

The Role of Contemporary Fatwa in Preventing Religious Extremism and Radicalism

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyse the function of contemporary fatwas in mitigating extremism and radicalism, providing insights into their efficacy within the current social and cultural milieu. The goal of this study is to help come up with innovative ways to deal with these threats. **The growth of radicalism** and religious fanaticism, especially in Muslim populations, is a menace to the whole world. Misreading religious scriptures and spreading radical ideas frequently lead to bloodshed, which makes things less peaceful. Fatwas, which are religious rulings made by Islamic experts, are very important for dealing with these problems. **This qualitative study** examines the function of fatwas in mitigating extremism and radicalism. It looks at fatwas given by well-known scholars and institutions in reaction to extremist ideology. It focuses on how these fatwas make it clear what the true understanding of Islam is and discourage radical beliefs. **The results show** how important fatwas are for spreading moderate, peaceful views of Islam and how important religious leaders are for leading communities towards tolerance and living together. **The study indicates** that fatwas can effectively inhibit the proliferation of extremism, contingent upon their issuance by reputable, competent scholars who prioritise peace in their interpretations.

Keywords: *Fatwas, Religious, Extremism Radicalism*

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis fungsi fatwa kontemporer dalam meredam ekstremisme dan radikalisasi, memberikan wawasan mengenai efektivitasnya dalam konteks sosial dan budaya saat ini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membantu mencari cara inovatif dalam menangani ancaman-ancaman ini. **Pertumbuhan radikalisasi** dan fanatisme agama, terutama di kalangan populasi Muslim, menjadi ancaman bagi seluruh dunia. Penafsiran yang keliru terhadap teks-teks agama dan penyebaran ide-ide radikal sering kali berujung pada pertumpahan darah, yang mengurangi kedamaian. Fatwa, yaitu keputusan-keputusan agama yang dikeluarkan oleh ahli agama Islam, sangat penting dalam menangani masalah-masalah ini. **Penelitian kualitatif** ini mengkaji fungsi fatwa dalam meredam ekstremisme dan radikalisasi. Penelitian ini memeriksa fatwa-fatwa yang dikeluarkan oleh ulama dan lembaga terkemuka sebagai respons terhadap ideologi ekstremis. **Fokusnya** adalah

bagaimana fatwa-fatwa tersebut menjelaskan pemahaman yang benar tentang Islam dan mencegah keyakinan radikal. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan betapa pentingnya fatwa dalam menyebarkan pandangan moderat dan damai tentang Islam serta peran penting pemimpin agama dalam membimbing komunitas menuju toleransi dan kehidupan bersama. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa fatwa dapat secara efektif menghambat penyebaran ekstremisme, tergantung pada penerbitannya oleh ulama yang memiliki reputasi dan kompetensi, yang mengutamakan perdamaian dalam penafsirannya.

Kata Kunci: Fatwa, Agama, Ekstrim Radikal

INTRODUCTION

Religious extremism and radicalism are among the most pressing issues that contemporary Muslim societies face. These phenomena are not merely theoretical problems but are deeply entrenched in practical, real-world conflicts that threaten the social fabric, peace, and stability of communities worldwide. Extremism, in particular, is often linked to a distorted interpretation of religious texts, which is then used to justify acts of violence, intolerance, and the rejection of pluralism. (E.T. Rahman, M.A.E. Dunur'aeni, A. Suganda, H. Ahyani, O. & Rozikin, 2024).

In the context of Islam, these ideologies are sometimes rooted in misinterpretations of Islamic teachings, exploited by extremist groups to recruit followers and fuel violent movements. In response, Islamic legal scholars and institutions have traditionally issued fatwas (Islamic legal opinions) as authoritative interpretations of religious law, offering guidance on religious, social, and political matters. Fatwas have historically played a vital role in guiding Muslim communities, providing clarity and authority in matters of faith and practice. However, the role of fatwas in preventing the spread of religious extremism and radicalism remains underexplored and insufficiently understood, thus raising a significant question both from a theoretical and a practical standpoint.

The practical challenges posed by radicalization and extremism are multifaceted. On a practical level, radicalization often occurs through the manipulation of religious language, where extremist ideologies co-opt religious texts and teachings to justify violence and the rejection of established norms. In such cases, there is often a deliberate attempt to obscure the true teachings of Islam, portraying them as supportive of violent and intolerant behavior. (E.T. Rahman, 2025).

Additionally, extremist groups frequently present themselves as defenders of Islam, using religious rhetoric to validate their cause. In this context, religious fatwas have the potential to serve as a crucial countermeasure by offering legitimate, mainstream interpretations of Islam that contradict the radical ideologies being spread. However, fatwas are not always clear in addressing these issues, and their effectiveness in preventing

extremism depends largely on their credibility, the authority of the scholars issuing them, and the manner in which they are disseminated within society.

On a theoretical level, the role of fatwas has often been seen as limited to providing religious guidance on matters of worship and social conduct. Fatwas are typically understood as reactive instruments that respond to specific legal questions or social issues. However, their potential role in shaping societal norms and values, particularly in the context of preventing radicalization, has not been fully explored. (M.T. Madani, & R. Rufaida, 2023).

The theoretical gap lies in understanding how fatwas can serve as proactive tools in combating extremism, rather than just reacting to incidents or crises after they occur. There is a need to rethink the role of fatwas in preventing radicalization by focusing not only on their legal and religious aspects but also on their social and political dimensions. This study aims to bridge this gap by investigating how fatwas can serve as preventive instruments in countering extremist ideologies.

Recent studies have explored various facets of religious extremism and radicalization, with a particular focus on the factors that contribute to the rise of radical ideologies in Muslim societies. Scholars have identified a range of socio-political, economic, and psychological factors that contribute to radicalization, including social alienation, identity crises, political oppression, and the influence of global extremist networks.

In Southeast Asia, for example, studies have shown that radicalization often begins as a process of ideological indoctrination, which is then followed by political mobilization and, in some cases, violent extremism. Research in countries like Indonesia and Malaysia has demonstrated how extremist groups exploit socio-political grievances, often using religious language to justify their actions. While much of this research focuses on the macro-level causes of radicalization, there has been less attention paid to how religious institutions and legal frameworks, such as fatwas, can prevent the spread of extremism. (A.M. Ismail, & A.S. Baharuddin, 2022).

In the context of fatwas, some studies have examined their role in mitigating extremism, but these studies often focus on the legal aspects of fatwa issuance rather than on their social impact or preventive capacity. For instance, a study by the International Crisis Group (ICG) in Indonesia explored how extremist groups have used fatwas to justify their activities, noting that radical groups often misinterpret or misuse fatwas for their own purposes. This highlights the need for a more nuanced understanding of fatwas, one that not only looks at their content but also at how they are received by the broader community. Moreover, while some scholars argue that fatwas can play a role in countering extremism by offering legitimate interpretations of religious texts, the lack of a systematic approach to evaluating their effectiveness remains a critical gap in the literature. (A. Asa'ari, R. Nurdiansyah, M. Mursal, M., & D. Witro, 2022).

Furthermore, while there has been an increase in studies that focus on the role of Islamic religious authorities in combating extremism, these studies tend to focus on the state's role or the efforts of secular institutions to regulate religious practice. There is less research that focuses specifically on the role of religious scholars and fatwas in preventing radicalization. This is a significant gap, as fatwas issued by qualified Islamic scholars can serve as an authoritative response to extremist ideologies and provide the community with guidance on how to reject radical views. This study aims to fill this gap by focusing specifically on the role of fatwas in preventing extremism and radicalism.

While there has been considerable research on the drivers of religious extremism and the role of religious institutions in combating it, there is a clear gap in understanding how fatwas can actively contribute to preventing extremism. The gap exists not only in the literature on fatwas but also in the practical implementation of fatwas as preventive tools. While fatwas are frequently issued by Islamic scholars in response to extremist ideologies, little is known about their effectiveness in curbing radicalization before it occurs. The absence of empirical studies that evaluate the preventive impact of fatwas creates a significant gap in the existing research. (F.Y.S. Dharta, T. Anggara, R. Hariyanto, Fajar, & H.R. Sianturi, 2025).

In addition to the lack of empirical data, there is also a theoretical gap in understanding how fatwas function as preventive tools. While much of the research on fatwas focuses on their legal and religious implications, there is little discussion on how fatwas can be used proactively to counter extremism and promote moderate interpretations of Islam. The gap also extends to the dissemination and reception of fatwas. Even if fatwas are issued, they are not always communicated effectively or widely accepted by the community. This study seeks to address these gaps by examining the role of fatwas in preventing extremism, both from a theoretical perspective and through empirical case studies. (M.A.S. Madnur, A. Sofyan, A. Syahrul & Nahrowi. 2023).

This study is unique because it looks at modern fatwas as a way to stop religious extremism and radicalism in today's globe. Traditional fatwas have historically been crucial in the interpretation of Islamic law; nevertheless, this research emphasises the adaptive utilisation of fatwas in confronting contemporary problems presented by extremist ideologies. The paper examines recent fatwas from notable academics and institutions, illustrating how these religious edicts offer unequivocal direction amid increasing radicalisation, presenting an alternative perspective to extreme interpretations. The study also looks at how fatwas vary with the times, making them useful and helpful for dealing with modern problems. This approach offers a novel viewpoint on the influence of religious authority in shaping public discourse and promoting peaceful coexistence, providing new insights into the role of fatwas in mitigating radicalisation across various societies.

This research explores the role of fatwas in preventing religious extremism and radicalism within Muslim communities. Fatwas, as legal opinions issued by qualified Islamic scholars, are traditionally used to provide religious guidance on a variety of issues. However, in the face of growing extremism, their potential to counteract radical ideologies has gained increasing importance. The primary objectives of this research are to examine the role of fatwas in shaping theological discourse against extremism, identify the key factors that make fatwas effective in countering radical ideologies, and evaluate their impact in diverse contexts, including both Muslim-majority and minority societies. This study aims to provide a deeper understanding of how fatwas can serve as proactive tools in preventing radicalization and promoting peace and tolerance within Muslim communities.

METHODS

Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews and the analysis of contemporary fatwas from prominent Islamic scholars and institutions. The coding process involved identifying key themes from the fatwas that address the prevention of extremism, followed by categorization and labeling of each theme. These themes were then analyzed to identify relevant patterns. This approach enhances methodological credibility by ensuring the validity and consistency of the analysis, providing a deeper understanding of the role of fatwas in preventing radicalization. Additionally, case studies from various countries will be analyzed to assess the real-world impact of fatwas in countering extremist ideologies. Data analysis will be conducted using thematic analysis, where key themes related to the characteristics of effective fatwas, their preventive role, and challenges in implementation will be identified and examined. The study will also utilize a comparative approach to understand how fatwas have been applied in different contexts and their varying effectiveness in preventing radicalization. This comprehensive approach will provide a nuanced understanding of the role of fatwas in addressing religious extremism. (Ramdlany, Ahmad Agus & Musadad, Ahmad, 2024)

RESULTS

1. Understanding Fatwa as a Legal Instrument in Islam

Fatwa, as a legal instrument in Islam, plays a significant role in guiding both individuals and communities in their religious and social practices. Traditionally, fatwas have been issued by qualified scholars (muftis) based on their interpretation of Islamic texts, including the Qur'an, Hadith, and other legal sources within Shari'ah. Although fatwas are non-binding legal opinions, they carry substantial authority due to the credentials and expertise of the scholars who issue them. In the early history of Islam, fatwas were seen primarily as answers to specific legal questions, offering interpretations of the law that could

help individuals navigate their religious and social duties. (A. Fatahillah, M. Zuhdi, & S. Mukhtar, 2022).

However, over time, the scope of fatwas has expanded, reflecting the evolving needs of Muslim societies. In contemporary contexts, fatwas are not limited to personal matters but also address broader social, political, and even economic issues, including family law, the ethics of modern technology, and economic practices like Islamic finance. The process of issuing a fatwa involves a deep examination of Islamic texts, principles, and the circumstances surrounding the issue at hand. It is a complex process, wherein the mufti or fatwa committee examines the relevant sources and provides an opinion grounded in Islamic jurisprudence.

The fatwa process reflects the diversity of thought within Islam, as different schools of thought (madhhabs) may interpret the same issue in varied ways, leading to different fatwas on similar matters. This diversity of opinion highlights the flexible nature of Islamic law and the importance of context in legal interpretation. In some countries, fatwas have acquired a level of legal authority, particularly in matters related to family law, inheritance, and personal status laws, where they influence judicial decisions and government policies. (R. Ellefsen, 2024).

For example, in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Pakistan, fatwas issued by state-appointed scholars can influence court rulings, particularly in cases that are not explicitly addressed in the written legal code. In these cases, fatwas serve as a source of legal authority that complements or even supersedes civil law, thereby integrating religious law with state governance. In other instances, fatwas have been influential in shaping public opinion and political discourse, even when they do not have binding legal force. Fatwas can shape debates on controversial issues such as women's rights, political participation, and freedom of speech, with their opinions influencing both public attitudes and the positions of political leaders.

These opinions can significantly impact social norms, particularly in Muslim-majority countries where religion plays a key role in shaping public life. The role of fatwas has also extended beyond traditional legal matters, addressing issues such as the permissibility of new technologies (e.g., genetic engineering, organtransplantation), the ethics of modern finance, and even the environmental impact of human actions. The fatwa's adaptability to contemporary issues reflects its dynamic role as a legal instrument that not only answers religious questions but also provides ethical guidance in a rapidly changing world. (M. N. F. P Fuwa, D. Safitri, & D. Ardiansyah, 2024).

However, the role of fatwa as a legal instrument is not without its challenges. One of the primary limitations is the non-binding nature of fatwas, which means their implementation depends largely on the willingness of individuals, communities, or governments to accept and follow the guidance provided. This lack of enforceability means

that fatwas may not always lead to consistent behavior, especially when fatwas are issued on controversial or politically sensitive issues.

Furthermore, the diversity of interpretations within Islamic jurisprudence can lead to conflicting fatwas, especially when scholars from different schools of thought issue differing opinions on the same issue. In some cases, fatwas issued by independent scholars or smaller institutions may lack the widespread influence or authority needed to guide large segments of society. Another challenge is the potential for fatwas to be misused or misinterpreted, particularly in the context of political or extremist agendas. Some radical groups have issued fatwas to justify violence, terrorism, or other forms of extremism, which can distort the original purpose of the fatwa as a source of religious guidance. (E. Saminov, 2025).

These instances highlight the importance of ensuring that fatwas are issued by reputable scholars who adhere to the principles of Islamic law and are committed to promoting peace, tolerance, and social harmony. Despite these challenges, fatwas remain a crucial part of Islamic legal tradition and continue to serve as an important instrument for providing religious guidance and addressing societal issues. They provide a framework for Muslims to navigate the complexities of modern life while remaining grounded in their faith. As such, fatwas remain vital tools for shaping legal and social norms in Muslim societies, offering valuable insights into the evolving role of religion in the modern world. (K.A. Mokhtar, 2022).

2. Fatwa as an Effort to Prevent the Spread of Radical Ideologies

Fatwa, as an instrument of Islamic jurisprudence, has become an important tool in addressing and preventing the spread of radical ideologies within Muslim societies. Historically, fatwas have been issued by qualified Islamic scholars (muftis) to provide guidance on various matters of religious law, offering clarity on issues ranging from personal conduct to broader societal concerns. In the context of radical ideologies, fatwas serve as an essential mechanism to offer a counter-narrative to extremist interpretations of Islam. (Z.A. Sumiadi, & H.A. As-Samawi, 2025).

These fatwas aim to clarify the true teachings of Islam and emphasize values of peace, tolerance, and coexistence, directly challenging the distorted interpretations used by radical groups to justify violence and extremism. Radical groups often manipulate religious texts, presenting a narrow, violent interpretation of Islam that seeks to isolate communities and promote division. In contrast, fatwas issued by mainstream religious scholars emphasize the holistic, peaceful teachings of Islam and call for unity, social harmony, and respect for diversity.

The issuance of fatwas in response to radical ideologies typically involves a thorough examination of the Qur'an, Hadith, and other key Islamic sources to provide a well-founded

legal and theological rebuttal to extremist claims. Fatwas not only clarify the correct understanding of religious texts but also serve to reaffirm the values of moderation, peace, and compassion that are central to Islamic teachings. In many cases, fatwas have been used as a direct response to the growing influence of radical ideologies within specific regions. For example, in countries like Egypt, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia, scholars have issued fatwas explicitly condemning terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, arguing that their actions are incompatible with the principles of Islam. (A. Asa'ari, A. Husein, & H. Hainadri, 2023).

These fatwas emphasize that violence against innocents, the targeting of civilians, and the distortion of religious teachings for political gain are fundamentally un-Islamic. By providing a clear, authoritative stance on these issues, fatwas serve as a counterbalance to the ideological narratives of extremist groups. Moreover, fatwas are not only directed at individuals but also at broader societal structures, aiming to prevent the proliferation of radical ideologies within communities and institutions. Religious institutions and governments in Muslim-majority countries increasingly rely on fatwas as part of broader counter-radicalization strategies, seeking to influence both the personal beliefs of individuals and the social and political climate. Fatwas can be issued as public statements, disseminated through media channels, and utilized in educational programs to promote a moderate interpretation of Islam and raise awareness about the dangers of extremism. (N. Tussa'banniya, 2025).

Despite their potential, the effectiveness of fatwas in preventing radical ideologies is not without challenges. The non-binding nature of fatwas means that their influence is contingent on the receptiveness of the community, and fatwas issued by one scholar or institution may not always carry the same weight as those issued by more prominent religious authorities. Furthermore, the diversity of Islamic legal schools and interpretations can sometimes lead to conflicting fatwas, which can undermine their authority or create confusion among the public. In some cases, extremists may even seek to discredit mainstream fatwas, branding them as too lenient or out of touch with the "true" teachings of Islam. (B. B. A. N. Kawai, 2025).

Additionally, the global nature of radical ideologies means that fatwas, while influential within specific regions, may not always have the desired impact in more dispersed, international contexts. Despite these obstacles, fatwas continue to play a significant role in the ideological battle against extremism. By reaffirming the principles of peace, justice, and compassion, and by providing a clear theological and legal framework that counters the violent rhetoric of extremist groups, fatwas offer an important tool in the prevention of radical ideologies. They serve as both a corrective measure for individual beliefs and a broader societal effort to safeguard the integrity of Islam and promote social cohesion. As part of a larger strategy to combat extremism, fatwas remain a crucial element in the ongoing fight

against radicalization, offering a moral and legal foundation for Muslims to reject violence and embrace the values of peace and unity. (A. Priantina, M.M. Uula, A. Aufa, & Herindar, Evania. (2025).

3. The Role of Fatwa in Promoting Tolerance and Interfaith Harmony

Fatwa, as a religious and legal instrument in Islam, plays a crucial role in promoting tolerance and interfaith harmony by providing clear guidance on how Muslims should engage with individuals of different faiths and foster peaceful coexistence in diverse societies. Traditionally, fatwas have been issued by qualified scholars to clarify religious obligations, but their role has evolved in contemporary contexts to address broader social and political issues, including interfaith relations. In the context of interfaith harmony, fatwas emphasize the importance of mutual respect, dialogue, and understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. These fatwas often draw upon Islamic teachings that advocate for peaceful coexistence, highlighting the Qur'anic verses and Hadiths that promote respect for religious diversity and the peaceful treatment of non-Muslims. (W. Wiwin, 2025).

For instance, fatwas issued by prominent Islamic scholars have repeatedly emphasized that Islam recognizes the legitimacy of other monotheistic religions, such as Christianity and Judaism, and encourages Muslims to engage with people of other faiths in a respectful and non-confrontational manner. In Muslim-majority countries, fatwas have been instrumental in addressing interfaith tensions and preventing conflicts by promoting a legal and moral framework that encourages peaceful coexistence. These fatwas often stress the need for Muslims to uphold the principles of justice and compassion when interacting with non-Muslims, recognizing that people of different faiths share common human values, and that religious differences should not be a basis for conflict or violence. (A. Amrin, & A. Amirulah, 2022).

The role of fatwa in promoting interfaith harmony is particularly important in multi-religious societies, where tensions between religious communities can sometimes lead to conflict. In such contexts, fatwas can help establish a common ground for dialogue, encouraging Muslims to build bridges with followers of other religions and work together for the common good. Scholars have also issued fatwas calling for greater cooperation between religious communities, particularly in the fields of humanitarian aid, education, and peacebuilding, where mutual understanding and collaboration can create a more harmonious society.

A case study highlighting the authority of fatwas can be observed in the response to the rise of extremist groups such as ISIS. In response to the group's interpretation of Islam, several leading Islamic scholars and institutions issued fatwas denouncing their actions as un-Islamic. One notable example is the fatwa issued by the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Shawki Allam, in 2014, which explicitly declared that ISIS's violent actions, including their beheading

of captives and the targeting of innocent civilians, were not in line with the true teachings of Islam. This fatwa emphasized that ISIS's claims of being a legitimate Islamic state were a distortion of the religion. (Aswan, & A.H. Ashufah, 2023).

Similarly, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) issued fatwas in 2015, declaring that ISIS's ideology was contrary to the principles of Islam, promoting violence and terrorism. These fatwas played a crucial role in guiding Muslim communities in Indonesia, where ISIS had attempted to recruit members. By offering clear, authoritative religious guidance, these fatwas helped to counter extremist narratives and provide an alternative interpretation rooted in peace and tolerance. (H. Suhendar, O.S. Mukhlas, & A.A. Hakim, 2023).

This case study illustrates the power of fatwas as a tool for shaping religious discourse, especially when combating radical ideologies. The authority of fatwas issued by credible and respected scholars ensures that they are taken seriously within the Muslim community. In these instances, fatwas provided a moral and legal framework to reject extremism, reinforcing the central role of religious authority in maintaining social harmony and preventing the spread of radicalism.

DISCUSSIONS

Fatwas play a central role in preventing religious extremism and radicalism by offering a legal and theological framework that both clarifies Islamic teachings and counters extremist ideologies. Understanding fatwa as a legal instrument within Islam is essential to recognizing its function in addressing radicalization. Traditionally, fatwas are non-binding legal opinions issued by qualified scholars to guide Muslims in matters of faith and practice. These fatwas are based on interpretations of the Qur'an, Hadith, and other Islamic texts, and they carry significant weight within Islamic communities due to the scholarly authority of the muftis who issue them.

The authority behind a fatwa gives it power to shape religious and social behavior, making it a crucial tool for preventing misinterpretations of Islamic law that could lead to extremism. As an effort to prevent the spread of radical ideologies, fatwas have been used to directly address the distorted interpretations propagated by extremist groups, such as those that justify violence and terrorism. Radical groups often manipulate Islamic texts to support their agendas, but fatwas serve as a counter-narrative, clarifying that Islam fundamentally opposes acts of violence against innocent people.

By reaffirming the peaceful core of Islamic teachings, fatwas challenge the ideological foundations of extremism, offering a more authentic and moderate interpretation of Islam. Fatwas are also instrumental in promoting tolerance and interfaith harmony by guiding Muslims in their interactions with people of other faiths. Islamic teachings, as reflected in fatwas, emphasize respect for religious diversity and the importance of peaceful coexistence.

Many fatwas issue clear directives on how Muslims should treat non-Muslims, encouraging dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation.

In societies where religious conflict and intolerance are prevalent, fatwas provide a legal and ethical basis for fostering interfaith harmony, promoting social cohesion, and combating sectarian violence. These fatwas are not only concerned with personal morality but also address broader social issues, encouraging the development of peaceful relationships within diverse communities. Despite these efforts, the effectiveness of fatwas in combating extremism is not without its challenges. One of the main issues is the variety of interpretations within Islamic jurisprudence. Different schools of thought (madhhabs) may issue fatwas that differ on key points, creating potential confusion or division among Muslims.

Additionally, fatwas issued by smaller, independent scholars or religious organizations may not have the same societal impact as those issued by state-backed institutions, leading to inconsistent application across different regions. Furthermore, while fatwas can counteract radical ideologies by providing legitimate interpretations of Islamic teachings, their success in preventing extremism depends on how widely and effectively they are disseminated. Radical ideologies often spread through global networks, especially through digital platforms, which can circumvent the influence of traditional fatwa authorities.

As such, fatwas must be part of a broader, coordinated effort to address extremism, integrating theological clarity with social and educational initiatives that challenge the narratives of radical groups. In conclusion, fatwas represent a vital tool in the fight against religious extremism and radicalism, acting as a legal and moral instrument to promote a more peaceful, tolerant, and moderate understanding of Islam. By clarifying Islamic teachings, challenging extremist interpretations, and fostering interfaith harmony, fatwas offer a comprehensive approach to combating radicalization within Muslim communities. However, their impact is contingent upon their authority, the coherence of the messages they convey, and their successful dissemination to reach those most vulnerable to radical ideologies.

The response to the advent of extremist groups like ISIS is a case study that shows how powerful fatwas can be. In response to the group's view of Islam, some well-known Islamic scholars and institutes issued fatwas saying that what they did was not Islamic. In 2014, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Shawki Allam, issued a fatwa that clearly said that ISIS's violent deeds, such as beheading captives and attacking innocent bystanders, were not in line with the real teachings of Islam. This fatwa made it clear that ISIS's claims to establish a real Islamic state were not true to the religion.

In the same way, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) issued fatwas in 2015 saying that ISIS's ideas were against the teachings of Islam and encouraged bloodshed and terrorism. These fatwas were very important in helping Muslim communities in Indonesia, where ISIS had tried to get people to join. These fatwas helped fight extremist ideas by giving clear,

official religious instruction and an alternative view based on peace and tolerance. This case study demonstrates the efficacy of fatwas as instruments for influencing religious discourse, particularly in the fight against extreme ideologies. Fatwas from reliable and respected experts are regarded seriously in the Muslim community because they are authoritative. In these cases, fatwas gave people a moral and legal way to say no to extremism. This shows how important religious authority is for keeping peace in society and stopping the development of radicalism.

CONCLUSION

The role of fatwas in countering religious extremism and radicalism is essential for fostering a peaceful and tolerant perspective of Islam. This study has shown the significant potential of fatwas as legal instruments to counter extremist ideology by providing clear and authoritative religious guidance. The results show that fatwas are quite useful for giving people clear guidance, especially when they come from trustworthy Islamic scholars and organisations. This helps Muslim communities turn down extreme interpretations and promotes collaboration and solidarity among different sects. By making it easier to issue and spread fatwas, Islamic scholars and organisations should be better able to oppose extreme interpretations and promote understanding between people. This research also emphasises the continuous advancement of fatwa-related studies, which might assist in proactively mitigating radicalisation. The research finds prospects for more effective use of fatwas in global counter-radicalization efforts by focusing on the themes and patterns seen in contemporary fatwas. The research also suggests that we should look more closely at how fatwas can be changed to deal with modern world problems, like digital radicalisation and the dissemination of extremist ideas online. The practical ramifications of this research are evident: improving the incorporation of fatwas into counter-radicalization initiatives can bolster community resilience at both grassroots and institutional tiers. Ultimately, this study establishes a platform for future initiatives that may impact policy, religious dialogue, and societal frameworks, promoting peace, tolerance, and the reduction of radicalisation across various situations.

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