared determination beneath the pain: to persevere, speak out, and find a solution together.

"We realize that if we walk alone, our voices are easily trampled. But if we unite, we can be stronger," said a participant from Makassar.

This National Workshop was not just a session of venting. Using the World Café method, participants moved between tables, discussed in small groups, and wrote down their ideas on colorful paper. From there, a map of strategic needs emerged:

From there, a strategic roadmap was born:

- An emergency hotline for discrimination victims.
- Safe houses in major cities.
- Advocacy for an Anti-Discrimination Bill.
- Paralegal training for the community.
- Public campaigns based on art and culture.

"Hopefully, activities like this will continue so that vulnerable groups can continue to have a space to express themselves and share with each other," said Rais, a transmen from Jakarta.

Partnership Building 1



Key Issues

1. Health & HIV/AIDS

- HIV services are not yet integrated with mental health
- Stigma remains high in healthcare facilities
- Reliance on foreign donors makes services fragile

2. Economic & Social Rights

- Lack of ID cards (KTP) blocks access to social security
- Workplace discrimination: gendered uniforms, dismissals due to HIV status, unequal wages
- Education: students from Gender and Sexual Diversity communities are forcibly outed or expelled

3. Civic Space & Expression

- Discriminatory local bylaws restrict safe spaces
- Mainstream media often perpetuate negative stereotypes
- Digital attacks: doxxing, hate speech, content restrictions

From these activities, a collective awareness emerged: the struggle of gender and sexually diverse communities in Indonesia cannot continue in isolation. Shared strategies, cross-regional networks, and cross-issue solidarity are needed.

Partnership Building 2



APPRECIATION FROM APCOM BANGKOK



“APCOM is proud to have Suara Kita as our national country partner for Indonesia in the three-year project ‘Supporting LGBTQI Rights in Asia: Connecting Voices for LGBTQI Socio-Economic Inclusion and Human Rights in Asia,’ supported by Global Affairs Canada. Throughout this project, Suara Kita’s leadership, dedication, and deep connection with local communities were instrumental in ensuring that lived experiences and community voices guided every step of our collective work. We are grateful for Suara Kita’s unwavering collaboration, and together, we look forward to building on our shared achievements, amplifying community leadership, strengthening regional solidarity, and advancing equality, dignity, and justice for all LGBTQI people in Indonesia and across Asia and the Pacific.”

Best,

Midnight
Director Apcom Bangkok

Supporting LGBTQI Rights in Asia: Connecting Voices for Inclusion Socioeconomic and Human Rights of LGBTQI People in Asia



On September 10, 2025, Suara Kita received the Best LGBTQI Advocacy Star Award from APCOM at the 3rd ADB Learning Week in Manila, Philippines. This award recognizes Suara Kita's commitment to fighting for rights, visibility, and empowerment in Indonesia.

Through the "Supporting LGBTQI Rights in Asia" project, supported by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Suara Kita is recognized for inspiring change and expanding the space for inclusive and dignified advocacy. This award is a significant indicator that consistent and courageous grassroots work can resonate regionally, strengthening cross-border solidarity in the fight for social justice.

EMBASSY OF IRELAND II

Advancing Equality and Justice for the LGBTIQ+ Community in Indonesia

Transgender and non-binary individuals living in Indonesia often lack identity documents (ID card/KTP, Family Card, etc.). Lack of identity documents can present obstacles in the job application process, as employers typically require official documents for various legal processes such as taxation, health insurance, and opening a bank account. Since 2021, Suara Kita has been advocating and assisting the transgender community in obtaining identity documents (ID card, KTP, Family Card, birth certificate).



This opens up access for transgender and non-binary communities, such as enrolling in government health insurance programs, opening bank accounts, and more. However, having an ID card (KTP) does not automatically open up job opportunities for transgender individuals in Indonesia. Other factors still influence employment opportunities for transgender and non-binary individuals.

Transgender and non-binary individuals face numerous challenges in obtaining employment opportunities. Discrimination, social stigma, and a lack of understanding are often significant barriers. The majority of transgender and non-binary individuals in Indonesia live in poverty, have low educational backgrounds, and lack specialized skills, which impacts their chances of finding employment.

Furthermore, social stigma and a lack of awareness regarding transgender and non-binary issues exacerbate the challenges transgender individuals face in finding employment. They are often the targets of prejudice and discrimination, which can lower their self-esteem. This impacts their confidence and ability to compete in the job market, further hindering employment opportunities.

SuaraKita has an initiative to support transgender individuals in their job search. We want to assist in capacity building and provide networking opportunities that are specifically tailored to the needs of transgender individuals. SuaraKita will then assess existing challenges and help bridge the gap between employers and transgender job seekers. SuaraKita aims to address the unique challenges faced by transgender individuals and, in the long term, hopefully improve employment opportunities for transgender individuals.

Enhancing understanding and awareness of transgender issues plays a crucial role in challenging stereotypes and reducing discrimination. The more people are educated about transgender experiences, the more possible it is to create inclusive workplaces and provide equal employment opportunities. Greater awareness will help break down barriers and foster acceptance, thereby improving employment prospects for transgender individuals. To achieve this, we will conduct outreach and discussions with prospective employers to raise awareness of transgender issues and inclusive workplaces, as well as to understand employers' needs and expectations of transgender individuals as job seekers.



FREE 2 BE ME

In a modest community space in Depok, a group of young transgender and non-binary people sat in a circle. In front of them were blank papers, laptops, and cups of coffees. They were learning how to write a CV—a document that may seem trivial to some, but for them, is a ticket to recognition in the formal job market.

“I used to never dare apply for an office job,” said one training participant. “I was afraid of being rejected just because of how I look. But now, I’m starting to feel confident.”

This is the real face of the Free to Be Me (F2BM) program run by Perkumpulan Suara Kita between November 2024 and June 2025. The organization achieved an important milestone: building a bridge between Gender and Sexual Diversity communities and a more inclusive workforce.

Suara Kita successfully gathered 176 valid data entries from transgender and non-binary individuals—exceeding the initial target of 100 respondents. The data revealed:

53.2% transwomen, 17% transmen, 11,1% non-binary, and 18.7% queer. Nearly 94% of respondents said they needed basic training to improve job skills. The most requested were: Public speaking (123 individuals), English (102 individuals), Microsoft Office/Computer (91 individuals), and Report Writing (76 individuals). These are not just numbers, but a map of real needs forming the foundation of empowerment strategies.



Sunday, June 22, 2025, a warm morning at the ICW Learning House witnessed the enthusiasm of transgender women from the Warna Sehati Depok community, who enthusiastically participated in a training titled "CV Writing, Job Application Letters, and Recognizing Fake/Scam Job Openings." The training was organized by the Suara Kita Association and facilitated by Mia Olivia, a Project Advisor with proven experience in empowering the LGBTQI+ community.

The goal of this activity was simple yet crucial: to help transgender women prepare effective job applications and compete in the formal workforce.

Why Is This Training Necessary?

The majority of participants admitted to having difficulty creating a proper CV and had never received proper guidance.

"In the past, we used CVs that were usually sold for around two thousand rupiah, and we could photocopy and just fill them in. But things have changed now, so it's confusing," said Torry, one of the participants.

Some also revealed that they already had experience writing CVs, had sent CVs via email but never received a response, and didn't know why. Furthermore, unfamiliarity with interview techniques was also a strong reason for participating in this training. Some participants admitted to being nervous during interviews, not even knowing what questions companies typically ask or how to answer them.



GUIDANCE MODULE FOR EMPLOYERS

Another important part of this training was equipping participants with the ability to recognize fake or scam job postings. Mia shared common characteristics of fake job postings, such as requests for administration fees, characteristics of fake websites and emails, promises of unrealistically high salaries, or recruitment conducted through social media without a clear process. Participants were encouraged to double-check job posting information and use trusted websites when searching for jobs.

Finally, participants were provided with interview materials. The materials covered basic questions and typical situations to expect once a job applicant successfully advances to the interview stage. Participants were also taught tips and tricks for job interviews, such as what to do and what to avoid.

This activity is crucial to conduct regularly. Empowerment is not only about economic importance but also about restoring the self-confidence of transgender women, so they can believe that they are worthy and capable of competing and working professionally. This is a small step that holds a lot of meaning in promoting access for transgender women to a more equal and dignified world of work.



SUARA KITA'S PROGRAMS

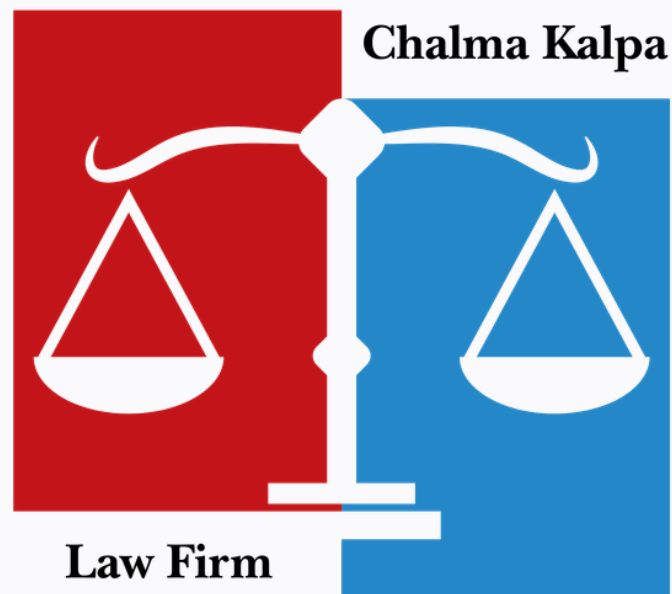
Field	Organic Program Name	
<p>Partnership and Advocacy Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and Public Resource/Service Center • Social Immersion" - Collaboration between Suara Kita, Duta Wacana Christian University (UKDW) Yogyakarta & Jakarta Theological Seminary (STFT) • Network and Partnership Visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To become a platform and reference for partners, students, or the public to access data, ask questions, and obtain references on issues related to gender and sexual diversity. • A learning experience that requires students to be present, see, feel, and be visibly engaged within society. • Focuses on strengthening relationships, collaboration, and building a shared ecosystem.
<p>Media and Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Writing Invitation - SuaraKita Contributors • Media Coverage & Storytelling • SuaraKita Comics • SUKI (SuaraKita Stickers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative space to strengthen writing culture, share perspectives, and enrich public discourse. • Elevating the lived realities of gender and sexually diverse groups as part of a larger narrative of struggle, building collective identity, and showcasing the tangible impact of assistance. • Through the language of images, Suara Kita can convey complex issues simply and build empathy. • Suara Kita stickers function as a tool for visual communication, advocacy, and strengthening organizational identity while also building closeness with the community.

Field	Organic Program Name	
<p>Membership and Library</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suara Kita Member and Individual & Organizational Network Partner Gatherings (Watch together + Discussions & Commemoration of major holidays) • Our Sexuality Education - Online & Offline Webinar • Critical Limited Discussions - Online & Offline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program is a shared learning space that brings together diverse perspectives, strengthens collective identity, and fosters an advocacy spirit through inclusive and enjoyable methods. • A public education program regularly held in the form of intensive webinars. This program is open to the public and conducted both online and offline, enabling it to reach a wider audience. • This discussion is designed to strengthen analytical capacity, practice pro or con argumentation, and build a critical thinking culture within the organization.
<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Scholarships for Suara Kita Daily Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An internal initiative aimed at supporting capacity development and improving the quality of human resources within the organizational environment.
<p>Legal Assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Chalma Kalpa” Law Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalma Kalpa emerges as a response to the need, not only as a law office but as a safe space for clients and for legal practitioners committed to inclusivity values.
<p>Fundraising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking and Fundraising Booth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fundraising initiative carried out by setting up a booth at various public events or partner activities, serving as a means to network with individual and organizational partners, broaden support, and strengthen collaboration.

CHALMA KALPA

On July 25, 2025, the Suara Kita, through its Legal Division, officially established the Chalma Kalpa Law Firm. Chalma Kalpa officially launched on August 17, 2025. Chalma Kalpa's presence stems from the growing need for safe, inclusive, and human rights-based legal aid services for communities and Human Rights Defenders, particularly those of diverse genders and sexualities. This community still frequently faces discrimination, violence, and even criminalization in various aspects of life, including when dealing with law enforcement officials and in the judicial process.

The name "Chalma Kalpa" was chosen to symbolize the determination to fight for equality and justice. This determination stems from a long experience of providing assistance, demonstrating that not all legal practitioners have the ability, empathy, or courage to handle cases related to diverse gender and sexual identities. Social stigma, public pressure, and reputational risks often hinder victims from receiving adequate legal representation.



Chalma Kalpa exists to meet this need, not just as a law firm, but as a safe space for clients and legal practitioners committed to the value of inclusivity. The firm is staffed by lawyers and paralegals from diverse gender and sexuality communities, bringing relevant perspectives, experience, and advocacy capacity to advance human rights in Indonesia.



Throughout its journey, Chalma Kalpa has focused on three main pillars:

1. Client-centered legal assistance and upholding the principle of non-discrimination.
2. Community Empowerment, including increasing legal capacity for vulnerable groups.
3. Policy Advocacy, to strengthen legal protection for gender- and sexual-diverse groups, as well as human rights defenders.

Through these works, Chalma Kalpa strives to ensure that every individual, regardless of identity, has equal access to justice. Its presence reinforces Suara Kita's commitment to continuously growing safe spaces, strengthening community capacity, and building a more inclusive and diverse legal system.

Chalma Kalpa Law Firm has conducted Paralegal Training as part of its commitment to strengthening legal assistance capacity at the community level. In this training, participants are equipped with basic legal knowledge and an in-depth understanding of procedural law, enabling them to recognize the flow, principles, and stages of the law enforcement process.



As part of the learning process, the paralegals also conducted direct visits to the District Court. This activity aims to provide practical experience in trial procedures, from the administrative process, opening of the hearing, case examination, and delivery of the verdict. By observing the dynamics of the trial firsthand, the paralegals are expected to gain a comprehensive understanding of how the court process operates.

Through a combination of theoretical material and field experience, this training is expected to develop skilled paralegals who are sensitive to legal issues in the community and ready to assist the community with an appropriate, professional, and justice-oriented approach.



FINANCIAL REPORT: PROGRAMS

Throughout 2025, SuaraKita has implemented several strategic projects supported by various national and international donors. Each project is designed to strengthen advocacy, empowerment, and social inclusion for the LGBTQI+ community in Indonesia, with fundraising levels demonstrating the effectiveness and accountability of the organization's work.

The four main projects are:

- Legal Empowerment Fund (YLBH APIK Jakarta): Running from August 2023 to February 2025, this project supports legal empowerment efforts with a value of Rp 131,400,000 and 100% absorption.
- Supporting LGBTQI Rights in Asia: Connecting Voices for LGBTQI Socio-Economic Inclusion and Human Rights in Asia - "National Workshop & Partnership Building 1-2" (APCOM Foundation): This project, valued at Rp 1,594,000, is an extension of the APCOM GAC program in 2004 and a collaboration between regional partners and our national network. Three major activities were held over three consecutive months, April - June 2025. This activity is organized by Suara Kita, in collaboration with Gaya Lentera Muda Lampung (Gaylam) and Srikandi Pakuan Panggah Bogor, with 100% absorption.
- Advancing Equality and Justice for the LGBTIQ+ Community in Indonesia (Irish Aid): This €15,000 project runs from August 2024 to August 2025, focusing on strengthening rights and social justice, with 100% uptake.
- Free To Be Me (Humanist and Social Innovation Foundation): This project, valued at €19,990 and running from November 2024 to April 2025, supports identity expression and social inclusion, also with 100% uptake.
- Breaking Barriers: Advancing Workplace Inclusivity for LGBTQI Individuals (Irish Aid): This ongoing project, which began in October 2025 and will run until October 2026, has a value of €9,100 and an initial uptake of 20%.

The involvement of various donors demonstrates confidence in Suara Kita's capacity to manage programs transparently and impactfully. Each project is not just about numbers, but about building a sustainable and inclusive advocacy ecosystem. With a measurable and collaborative strategy, Suara Kita continues to expand its advocacy space, reach communities, and strengthen local capacity for dignified social change.

No.	Donor	Nama Project	Nilai Project	Durasi Project		Penyerapan	Keterangan
				Start	Finish		
1	YLBH APIK Jakarta	Legal Empowerment Fund	Rp131.400.000	August 2023	February 2025	100%	Finished
2	APCOM Foundation	Supporting LGBTQI Rights in Asia: Connecting Voices for LGBTQI Socio-Economic Inclusion and Human Rights in Asia - "National Workshop & Partnership Building 1 - 2"	Rp1.594.000	January 2025	June 2025	100%	Finished
3	Irish Aid	Advancing Equality and Justice for The LGBTIQ+ Community in Indonesia	€15.000	August 2024	August 2025	100%	Finished
4	Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial	Free To Be Me	€19.990	November 2024	April 2025	100%	Finished
5	Irish Aid	Breaking Barriers: Advancing Workplace Inclusivity for LGBTQI Individuals	€9.100	October 2025	October 2026	20%	On Going

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Division has implemented various initiatives to support the funding of the Suara Kita program, including book and merchandise sales.

The sales strategy is comprehensive, encompassing both digital (online) and face-to-face (offline) channels.

Promotion is carried out through social media platforms like Instagram @pustakapelangipsk and TikTok @pustakapelangipsk.

Sales are primarily conducted offline at Suara Kita events and through booths held by strategic partners.

During 2025, Fundraising has opened booths at the National Workshop at the Mercure Hotel, the New Office Celebration, Anti-Human Trafficking Day (Migrant Care), a celebration (SPINN), and the Independence Picnic (Humanis Foundation).

The total amount raised from book and merchandise sales as of December 2, 2025, is **Rp3,444,000.**



FUNDRAISING TEAM'S NOTE

The Case of Moving the Suara Kita Fundraising Booth at FAMM FEST – Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM) (December 10, 2025) at the urging of TIM staff.

On Wednesday, December 10, 2025, Suara Kita attended the FAMM Fest event held at Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM) in Central Jakarta as part of a series of events commemorating International Human Rights Day. Suara Kita coordinated with Famm Fest, the event organizer, to schedule a fundraising booth to gather public support.

Around 2:45 PM, the Suara Kita team, represented by Baim, a fundraising staff member, began opening and setting up the booth in front of the Oesman Effendi Gallery (TIM), in accordance with the initial information received from the FAMM FEST committee (Ijah) regarding the location that could be used by exhibitors. After the booth was installed and the event began, three people, suspected to be TIM staff, came to the area. The staff informed the committee that the Suara Kita booth was not allowed in front of the Oesman Effendi Gallery and had to be moved to an area inside the building. The reason was for security and due to the upcoming press conference.

The Suara Kita Team then requested clarification regarding the reason for the move by involving the FAMM FEST Committee (by the name of Tuba and 1 person from Kaum Telapak) and ensuring the availability of alternative locations. After receiving confirmation that the move was an instruction from the venue management, the team immediately made adjustments. The booth was then moved to the indoor area as directed by the TIM, although this demanded additional time and readjustments to the layout. For the arrangement of the books sold by Suara Kita, they were also requested to be positioned upside down, as the front page depicts a rainbow. After the booth was moved, TIM security guards were seen several times approaching the Suara Kita booth for unknown reasons.

The relocation temporarily halted booth operations, but fundraising activities were able to continue after the reorganization was completed. The event concluded at 8:00 PM WIB. Suara Kita expresses particular regret that this incident occurred, especially at TIM, which we believed upheld the values of diversity and inclusion for all communities.

Depok, 10 Desember 2025

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Workshop Empathic Leadership at Suara Kita, Learning How to Lead with Empathy



What if leadership wasn't just about strategy and advocacy, but also about listening, feeling, and being fully present? That was the spirit of the Empathic Leadership Workshop held by Empathic Living at Suara Kita on August 5-6, 2025.

For two days, participants, including management, daily staff, volunteers, members, and prospective Suara Kita members, gathered to learn how to lead with empathy—not with power, but with connection. Led by Philip Yusenda, a facilitator known for his reflective and warm approach, the workshop opened the door for anyone who wants to lead with an open heart.

What was learned?

This workshop explored three key pillars of empathetic leadership:

- **Listening to Yourself:** Recognizing body signals, understanding emotions, and exploring your deepest needs. Because before we can be present for others, we need to be present for ourselves.
- **Listening to Others:** Learning to discern others' feelings and needs, and listening without judgment. This isn't just communication—it's connection.
- **Finding a Joint Strategy:** Formulating solutions that empower, not defeat, each other. Because true leadership is about togetherness.

One of the most exciting moments was when participants played with The No Fault Zone, an interactive tool that helps us understand ourselves and others without blame. Many said, “This isn’t just a game—it’s a mirror!”

Learn how to be “CCTV,” seeing others without passing judgment.

About Empathic Living

Empathic Living is a movement that promotes empathy as a life skill. They create a safe, deep, and meaningful learning space to help people build healthy relationships and lead with awareness.

They believe that empathy is not a weak, gentle force—it is a power that can transform the way we live and work.

The quote that underpins this workshop is: “My feelings are my own responsibility; no one or anything can change my feelings without my permission.”

This message prompts us to take responsibility for our emotions and lead with honesty and courage.

Although the workshop spanned two days, the atmosphere was warm, filled with laughter, reflection, and many lasting “aha!” moments.



Suara Kita’s mascot, **Suki**.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

80 Years of Indonesia: Our Voice Pushes for Reform of the BPJS Employment Agency

SuaraKita continues to amplify its advocacy efforts for inclusive access to public services, particularly for the transgender community. At the meeting "Our Sexuality Education - The Role of the State for Unconventional Families: Examining the Advocacy Journey of the Transgender BPJS TK" attended by activists from Greater Jakarta (Jabodetabek) and Cilacap on August 17, 2025, the forum discussed structural barriers in the employment social security system (BPJS TK) and designed strategies to expand legal support and public education space.

Challenges to Accessing BPJS TK for Trans Women

One crucial issue raised was the rejection of death benefit (JKM) claims by BPJS TK for deceased transgender participants. Despite being registered through the Perisai agency scheme, many claims could not be disbursed due to the lack of formal beneficiaries or because the wills they had prepared with Suara Kita were deemed invalid by law.

"Oh, and one more thing, during a meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs, BPJS TK once stated (with the tendency) that we deliberately registered people who were about to die," Mia explained in the forum.

In mediation facilitated by the National Social Security Council (DJSN), it was revealed that of the nine deceased transgender women, only two claims were fully disbursed. The other six only received Rp 10 million in funeral expenses, and one claim was rejected entirely. The DJSN stated that these obstacles were regulatory in nature, not due to substantial rejection, and mediation to find a solution is still ongoing.



Research by Ricko Adi Wicaksana from the University of Indonesia, conducted by Suara Kita, shows that only one in seven transgender women has a national ID card (KTP). This lack of legal identification directly impacts access to education, employment, and social security. The study proposes a value co-creation approach to public services, where communities are actively involved in the design and implementation of services.

Discrimination against gender minorities was also documented in a DW Indonesia report, which highlighted how transgender women are often denied healthcare services because their identities do not match official documents. Even during the BPJS (Social Security) registration process, some transgender women experienced verbal harassment, such as being called by their birth names, which do not match their current identities.

The August 17th celebrations concluded with typical August competitions and a gift exchange for participants who attended in person.



MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Members Gather to Commemorate TDOR 2025: Preserving Memories, Strengthening Solidarity

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is not just a day to remember transgender friends who have passed away as victims of gender-based violence. More than that, this moment is a space to celebrate the courage, resilience, and presence of the transgender community, which continues to fight beyond social boundaries. TDOR Day also represents the struggle for each person's courage and presence to be accepted in wider society.

To commemorate TDOR this year, a gathering of Suara Kita members becomes very special. Held at the Suara Kita office on Saturday, November 22, the community gathered to watch and discuss the film *Raminten Universe* (2025).

Raminten Universe is a documentary that depicts the inspiring figures behind the *Raminten Cabaret*—a performance renowned in Yogyakarta for its unique celebration of culture, humor, and diversity. Dena Rachman, the film's producer, also attended the discussion session after the screening.



As a public figure and transgender rights activist, Dena Rachman's presence provided an in-depth perspective on representation, the creative process, and the importance of cultural spaces that support gender diversity. The lively discussion, filled with questions and answers, enriched participants' knowledge of the creative process behind the film and the history of the Raminten Cabaret.

The participants' enthusiasm was evident from the beginning. The event opened with a moment of silence and a prayer in memory of transgender friends who have passed away, as a form of respect and solidarity.

During the discussion, many participants expressed that Raminten Universe was not only informative but also inspiring. Many learned more about the history of the Raminten cabaret and the stories behind it.

With a spirit of togetherness and collective learning, this event invited us all to not only remember but also celebrate the courage, creativity, and life of the transgender community. This way, the struggle for acceptance can continue.



STUDENT SERVICES

Throughout 2025, 22 students contacted Suara Kita for various academic needs, from research and assignments to thesis writing. Of these, four were participants in the Social Immersion program from the Jakarta School of Philosophy and Theology and the Faculty of Theology at Duta Wacana Christian University, Yogyakarta.

Opening our doors to students is not simply a form of openness but a crucial strategic step for Suara Kita. By providing direct access to advocacy and community mentoring processes, students can learn from real-world experiences, not just theory. This interaction strengthens the bridge between academia and social movements, while ensuring that issues of gender and sexual diversity are included in broader scholarly discourse.

For Suara Kita, the presence of students brings two benefits: on the one hand, the organization acquires new support in the form of critical perspectives and youthful enthusiasm; on the other, students gain a learning space that is contextual, empathetic, and relevant to societal challenges. With this strategy, Suara Kita affirms its commitment to building an inclusive knowledge ecosystem, where advocacy and academics mutually reinforce each other for more equitable social change.



Our Voices at the 2025 Social Immersion Photo Exhibition, UKDW Yogyakarta: Preserving Dignity, Fighting Stigma

On December 15-16, 2025, the atrium of the Agape Building at Duta Wacana Christian University (UKDW) Yogyakarta transformed into a space filled with stories and empathy through the 2025 Social Immersion Photo Exhibition with the theme "I'm Here, I Care."

Fifty-six photographic works, the reflections of UKDW Faculty of Theology students from the class of 2023, were exhibited, portraying the lives they encountered during the Social Immersion program, which ran from June to July 2025. The program involved 46 students from 28 institutions from Java to East Nusa Tenggara, presenting a diversity of contexts that enriched the visual narrative.

The theme "I'm Here, I Care" is not just a slogan, but an attitude: through the lens of their cameras, the students invite visitors to delve into the realities of society, from encounters across identities, experiences of life on the margins, to simple moments that hold profound meanings about humanity and social justice.



Among the works on display, Perkumpulan Suara Kita presents two powerful and meaningful photographs: "Teater Manekin" and "Baby Step." The photo Teater Manekin shows a dark stage with rows of headless mannequins as a backdrop for the living bodies of transwomen from the Teater Manekin community in West Jakarta.



This contrast speaks to the experiences of transgender women, who are often praised for their beauty and entertainment, but seldom recognized as dignified human beings. For Mami Atta and Madam Devi, founders of Teater Manekin, mannequins are a symbol of beauty that is never fully possessed—a metaphor for the transgender identity that is frequently reduced to mere entertainment. Through the performance "Rumah Rias," captured in photographs, they critique social pressures and misleading beauty standards. A simple stage with wigs and dresses emphasizes a powerful message: art is a medium for survival, voicing identity, and combating stigma.

Meanwhile, the photo "Baby Step" captures a learning moment for the Warna Sehati Depok community in an employment workshop held by Suara Kita. These transgender women [participants] are seen seriously partaking in training on writing CVs, writing application letters, and identifying the characteristics of fake job postings. This earnestness radiates a determination that a more equitable future can be built through knowledge.

This workshop is a small step—a baby step—in Suara Kita's long struggle toward open & inclusive employment opportunities for transgender women who have been marginalized from the formal workforce. A simple room transforms into a space of empowerment, where life experiences [that are] often considered unprofessional are redefined as legitimate competencies worthy of respect.

The presence of these two photographs highlights the concrete work of Suara Kita as a membership-based organization that consistently fights for equality and justice for diverse genders and sexualities in Indonesia. Their advocacy is clear: everyone has the right to be recognized as a citizen without discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

The Social Immersion 2025 exhibition is ultimately not just about beautiful photographs, but instead a public space that invites visitors to pause, look deeper, and realize that learning, theology, and belief do not stop in the classroom. They find their expression when we dare to be present, care for, and stand with those who have been marginalized.

SUARA KITA'S TEAM

SuaraKita's Daily Team consists of dedicated individuals from diverse backgrounds who complement each other in championing the rights of gender and sexuality diverse groups. From financial management to media campaigns, from program mentoring to fundraising strategies, we build a workspace that is inclusive, reflective, and oriented towards sustainable social change.



Bambang Prayudi
Director



Ardian Rudianto H
Program Manager



Prima Ariandanu
Finance & Administration



Wisesa Wirayuda
Communication Officer



Syifa
Fundraiser



Iim Ibrahim
Fundraiser



Dewi Nova
Module Consultant



Verawati Br. Tompul
Law Consultant



Aeni Nasution
Program Consultant



SuaraKita

SuaraKita is a 'voice' for equality and justice for diverse gender and sexuality groups in Indonesia.

Contact Us

📍 Jl. Palawija No. 65, Beji, Depok, Jawa Barat.

☎ (+62) 822-4601-9800

🌐 www.suarakita.org

📷 @suarakita_psk

TERIMA KASIH!

