

## **Women in Political Leadership: An Islamic Economic Perspective on Women's Empowerment, Gender Justice, and Welfare of the Ummah in Achieving Socio-Economic Prosperity**

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### **Abstract**

This research explores the role of women in political leadership from an Islamic economic perspective, focusing on the interconnectedness of women's empowerment, gender justice, and the socio-economic welfare of the ummah. This research adopts a library research design. The analysis shows that Islamic teachings support women's political leadership, emphasizing justice, competence, and adherence to Islamic values, which include principles of equality, communal welfare, and social well-being. Women's empowerment in Islam is rooted in the recognition of their right to lead and influence society, which is essential for achieving socio-economic development. Through political empowerment, women can shape policies that benefit marginalized communities and promote public welfare. Case studies from Muslim-majority countries, such as Indonesia, demonstrate how women leaders have driven significant reforms in education, poverty alleviation, and economic stability. However, cultural norms, gender stereotypes, institutional barriers, and discriminatory laws still hinder women's political participation. Overcoming these challenges requires societal, legal, and educational reforms based on Islamic principles of justice and equity. Gender justice in Islamic economics advocates for fairness, equality, and dignity, ensuring that both men and women have equal rights, including leadership opportunities. Islamic economic values such as *maslahah* (public welfare) and *balance* support women's inclusion in political leadership, emphasizing competence and ethical governance over gender. Gender justice initiatives, including equal education and employment opportunities, have led to increased participation of women in politics and the workforce, promoting more inclusive socio-economic development. Women's leadership is pivotal in promoting the welfare of the ummah by contributing diverse perspectives to decision-making, particularly on issues like education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. This involvement enhances inclusive policy-making, aligned with Islamic principles of justice and social welfare. Women's political leadership is crucial for achieving socio-economic prosperity. Women leaders advocate for equitable access to resources, human capital development, and social safety nets, which help reduce inequality and ensure that economic benefits are shared across all segments of society. Gender-sensitive policies, such as fair wages and education reforms, contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. Despite significant progress, women may still face barriers to leadership due to gender biases, restrictive cultural norms, and patriarchal systems. However, Islamic teachings offer support for overcoming these challenges, emphasizing justice, equality, and the dignity of both men and women. In Indonesia, women's political leadership has grown significantly, with more women now holding positions in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. This shift reflects societal changes, legal reforms, and a global commitment to gender equality. Islamic economic frameworks provide a foundation for policies that promote women's rights and leadership, supported by Islamic values of *adl* (justice), *musawat* (equality), *maslahah* (social welfare), and *maqasid al-shari'ah* (objectives of Islamic law).

**Keywords:** *gender justice, the role of women, socio-economic prosperity, welfare of the ummah, women's empowerment,*

## INTRODUCTION

Women's political leadership has become an increasingly prominent issue globally, both in international political contexts and within Indonesian society. Women's participation in leadership positions, whether at the local or national level, plays a crucial role in advancing social, economic, and political development. In many countries, including Indonesia, the struggle for women to achieve strategic positions in politics reflects efforts toward empowerment and the achievement of gender equality. However, many challenges still face women in achieving leadership positions equal to men. Proper implementation of gender equality can bring positive effects across all areas of society. This includes recognizing and respecting women's leadership roles without any form of discrimination (Huriyah et al., 2023).

Women's empowerment in politics is not only about equality of rights but also about ensuring that women have equal access to available resources and opportunities. One of the main challenges that women face in politics is their limited access to relevant political education, as well as gender stereotypes that hinder them from achieving leadership positions. Therefore, inclusive education and social support are essential to opening doors for equal opportunities for women in politics.

From an Islamic economic perspective, women's roles in public life, including political leadership, are not only permissible but highly valued. Islamic economics emphasizes principles of justice, equality, and the welfare of the community, which should encompass the empowerment of women in various life aspects, including politics. Women's empowerment in political leadership is not only important for advancing women themselves but also for enhancing the overall social-economic welfare of the community.

In Islam, ideal leadership is defined not merely by religious affiliation or gender, but by a leader's capacity to lead with justice and protect the rights of all members of society (Masithoh & Kholifah, 2025). In Islamic economics, women are viewed as agents of change with great potential to improve the quality of life in society. Women's political leadership should not only be viewed from a gender perspective but also from their contributions to creating a more just and equitable economic development. In many countries with a Muslim-majority population, women in political leadership can bring policies that are more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of women, children, and families as a whole.

Women's empowerment has become a significant topic in recent times, as women continue to face numerous challenges in achieving improved status both personally and within society (Niswah, 2022). Women's empowerment, rooted in feminist thought, is a process aimed at building awareness and capacity to enable greater involvement and to achieve equal status between women and men, particularly because women are often viewed as powerless (Umam, 2022). However, when empowerment is focused only on economic aspects, it tends to be limited and overlooks women's roles in other important areas. In contrast, Islam views women's empowerment as comprehensive and multidimensional, encompassing religious, social, political, and economic spheres.

Women's empowerment in Islamic economics focuses on providing equal opportunities and access for women in various fields, including politics. Islam's principle of gender justice demands that every individual, whether male or female, has an equal right to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Women's political leadership in Islam is seen as a means to achieve broader social goals—namely, the welfare of the community through fair policies focused on collective well-being. Women's economic empowerment plays a crucial role in promoting both family and societal well-being. Sharia principles provide a fair and ethical foundation for managing economic resources, emphasizing justice, transparency, and social responsibility (Maghfiroha, 2024). Therefore, applying sharia principles in empowering women economically leads to improved financial

welfare, strengthens family stability, and enhances women's involvement in economic endeavors. Therefore, sharia-based empowerment can serve as a solid foundation for developing programs across diverse cultural and social settings.

Women's empowerment in politics is also related to the freedom to make decisions that directly affect society. Islam provides wide space for women to participate in social life, including in politics, as long as the decisions made aim to create justice and collective welfare. With greater access to leadership positions, women can voice their concerns and represent groups that are often marginalized in public policies. Women's empowerment in politics involves increasing women's active participation and representation in political decision-making processes. It aims to ensure that women have equal opportunities to hold leadership roles, influence policy, and advocate for issues that affect their communities. Empowering women politically not only strengthens democracy but also contributes to more inclusive governance, as it brings diverse perspectives and solutions to national and local issues. Overcoming cultural, social, and institutional barriers is essential to advancing women's political empowerment and achieving gender equality in political leadership.

Gender justice in Islamic economics means not only equality of rights but also equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of social life, including politics. Islamic economic perspectives evaluate that women's empowerment in politics not only benefits women themselves but also has a positive impact on the welfare of the ummah, i.e., the social-economic prosperity that benefits the entire society. Therefore, women's political empowerment is in line with the maqashid syariah principles, which aim to achieve the welfare of the ummah, safeguard individual rights, and strengthen social solidarity.

In a just society, women should be given the space to develop according to their potential, which can bring benefits to the entire ummah. The implementation of gender justice in political policies, both at the local and national levels, can help create a more balanced socio-economic condition. By promoting women's participation in political decision-making, the resulting policies tend to be more supportive of collective welfare because they address the needs of various segments of society.

This research aims to further explore the role of women in political leadership, particularly from an Islamic economic perspective. The focus of this research is to understand how women's empowerment in politics can strengthen gender equality and examine its impact on the socio-economic welfare of the ummah. Additionally, this study will identify relevant Islamic economic principles concerning women's empowerment in the political sphere and how their application can support the achievement of the ummah's welfare. This research will analyze how women's empowerment in politics can make a positive contribution to policies that create better socio-economic conditions for the entire community. The primary focus is to see how Islamic economic principles such as justice, collective welfare, and women's rights can be implemented in effective political policies. With a deeper understanding, this research can open the way for the development of policies that are more responsive to the needs of women and society as a whole.

This research is expected to make an important contribution to the development of an understanding of the relationship between Islamic economics, women's empowerment, and gender justice within the context of political leadership. Furthermore, this research is also expected to provide new insights for policymakers, academics, and practitioners in the fields of politics and Islamic economics regarding the crucial role of women in advancing the socio-economic welfare of the ummah. Thus, this study has the potential to encourage the realization of more inclusive and gender-just policies within government systems. Considering the importance of women's roles in political leadership, the findings of this research will provide a strong foundation for policy changes that are more gender-just. This study will also provide a new perspective on how Islamic economics can be applied to

increase women's participation in politics and optimize their contributions to the socio-economic development of the ummah.

## METHOD

The research design employed for this study is library research, chosen for its effectiveness in exploring existing literature and theories to explore, analyze, and interpret various perspectives and theories (Fitria, 2023). Library research gathers and analyzes a vast array of scholarly resources, including books, academic articles, and journals, to build a comprehensive understanding of the topic. This research adopts a library research design, which is the most appropriate approach for the nature and scope of the study. Library research involves the collection, analysis, and interpretation of existing literature, including books, articles, academic journals, and reports related to the topic. Since this study explores the intersection of women's political leadership, Islamic economic principles, gender justice, and the welfare of the ummah in achieving socio-economic prosperity, a library research design allows for a thorough examination of relevant secondary sources. The design is well-suited for the study as it provides access to a wide range of scholarly materials, historical data, and theoretical frameworks that are essential for a deep understanding of the topic. Moreover, library research allows the researcher to build a comprehensive foundation based on existing literature, thereby enabling a detailed exploration of the role of women in political leadership from an Islamic economic perspective.

The data collection method for this study involved gathering secondary data from various sources, including books, academic journal articles, and other relevant publications, both national and international (Fitria, 2024). These sources were selected based on their relevance to the research topic, ensuring that the collected data adequately addresses the core areas of study. The data collection method for this research involved gathering secondary data from various books, articles, and national and international academic journals related to women's political leadership, Islamic economics, gender justice, and socio-economic development. These sources provided valuable insights into several key areas: the theoretical foundations of women's political participation in Islamic teachings, the relationship between Islamic economic principles and gender justice in political leadership, case studies of women in political leadership within Islamic societies and their impact on socio-economic prosperity, and historical perspectives on women's roles in political leadership, with a particular focus on Muslim-majority countries. Books and journal articles from reputable publishers, institutions, and international organizations served as the primary sources for this research. Additionally, the researcher focused on materials published by scholars and experts in Islamic economics, gender studies, and political science, with a special emphasis on those that explored the Indonesian context.

The method for analyzing the collected data was descriptive. This involved a systematic review and interpretation of the relevant literature to draw insights and identify patterns that emerge from various scholarly works. The analysis was focused on understanding how women's empowerment, gender justice, and Islamic economic principles intersect with political leadership roles and the broader socio-economic development of the ummah. The data was compared, categorized, and analyzed to provide a coherent narrative that addressed the research questions, with particular attention to the specific context of Indonesia. The descriptive analysis also aimed at identifying trends, challenges, and opportunities related to women's leadership, gender equality, and socio-economic welfare in Islamic societies.



## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this research is to explore the role of women in political leadership from an Islamic economic perspective, focusing on the interconnectedness of women's empowerment, gender justice, and the socio-economic welfare of the ummah. Therefore, this research will provide insights into how inclusive and fair politics, which involves women in decision-making, can drive the achievement of socio-economic welfare in Muslim societies.

### A. The Role of Women in Political Leadership from an Islamic Economic Perspective

#### 1. Analysis of Islamic Teachings Regarding Women's Involvement in Leadership Roles

Islamic teachings, primarily derived from the Qur'an and Hadith, offer varied perspectives on the role of women in leadership. While some argue for a limited role, Islamic texts do not prohibit women from holding leadership positions. The key consideration is the ability to fulfill the responsibilities of leadership with justice, competence, and adherence to Islamic principles. Notable examples, such as the leadership of Queen Sheba (Bilqis) in the Qur'an, provide a historical precedent for female leadership. Additionally, the Prophet Muhammad's recognition of women leaders, such as Aisha bint Abi Bakr, who played a pivotal role in early Islamic history, showcases the recognition of women's political roles.

#### 2. Key Islamic Economic Principles that Support Women's Political Participation

From an Islamic economic perspective, women's participation in politics is not only allowed but is seen as beneficial for the broader societal well-being. The principles of justice (*adl*), equality (*musawah*), and the welfare of the community (*maslahah*) in Islamic economics support the idea of women in leadership. The concept of *maqashid al-shari'ah* (the objectives of Islamic law), which aims to promote the welfare of individuals and society, reinforces women's roles in decision-making processes that impact the economic and social fabric. Islam encourages equal opportunities for men and women in all spheres of life, including politics, provided that they fulfill their roles justly and responsibly.

### B. Women's Empowerment in Political Leadership

#### 1. Understanding the Concept of Women's Empowerment in Islam

Women's empowerment in Islam is rooted in the fundamental principles of justice, equality, and dignity. Islam recognizes women as individuals with equal rights and responsibilities alongside men in many aspects of life, including political, economic, and social spheres. Empowerment in Islam does not solely mean the ability to participate in the political process but also the recognition of women's ability to influence decisions, exercise leadership, and contribute to the welfare of society. Islamic teachings support the education of women, their economic independence, and their right to voice their opinions in public matters. Women like Khadijah, the Prophet Muhammad's first wife, who was a successful businesswoman, and Aisha, who was known for her intellectual leadership, are examples of women empowered within the Islamic tradition. Empowerment, therefore, is not merely about political involvement but about realizing one's potential in all areas, grounded in Islamic principles of equity and justice.

#### 2. The Importance of Political Empowerment for Women in Achieving Socio-Economic Development

Political empowerment for women is crucial for achieving socio-economic development in both Muslim-majority and non-Muslim countries. When women are empowered to participate in political decision-making, they can influence policies that

directly affect their rights, opportunities, and well-being. From an Islamic economic perspective, women's participation in political leadership helps achieve *maslahah* (public welfare) by ensuring that policies address the needs and challenges faced by women, children, and marginalized communities. Empowered women in leadership roles are more likely to promote policies that emphasize poverty alleviation, social justice, and access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for all. Moreover, political empowerment enables women to advocate for gender-responsive budgeting, ensuring that resources are allocated fairly and equitably to support women's needs in the economy and society.

### **3. Case Studies of Women Leaders in Muslim-majority Countries and Their Impact on Policy-making**

Several Muslim-majority countries have seen women in political leadership roles who have made significant contributions to policy-making and social reform. For example, Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, implemented economic reforms that addressed poverty and education. Her leadership in advocating for women's rights and access to education helped improve the socio-economic status of women in Pakistan. Similarly, Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi of the United Arab Emirates served as a prominent businesswoman and politician, contributing to economic policies that supported women's integration into the workforce. In Indonesia, Megawati Sukarnoputri, the first female president, played a vital role in promoting democratic reforms and economic stability. These women's political empowerment resulted in progressive policies that impacted both the welfare of women and the broader socio-economic landscape.

### **4. Challenges and Barriers to Women's Empowerment in the Political Sphere**

Despite the recognition of women's political rights in many Muslim-majority countries, numerous barriers continue to hinder their full participation in politics. Social and cultural norms often restrict women's access to leadership roles, with patriarchal systems perceiving men as more suited for leadership positions. Gender stereotypes, such as the belief that women are too emotional or lack the necessary experience, continue to limit women's political engagement. Furthermore, institutional barriers, such as lack of political representation, inadequate support systems, and limited access to education or political networks, prevent many women from ascending to leadership roles. In some societies, discriminatory legal frameworks and practices further restrict women's opportunities for political participation. These challenges are compounded by external political and economic factors, which create an environment that is often unfriendly or unwelcoming to women in politics. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach, including legal reforms, educational initiatives, and changes in cultural attitudes toward women's roles in political leadership.

## **C. Gender Justice in Islamic Economics**

### **1. Exploring the Concept of Gender Justice in Islamic Teachings**

Gender justice in Islam is deeply embedded in the religion's principles of fairness, equality, and dignity for all individuals, regardless of gender. The Islamic concept of justice (*adl*) upholds the idea that both men and women are equal in the eyes of Allah and are entitled to their respective rights and duties. While Islam acknowledges biological differences between men and women, it does not endorse gender-based discrimination or inequality in areas such as legal rights, education, work, or leadership. The Quran and Hadith promote the fair treatment of women, emphasizing that both men and women have distinct yet complementary roles in

society. Examples include the Quranic verses that call for equitable treatment of women in matters of inheritance, marriage, and social participation. Islamic teachings advocate for justice in all aspects of life, making gender justice a fundamental tenet of Islamic values.

## **2. How Islamic Economic Principles Address Gender Inequality in Political Leadership**

Islamic economic principles aim to promote justice and equity in all aspects of economic and political life, which naturally extends to political leadership. The Islamic economic system is designed to ensure the fair distribution of wealth and opportunities, which includes promoting women's participation in political leadership roles. The concepts of *maslahah* (public welfare) and *mizan* (balance and fairness) are central to Islamic economics and advocate for equal opportunities for both men and women in political decision-making. According to these principles, women have the right to take up leadership roles, provided they meet the criteria of competence, ethics, and the ability to serve the common good. Islamic economic systems discourage exploitation, exclusion, or marginalization based on gender, aiming to create an inclusive and just political system. Therefore, Islamic economic thought addresses gender inequality in political leadership by advocating for women's rights to contribute to public policy and governance equitably.

Women's potential to lead a country, including serving as heads of state, is widely accepted and supported in Islam (Hamka et al., 2021). This is because there are no contextual religious texts that prohibit it; instead, Islam grants women the same rights and responsibilities as men in various areas, including religion, society, culture, and politics. Considering that women actively participated in social life during the Prophet Muhammad's era, it would be unfair and inappropriate to restrict their roles or limit their opportunities for social involvement and career advancement today.

## **3. The Role of Gender Justice in Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Women in Leadership Positions**

Gender justice plays a pivotal role in ensuring that women have equal access to leadership positions, including in political offices. Islamic teachings encourage a system of governance that is rooted in justice and fairness, where women are given opportunities based on their abilities rather than their gender. Gender justice is not just about legal equality but also about ensuring that women are not excluded or marginalized from positions of influence. In the political sphere, this means promoting policies that dismantle barriers to women's participation, such as those rooted in patriarchal cultural norms, biased legal frameworks, or unequal access to education and professional development. For example, gender justice in Islamic economics would ensure that women are not only allowed but encouraged to hold political office and contribute to the betterment of society, reflecting a deeper commitment to fair treatment and representation.

## **4. The Impact of Gender Justice Policies on Women's Participation in the Workforce and Politics**

Gender justice policies have a profound impact on women's participation in both the workforce and political life. When policies are designed to ensure equal opportunities and fair treatment, they break down the barriers that women face in entering leadership roles. Gender justice in Islamic economics promotes initiatives such as equal access to education, employment, and healthcare, which empower women to participate in economic and political decision-making. In the political arena, gender justice policies help create an environment where women can engage actively in

leadership roles and contribute to the development of policies that reflect the needs of all members of society. Similarly, gender justice also impacts the workforce by encouraging policies that promote equal pay, non-discriminatory hiring practices, and support for women in balancing career and family responsibilities. The implementation of gender justice policies in these areas leads to broader socio-economic development and greater inclusivity, with women actively shaping the economic and political landscape. Moreover, as more women ascend to leadership roles, their experiences and insights help ensure that policies are more responsive to gender-specific issues, further promoting equitable development for all.

#### **D. The Welfare of the Ummah and Women's Political Leadership**

##### **1. Analyzing the Relationship Between Women's Leadership and the Welfare of the Ummah (Community)**

In Islam, the concept of ummah refers to the global Muslim community, and the welfare of the ummah is of utmost importance in both spiritual and temporal matters. Women's leadership plays a crucial role in advancing the welfare of the ummah, as it ensures diverse perspectives in the decision-making processes that impact social, political, and economic well-being. Islamic teachings emphasize the collective responsibility of both men and women to contribute to the development of society. Women in leadership roles bring unique insights, especially in addressing issues that may affect families, children, health, education, and social justice. By participating in leadership, women help promote policies that support social welfare, the eradication of poverty, access to education, and other initiatives that contribute to the overall well-being of society. Their leadership aligns with the Islamic view that leadership is about serving the common good and ensuring justice, thus benefiting the ummah at large.

##### **2. How Women's Political Participation Contributes to Social and Economic Welfare**

Women's participation in political leadership has direct and indirect impacts on social and economic welfare. Politically active women often prioritize social issues such as healthcare, education, social justice, and poverty reduction, which are essential for the welfare of the ummah. Women leaders, especially those from marginalized communities, may have a more nuanced understanding of the challenges facing women, children, and lower-income families, and are therefore more likely to advocate for policies that address these issues. By fostering inclusive policies, women can influence the development of economic programs that provide equal opportunities for all members of society, thus contributing to reducing inequality. Additionally, women's involvement in the economy often leads to increased labor force participation, which can drive national economic growth. The role of women in the political and economic spheres can also challenge traditional gender norms, improving societal attitudes toward gender equality and creating a more equitable and productive society.

##### **3. The Concept of Maqashid Shariah (Objectives of Islamic Law) and Its Relevance to Women's Political Roles**

Maqashid Shariah, or the objectives of Islamic law, refers to the higher goals that Islamic teachings aim to achieve for the welfare of humanity. These objectives include the preservation of faith, life, intellect, lineage, and property, as well as the promotion of social justice and the common good. In the context of women's political leadership, maqashid shariah emphasizes the importance of justice, equity, and societal welfare, all of which can be advanced through women's active participation



in governance. The promotion of gender equality and women's leadership aligns with maqashid syariah, as it ensures that both men and women are able to contribute to the well-being of society. Islamic law supports the notion that women can and should participate in leadership roles, especially when their contributions help fulfill the broader objectives of societal justice and welfare. By including women in leadership, societies can better realize the goals of maqashid syariah, particularly in fostering justice, peace, and prosperity for all members of the ummah.

#### **4. Women's Leadership in Promoting Social Welfare, Poverty Alleviation, and Inclusive Development**

Women have historically been at the forefront of promoting social welfare, addressing poverty, and advocating for inclusive development. In Islamic societies, where charity (zakat), welfare, and justice are integral principles, women in leadership roles can make significant contributions toward poverty alleviation and social development. They often champion policies that support marginalized groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations. By promoting inclusive development, women leaders can help design economic systems that offer equal opportunities, prioritize education and healthcare, and address issues of unemployment and social inequality. Women also play a critical role in shaping policies related to family welfare, reproductive health, and education, which are foundational to breaking the cycle of poverty. Their leadership is essential in ensuring that development benefits all segments of society, including those who have traditionally been excluded. Through their policies and advocacy, women contribute to building a more equitable and prosperous society, in line with the teachings of Islam on justice and welfare.

### **E. Socio-Economic Prosperity through Women's Leadership**

#### **1. The Role of Women in Achieving Socio-Economic Prosperity Through Political Leadership**

Women's leadership in political roles is vital for achieving socio-economic prosperity as they bring diverse perspectives and unique solutions to the table. Historically, women have been at the forefront of social and economic reforms that benefit society as a whole. When women hold leadership positions, they often prioritize policies that focus on inclusive growth, education, health, and social security, all of which contribute to socio-economic development. Women are also more likely to champion policies that address issues such as gender inequality, child welfare, and family support, which are key to building a prosperous and equitable society. By engaging in political leadership, women play a direct role in shaping the future direction of the economy and social structure, driving progress toward overall prosperity.

#### **2. How Women's Participation in Leadership Enhances Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**

Women's political participation significantly enhances economic development and contributes to poverty reduction by fostering a more inclusive and sustainable economy. Women tend to emphasize policies that support equitable access to resources, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for all citizens, including marginalized groups. When women are in leadership positions, they often advocate for investments in human capital, such as education for girls and women, which directly impacts labor force participation and economic productivity. Furthermore, women leaders typically champion policies that focus on poverty alleviation, ensuring that social safety nets are in place to support low-income

families, particularly in rural and underdeveloped areas. These policies help to reduce inequality and ensure that economic growth benefits everyone, thereby promoting long-term prosperity and reducing poverty rates.

### **3. Policies Implemented by Women Leaders That Promote Social Welfare and Economic Justice**

Women leaders have introduced various policies that promote social welfare and economic justice, aligning with principles of equality and fairness. For example, female political leaders often emphasize policies that improve access to education, particularly for girls, ensuring that future generations have the skills needed to contribute to the economy. They also advocate for healthcare reforms, such as maternal health programs, which are critical for reducing health disparities and ensuring a healthier workforce. Additionally, women leaders typically focus on economic justice, including advocating for gender-sensitive economic policies, fair wages, social security benefits, and workers' rights, which help ensure that all citizens can participate in and benefit from economic progress. These policies not only contribute to social welfare but also strengthen the economy by addressing disparities and ensuring that all members of society have equal opportunities for success.

## **F. Barriers and Challenges for Women in Political Leadership**

### **1. Identifying and Analyzing Social, Cultural, and Institutional Barriers to Women's Political Leadership**

Women aspiring to political leadership often face a variety of social, cultural, and institutional barriers that hinder their participation and advancement in politics. Social barriers include deep-seated gender biases and societal expectations that define political leadership as a male-dominated field. In many societies, including those in Muslim-majority countries, cultural norms often restrict women's public participation, viewing them primarily as caregivers and homemakers rather than as leaders. Institutional barriers are also significant, as many political systems and parties are structured in ways that limit women's access to leadership roles, such as patriarchal political networks, lack of financial resources, and insufficient political mentorship or training opportunities for women. These barriers prevent women from achieving political power, despite their skills, qualifications, and ambitions.

### **2. The Role of Patriarchy, Stereotypes, and Gender Norms in Limiting Women's Political Influence**

Patriarchy, stereotypes, and gender norms play a central role in limiting women's political influence, not only in Muslim-majority countries but globally. Patriarchy, a system that prioritizes male authority in political, social, and economic spheres, is a primary obstacle for women in politics. This system often dictates that women should not hold leadership roles, undermining their potential and denying them opportunities for political engagement. Gender stereotypes further exacerbate this situation by reinforcing ideas that women are less suited for political leadership due to perceived emotional instability, lack of decisiveness, or inadequate experience. These stereotypes are deeply ingrained in many societies and are reinforced through media, education, and traditional family structures. Additionally, the gender norms that associate women with domestic responsibilities rather than public or political duties create significant challenges for women aspiring to leadership roles. These cultural expectations discourage women from entering politics, while also making it harder for them to gain credibility and respect as political leaders.

Farida (2005) explains that despite global movements for equality, women's participation in politics, especially in leadership roles, continues to face significant barriers in Indonesia. The perception that politics and leadership are predominantly male domains remains deeply ingrained, resulting in women being marginalized in political spaces. The study reveals that this situation is largely influenced by ideological factors, particularly those rooted in religious interpretations and patriarchal cultural values. These elements, which have not been thoroughly re-examined, create substantial obstacles for women in their pursuit of equality, particularly in political leadership positions. Thus, societal attitudes and traditional beliefs play a critical role in limiting women's access to political power, even though movements for gender equality continue to grow. Mutho'am & Heriyanto (2023) highlights key obstacles to women's leadership, such as societal attitudes and institutional biases. It concludes that changing mindsets and policies is essential for creating a more inclusive political environment that values and supports women's leadership. According to Kadriyah (2023), there are two main challenges regarding women's representation in politics: first, the marginal representation of women in the public sphere, and second, the lack of party platforms that actively advocate for women's interests. Ramli et al. (2024) explain that women's involvement in politics, especially in leadership roles, continues to be a debated issue within Muslim communities. This is mainly due to the prevailing belief that men are naturally more suited for leadership positions, a perspective shaped by patriarchal societal structures and enduring stereotypes that diminish women's abilities. These cultural and societal obstacles impede women from reaching the highest levels of political authority.

### **3. Islamic Perspectives on Overcoming These Barriers to Ensure Women's Political Rights**

Islam offers several perspectives on overcoming these barriers and ensuring that women have the right to participate in political leadership. Islam emphasizes justice, equality, and the dignity of all individuals, regardless of gender. The Qur'an and Hadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad) highlight examples of strong and influential women in leadership, such as Queen Sheba (Bilqis) and the Prophet's wife, Aisha, who was involved in political and social matters. These historical examples demonstrate that women in Islamic tradition were not only allowed but also respected for their leadership roles.

Islamic teachings stress the importance of gender equality in all areas of life, including politics. The concept of "shura" (consultation) in Islam encourages the participation of both men and women in decision-making processes, reinforcing the idea that women are equally capable of leading and contributing to governance. Islamic economic principles, such as those outlined in the concept of "maqasid al-shariah" (objectives of Islamic law), prioritize the welfare of the community and ensure that both men and women have equal opportunities to contribute to social and economic development. These principles can be used to address institutional barriers, advocating for the inclusion of women in leadership positions as a way to ensure the overall well-being and prosperity of society.

Furthermore, Islam advocates for the elimination of harmful stereotypes and discriminatory practices that prevent women from achieving their full potential. Muslim women, with support from Islamic teachings, can work towards breaking down societal norms that restrict their involvement in politics. Islam emphasizes that both men and women have complementary roles in society, and their participation in governance and leadership is essential for the betterment of society as a whole.

## **G. The Future of Women's Political Leadership in Islamic Societies**

### **1. The Evolving Role of Women in Leadership Positions in Modern Indonesian Society**

The role of women in leadership positions in Indonesia has evolved significantly in recent years, reflecting broader global trends toward gender equality. Historically, Indonesian women faced numerous cultural, social, and religious barriers to political participation. However, over the years, these barriers have been gradually dismantled as women have increasingly assumed leadership roles at various levels of government. Indonesian notable figures have demonstrated that women are capable of leading the nation with vision and dedication. Today, Indonesian women are represented not only in executive roles but also in the legislative and judicial branches, signifying the growing acceptance of women in leadership positions. This evolving role of women reflects changes in societal attitudes, alongside legal reforms and international commitments to gender equality. As more women participate in politics and governance, their influence will likely continue to grow, inspiring future generations of women to enter leadership roles in Indonesia.

### **2. The Potential for Islamic Economic Frameworks to Shape Future Policies Regarding Women's Rights and Leadership**

Indonesia, as a majority Muslim country, has the potential to leverage Islamic economic frameworks to create more inclusive and gender-equal policies. Islamic teachings and principles—such as justice (*adl*), equality (*musawat*), and social welfare (*maslahah*)—can be integrated into policies that support the political and economic empowerment of women. These frameworks advocate for the removal of social and economic barriers that prevent women from fully participating in political leadership. Islamic law, especially the concept of *maqasid al-shariah* (the objectives of Islamic law), emphasizes the importance of promoting social justice, protecting the dignity of individuals, and ensuring economic well-being for all members of society, including women. By using Islamic economic principles, Indonesia can create a more inclusive political environment where women's rights are respected and promoted. These principles can serve as a foundation for policy-making that removes gender-based discrimination in the political sphere and ensures equal opportunities for women in leadership roles.

### **3. Long-Term Impacts of Women's Political Empowerment on Socio-Economic Development and Cultural Change**

The long-term impacts of women's political empowerment in Indonesia are poised to transform both socio-economic development and cultural norms. Women's leadership, particularly in high-level political and economic roles, contributes to a more inclusive and equitable society. Women leaders often prioritize policies that focus on social welfare, education, healthcare, and poverty reduction—issues that have a direct impact on the well-being of marginalized communities. Their leadership can lead to improved socio-economic outcomes, such as reduced poverty rates, greater access to education, and enhanced healthcare services for women and children.

Moreover, the increasing participation of women in politics can drive cultural change by challenging entrenched gender norms and stereotypes. As more women assume leadership roles, they serve as role models, inspiring young women and men to view women as equal contributors to governance and social progress. This shift in cultural attitudes can lead to a more gender-equal society in which women's voices are valued in all aspects of public life. Over time, such changes will foster greater



political engagement and participation among women, further strengthening Indonesia's democracy.

The long-term impact of women's political empowerment will also be reflected in the country's economic development. Studies have shown that when women hold political power, there is often a positive effect on economic growth, as women are more likely to introduce policies that address socioeconomic inequality and promote inclusive development. By empowering women in political leadership, Indonesia can benefit from more balanced economic growth, poverty alleviation, and enhanced social welfare.

In conclusion, the future of women's political leadership in Indonesia looks promising, with the potential to shape a more inclusive, just, and prosperous society. Through the continued involvement of women in leadership, supported by Islamic economic frameworks, Indonesia can create policies that promote gender equality, address socio-economic disparities, and contribute to long-term cultural and economic development. Women's leadership will not only transform Indonesia's political landscape but also ensure a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

## **H. Women in Political Leadership in Indonesia**

In Indonesia, more women are getting involved in politics and public life, and many are gaining significant power and influence (Maula, 2016). In Indonesia, women's participation in political leadership is a significant aspect of the country's ongoing social and political transformation. From an Islamic economic perspective, this topic examines how the empowerment of women in political leadership can contribute to the socio-economic welfare of the ummah (the Muslim community). It also highlights the importance of gender justice as a fundamental principle in achieving both social and economic prosperity, rooted in Islamic values and principles.

### **1. Women's Empowerment in Political Leadership**

Empowerment of women in Indonesia's political leadership is essential for ensuring that women's voices and perspectives are considered in decision-making processes. Islamic teachings support the active involvement of women in leadership roles, advocating for their right to contribute to societal well-being. Indonesia, with its growing number of women in political positions, such as in legislative bodies and executive roles, exemplifies the positive influence of empowered women in shaping policies that address the needs of various sectors of society, particularly in areas such as education, health, and economic development.

The increased visibility of women in politics has not only symbolized gender progress but has also brought fresh approaches to governance, especially in community-based policies. Empowered women leaders in Indonesia have introduced innovative programs aimed at grassroots economic development, education reform, and women's health, demonstrating that their participation directly impacts societal resilience. Their leadership is in line with maqashid syariah objectives, especially in preserving intellect (hifz al-aql) and wealth (hifz al-maal), ensuring that communities thrive both intellectually and economically. Women's leadership should be viewed through a fair lens that takes into account the principles of justice and gender equality in Islam, as well as existing legal frameworks, to support the development of a more inclusive and democratic leadership structure (Nurcholis & Nur, 2023).

Nurcholis & Nur (2023) reveal that 1) historically, women have the same abilities and qualifications as men to become public and political leaders, and 2) legally, the right for women to hold public and political leadership positions is adequately protected by both Indonesian laws and progressive Islamic jurisprudence.

These means, 1) Women, throughout history, have had the same potential and competence as men to take on leadership roles in both the public and political spheres. This means that women are just as capable of being effective leaders as men, regardless of historical limitations or societal norms that may have restricted their opportunities. According to Indonesian laws and progressive Islamic jurisprudence (Islamic legal thought), women's right to hold public and political leadership positions is legally protected. This implies that both the legal framework in Indonesia and forward-thinking interpretations of Islamic law recognize and uphold women's rights to engage in leadership roles in politics and public life.

## **2. Gender Justice in Islam and Its Application in Indonesia**

Islam fundamentally upholds the principle of gender justice, advocating for equal rights and opportunities for men and women. In Indonesia, the application of gender justice in politics means ensuring equal representation for women in leadership roles. This includes creating supportive structures for women to enter politics and for their contributions to be recognized and valued. While progress has been made in terms of gender equality in Indonesian politics (such as the implementation of gender quotas), challenges such as patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes persist, and these need to be addressed to achieve true gender justice.

The promotion of gender justice aligns with Indonesia's efforts to uphold democratic values while respecting religious teachings. Local Islamic scholars and women activists have collaborated to reinterpret gender roles within the Islamic framework, advocating for inclusive readings of religious texts. This movement has empowered more Muslim women to see leadership as a form of ibadah (worship) and responsibility, rather than defiance. The presence of Islamic boarding schools (pesantren) that support women's leadership further illustrates how gender justice can be both religiously grounded and socially transformative.

## **3. Socio-Economic Welfare of the Ummah through Political Leadership**

The socio-economic welfare of the ummah, or the collective well-being of society, is a central goal in Islamic economics. Political leadership, especially by women, plays a crucial role in implementing policies that address social and economic disparities. Women in political leadership positions can introduce policies that promote social justice, equitable wealth distribution, poverty alleviation, and the protection of marginalized groups. By integrating Islamic economic principles, such as fairness in wealth distribution, Islamic political leadership can aim to reduce inequality and improve the overall socio-economic conditions of society.

Women leaders often bring a more holistic approach to policymaking, focusing on family welfare, education, healthcare, and small business development—all of which are critical to building strong economic foundations in society. In rural areas of Indonesia, female political leaders have helped establish microfinance initiatives and community cooperatives that uplift families from poverty. These efforts not only improve household income but also strengthen social bonds and reduce economic inequality, embodying Islamic economic values of equity ('adl) and communal benefit (maslahah).

## **4. Interconnectedness of Women's Empowerment, Gender Justice, and Socio-Economic Welfare**

The empowerment of women, the pursuit of gender justice, and the promotion of socio-economic welfare are deeply interconnected within the framework of Islamic economics. Empowering women in political leadership not only ensures their participation but also ensures that issues of justice, welfare, and equality are

addressed in policy-making. Gender justice ensures that the policies created are inclusive, promoting fairness and equity across genders. In turn, these policies contribute to the overall socio-economic welfare of the ummah by reducing inequalities and ensuring that all segments of society benefit from the fruits of development.

Islamic economics does not view these elements—empowerment, justice, and welfare—as isolated; rather, they are interdependent aspects that must work together to achieve societal harmony. For example, without gender justice, women cannot be truly empowered, and without empowerment, their contributions to socio-economic welfare are limited. Indonesian society has started to realize this synergy through initiatives led by Muslim women's organizations that address domestic violence, access to education, and economic participation simultaneously, reinforcing the holistic vision of Islamic development. Women leaders are expected to convey different perspectives, support gender justice, and improve community welfare through a collaborative and participatory approach (Fitriani et al., 2024).

## 5. Challenges and Opportunities in Indonesia

While Indonesia has made progress in increasing the representation of women in politics, challenges remain. Cultural and structural barriers, such as patriarchal norms and limited access to political networks, continue to hinder full gender equality in political leadership. However, these challenges also present opportunities for reform, particularly in aligning the goals of Islamic economic principles with political frameworks that empower women. For instance, Islamic economic principles can guide the creation of more inclusive and just policies, supporting both women's empowerment and the socio-economic welfare of society. Ensuring women have the same access to political power and decision-making roles as men can lead to a more equitable and prosperous society, where policies benefit the entire ummah.

The tension between traditional gender roles and modern political aspirations remains a barrier for many women. However, the growing discourse on Islamic feminism in Indonesia presents a unique opportunity to challenge outdated norms using religious arguments. Young Muslim women entering political spaces are increasingly equipped with both religious education and political acumen, enabling them to advocate effectively within the system. By nurturing these leaders through mentorship and institutional support, Indonesia can turn these challenges into stepping stones toward a more inclusive and just society.

This emphasizes the importance of integrating women's empowerment and gender justice into the political leadership landscape of Indonesia while aligning these efforts with Islamic economic principles. Women in political leadership have the potential to significantly impact the socio-economic welfare of the ummah by creating inclusive policies based on justice, fairness, and equality. By doing so, they can contribute to a more prosperous and equitable society, in line with the goals of Islamic economics and the welfare of the broader Muslim community in Indonesia.

Fatmawati et al. (2024) reveal that the primary obstacle to women's political leadership in Indonesia lies in legal culture and the collective societal understanding of gender roles, rather than in explicit legal barriers. Fatmawati et al. (2024) emphasize that societal awareness and understanding of women's roles in politics need to be improved to ensure that women have equal opportunities to hold political positions, in proportion to their male counterparts. Additionally, from the perspective of Islamic law (Sharia), there is no definitive prohibition against women in political leadership roles. The findings support that, based on the Maqashid Asy-Syariah framework, the development of society and

culture, along with increased access to education for women, enables them to possess the same potential as men to become political leaders.

Women's political leadership in Indonesia is increasingly recognized as a vital force for social transformation and economic welfare, especially when viewed through the lens of Islamic economics. Indonesian women are assuming more prominent roles in politics, shaping inclusive policies in education, healthcare, and economic development. Their leadership aligns with the objectives of *maqasid al-shariah*, particularly the preservation of intellect (*hifz al-'aql*) and wealth (*hifz al-maal*), contributing to community resilience through grassroots initiatives. Islam fundamentally advocates for gender justice, supporting equal rights and opportunities for women.

In Indonesia, this principle is reflected in ongoing reforms, gender quotas, and the reinterpretation of religious texts that view women's leadership as a form of *ibadah*. Institutions such as Islamic boarding schools (*pesantren*) and activists play a significant role in promoting religiously grounded gender equality. Women leaders actively advance the socio-economic welfare of the *ummah* by introducing policies aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, rooted in Islamic economic values such as *'adl* (justice) and *maslahah* (communal benefit). Their efforts, including microfinance programs and community cooperatives, uplift rural communities and strengthen economic foundations.

The empowerment of women, the pursuit of gender justice, and the promotion of socio-economic welfare are deeply interconnected, as true empowerment cannot exist without justice, and together they drive equitable development. This synergy is exemplified by Muslim women's organizations that address education, economic participation, and domestic violence in an integrated manner. Despite notable progress, challenges such as patriarchal norms and structural barriers continue to impede full equality. Nevertheless, the rise of Islamic feminism provides a faith-based avenue for transformation, and a new generation of educated Muslim women entering politics offers hope for more inclusive governance. With proper mentorship and institutional support, these leaders can align political empowerment with Islamic economic principles to foster a more just and prosperous society. Ultimately, women's political leadership, guided by Islamic values, holds immense potential to shape Indonesia's socio-economic future by ensuring that development is inclusive, equitable, and beneficial to the entire Muslim community.

In the 21st century, the presence of women in leadership roles has grown significantly in many parts of the world (Dewi, 2024). The role of women in leadership has gained more focus in different global contexts, with an increasing number of Muslim women actively pursuing leadership positions in various fields (Irawan et al., 2024). In Indonesia, women have made significant strides in political and economic leadership roles.

Figures such as Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Khofifah Indar Parawansa, Tri Rismaharini, Retno Marsudi, and others have held ministerial and high-level positions, contributing greatly to the nation's progress across various sectors. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, currently serving as the Minister of Finance, is a key figure in Indonesia's economic landscape. Her leadership has been pivotal in shaping economic policies, enhancing fiscal management, and improving Indonesia's financial stability, earning her recognition as a former Managing Director of the World Bank. Khofifah Indar Parawansa, the Governor of East Java and former Minister of Social Affairs has been a staunch advocate for women's empowerment and social welfare. She introduced various social assistance programs during her tenure as Minister and continues to focus on social development in East Java, particularly for vulnerable communities. Tri Rismaharini, currently serving as the Minister of Social Affairs and formerly the Mayor of Surabaya, is renowned for her leadership in



urban development, public welfare, and poverty alleviation. She continues to implement social welfare programs aimed at improving the lives of marginalized populations. Retno Marsudi, Indonesia's first female Minister of Foreign Affairs, has played a crucial role in shaping the country's foreign policy, strengthening international relations, and promoting peace and security. Her work emphasizes gender equality both in Indonesia and globally, ensuring that women's voices are heard on the world stage. These women have not only held important political positions but have also influenced significant policies that have helped shape Indonesia's socio-economic development.

Prihatini (2020) addresses previous studies that examine Islam as a potential obstacle to women's political nominations by evaluating and comparing the efforts of political parties in Indonesia to meet the institutionally mandated gender quotas. Since the introduction of a 30% gender quota for candidates in the 2004 elections, the article investigates how parties have adapted and responded to this requirement. Islamic ideology does not restrict female participation in legislative elections. Both Islamist and pluralist parties perform equally well in meeting the required female nominee quotas. However, both types of parties struggle with placing women at the top of their party lists. Indonesia's open-list proportional representation (PR) system is costly, which disproportionately affects female candidates, as women typically have less access to the financial resources needed to secure top positions on party lists. Teguh & Nur (2022) also explain that women's involvement in Indonesian politics adds a unique dynamic to the nation's democracy. In the 2019 General Election, the number of female voters surpassed male voters, making them a crucial factor in shaping the future of Indonesia's political landscape, democracy, and governance. As a result, women's voices play an increasingly important role in influencing and advancing the evolution of Indonesian politics and governance. Wardani (2024) highlights notable differences in the practice and acceptance of women's leadership across various Muslim countries, shaped by socio-political, cultural, and economic factors. It also found that greater representation of women in politics positively influences gender and social issues. The research underscores the need for reinterpreting religious texts with a modern lens, implementing legal reforms to support women's political involvement, and promoting education and empowerment initiatives. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the relationships between Islam, gender, and politics, offering practical suggestions for advancing women's leadership within Islamic political contexts.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### A. Conclusion

Islamic teachings do not prohibit women from holding leadership roles, emphasizing justice, competence, and adherence to Islamic values. From an Islamic economic perspective, principles such as justice, equality, and communal welfare support women's political participation. The concept of *maqashid al-shari'ah* further encourages women's involvement in leadership as a means to promote social and economic well-being. Women's empowerment in Islam is based on justice, equality, and dignity, recognizing women's right to lead and influence society. Political empowerment is essential for achieving socio-economic development, as it enables women to shape policies that benefit marginalized communities and promote public welfare. Case studies from Muslim-majority countries like Indonesia show how empowered women leaders have driven reforms in education, poverty alleviation, and economic stability.

Islamic economic frameworks offer strong potential to support policies promoting women's rights and leadership. Core Islamic values such as *adl* (justice), *musawat* (equality), *maslahah* (social welfare), and *maqasid al-shariah* (objectives of Islamic law)

provide a solid foundation for creating inclusive, equitable policies that remove gender-based barriers in politics and governance. In the long term, women's political empowerment can drive substantial socio-economic and cultural transformation. Women leaders often prioritize inclusive policies addressing education, healthcare, and poverty reduction. Their presence challenges traditional gender norms and inspires cultural change, leading to a more gender-equal society. This empowerment not only fosters democratic participation but also contributes to balanced economic growth and improved national welfare.

Gender justice in Islamic economics is rooted in the principles of fairness, equality, and dignity, ensuring that both men and women are treated equitably. Islamic teachings promote the idea that while men and women may have different roles, both are entitled to equal rights, including in leadership. Islamic economic principles like *maslahah* (public welfare) and *mizan* (balance) support women's inclusion in political leadership, emphasizing competence and ethical governance over gender. Gender justice ensures women have fair access to leadership positions and helps eliminate societal and institutional barriers. Policies promoting gender justice—such as equal education, employment opportunities, and fair representation—lead to increased participation of women in the workforce and politics, contributing to more inclusive and equitable socio-economic development.

Women's political leadership plays a vital role in promoting the welfare of the ummah by contributing diverse perspectives to social, economic, and political decision-making. Islamic teachings emphasize shared responsibility in improving society, and women leaders often focus on key issues like education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. In the context of fostering a democratic system, women's participation can significantly contribute to maintaining national stability and achieving welfare and justice (Kadriyah, 2023). Their involvement enhances inclusive policy-making and supports social justice, aligning with Islamic principles. The concept of *maqashid syariah*—the objectives of Islamic law—supports women's participation in leadership as a means of achieving justice, equity, and community welfare. Women also promote inclusive development, advocate for marginalized groups, and help implement policies that uplift society, reflecting Islam's emphasis on compassion, charity, and justice.

Women's political leadership is essential for achieving socio-economic prosperity, as it brings inclusive perspectives and prioritizes policies that promote education, healthcare, gender equality, and social welfare. Women in leadership roles often advocate for equitable access to resources and human capital development, directly contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction. Their focus on social safety nets and inclusive development helps reduce inequality and ensures that economic benefits reach all segments of society. Through gender-sensitive policies, such as fair wages, education for girls, and healthcare reforms, women leaders enhance social welfare and drive sustainable, just economic progress.

Women can face numerous barriers to political leadership, including social, cultural, and institutional obstacles. These include gender biases, restrictive cultural norms, patriarchal political systems, limited access to resources, and lack of mentorship. Patriarchy and stereotypes reinforce the belief that leadership is a male domain, while gender norms confine women to domestic roles, limiting their political influence. However, Islamic teachings offer supportive perspectives for overcoming these challenges. Islam emphasizes justice, equality, and the dignity of both men and women. Historical examples, like Queen Sheba and Aisha, demonstrate that women have played significant leadership roles in Islamic tradition. Concepts such as *shura* (consultation) and *maqasid al-shariah* (objectives of Islamic law) advocate for inclusive decision-

making and community welfare, supporting women's right to political participation. Islamic values thus provide a strong foundation for dismantling stereotypes and ensuring women's equal opportunities in political leadership.

Women's political leadership in Indonesia is increasingly recognized as a vital force for social transformation and economic welfare, especially when viewed through the lens of Islamic economics. Indonesian women are assuming more prominent roles in politics, shaping inclusive policies in education, healthcare, and economic development. The future of women's political leadership in Islamic societies, particularly in Indonesia, is marked by significant progress and promising potential. Women's roles in leadership have expanded considerably, with more Indonesian women now serving in executive, legislative, and judicial positions. This evolution reflects changing societal attitudes, legal reforms, and global commitments to gender equality.

Islamic economic frameworks offer strong potential to support policies promoting women's rights and leadership. Core Islamic values such as *adl* (justice), *musawat* (equality), *maslahah* (social welfare), and *maqasid al-shariah* (objectives of Islamic law) provide a solid foundation for creating inclusive, equitable policies that remove gender-based barriers in politics and governance. In the long term, women's political empowerment can drive substantial socio-economic and cultural transformation. Women leaders often prioritize inclusive policies addressing education, healthcare, and poverty reduction. Their presence challenges traditional gender norms and inspires cultural change, leading to a more gender-equal society. This empowerment not only fosters democratic participation but also contributes to balanced economic growth and improved national welfare.

## B. Suggestion

In efforts to create significant change in women's political leadership, especially in the context of Islamic economics, it is important to understand that women's empowerment and gender justice are not only social issues but also economic matters that directly affect the welfare of the *ummah*. By identifying and addressing the challenges women face in political leadership, concrete steps can be suggested to create a more supportive environment for women to take on greater roles in advancing society. To enhance women's political leadership from an Islamic economic perspective, several key suggestions are proposed. First, policies should be developed to ensure women's equal participation in leadership roles, with a focus on education, skills training, and leadership development grounded in Islamic principles of justice and equality. Legal and social frameworks must be reformed to eliminate gender bias and stereotypes, promoting gender justice and equality in political leadership. Additionally, providing women with the necessary education, skills, and mentorship is crucial to prepare them for leadership positions based on Islamic governance principles. Increasing female representation through quotas or affirmative action can ensure greater involvement in decision-making. The application of Islamic economic principles should be emphasized to create policies that promote social welfare, justice, and equitable resource distribution, empowering women to lead in achieving sustainable socio-economic development. Furthermore, it is vital to challenge patriarchal structures and rigid gender norms, creating a more inclusive political environment for women. Encouraging women leaders to form alliances with political leaders, civil society, and international networks can support and advocate for gender equality. Finally, long-term investments in the development of future generations of female leaders through education, mentorship, and leadership opportunities are essential. By implementing these strategies, Islamic



societies can foster women's empowerment, gender justice, and socio-economic prosperity for all.

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