

The relevance of feminism in promoting gender reform in the context of progressive Islam

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Abstract

This study investigates the significance of feminism in promoting gender reform in the context of progressive Islam, using library research with a holistic literature analysis. Through careful review and comprehensive synthesis of related literature, the study aims to understand the evolution of the concept of feminism in progressive Islam as well as its impact on gender reform efforts. The results confirm that gender equality in progressive Islam can strengthen the feminist movement by providing a solid foundation for inclusive social change. The positive impact of the feminist movement in this context is evident through the changes that have taken place, especially in the empowerment of women and the increase in public awareness of gender issues. However, challenges, including resistance from conservative groups and solid social norms, suggest that gender reform is a long journey that requires sustained commitment and solid cooperation from various parties. In addition, the importance of the role of youth, inclusive education, supportive legal and policy changes, and active community participation are critical factors in achieving greater gender equality in a diverse Muslim community.

Keywords: *Feminism, Gender Reform, Progressive Islam*

Abstrak

Kajian ini menyelidiki signifikansi feminisme dalam mendorong reformasi gender dalam konteks Islam progresif, menggunakan *library research* dengan analisis literatur yang holistik. Melalui tinjauan yang cermat dan sintesis



komprehensif dari literatur terkait, kajian bertujuan untuk memahami evolusi konsep feminisme dalam Islam progresif serta dampaknya terhadap upaya reformasi gender. Hasil kajian menegaskan bahwa gagasan kesetaraan gender dalam Islam progresif dapat menguatkan gerakan feminis dengan menyediakan landasan yang kokoh bagi perubahan sosial yang inklusif. Dampak positif dari gerakan feminis dalam konteks ini terbukti melalui perubahan yang terjadi, khususnya dalam pemberdayaan perempuan dan peningkatan kesadaran masyarakat tentang isu-isu gender. Namun, tantangan yang meliputi perlawanan dari kelompok konservatif serta norma sosial yang kuat menunjukkan bahwa reformasi gender adalah perjalanan panjang yang membutuhkan komitmen berkelanjutan dan kerja sama yang solid dari berbagai pihak. Selain itu, pentingnya peran pemuda, pendidikan inklusif, perubahan hukum dan kebijakan yang mendukung, serta partisipasi aktif masyarakat sebagai faktor kunci dalam mencapai kesetaraan gender yang lebih luas di tengah masyarakat Muslim yang beragam.

Kata Kunci: *Feminisme, Reformasi Gender, Islam Progresif*

INTRODUCTION

In an era of expanding globalization and the development of increasingly inclusive Islamic thought, the debate around gender reform in Islam has become an increasingly profound and important issue (Karimullah, 2023). Amid the turmoil of social change, feminism emerged as a crucial dimension in its influence on thought and action to fight for women's rights and gender equality in a religious context (Bakhshizadeh, 2023; Moghadam, 2002). Although in progressive Islamic societies, there have been concrete efforts to unite the principles of feminism with a broader understanding of Islam, we cannot ignore the resistance and conflict that need to be looked at and resolved. It is important to remember that views on feminism in Islamic societies are not always positive and are often perceived as threatening traditional and religious values.

However, in the context of progressive Islam, there is an ongoing effort to bridge the emerging gap between feminism and religious values. This creates a profound need to understand how the concept of feminism can be integrated constructively within the framework of a more inclusive understanding of Islam and how it drives gender reform in that context. The challenge is that discussions around feminism in an Islamic context are never easy, given the wide variety of views and beliefs about feminism, especially when placed within a religious framework. Some individuals may see feminism as a movement that supports women's rights and gender equality, in line with the principles of progressive Islam (Çağatay, 2018; Mir-Hosseini, 2006; Othman, 2006). However, some may feel that feminism is contrary to their religious values.

In the face of this diversity of views, this study explores common ground and constructive perspectives to promote gender reform in an increasingly progressive Islamic context. In many Muslim societies, especially conservative ones, views toward feminism are still colored by stereotypes and prejudice. Therefore, this study will analyze the extent to which the concept of feminism can be a key driver in gender reform in progressive Islam while exploring the efforts and obstacles encountered in the journey.

This study will pay particular attention to the relevance of feminism in driving positive change in the roles and rights of women in an increasingly inclusive Muslim society. In addition, the study will examine developments and changes in progressive Islamic views and actions related to gender and women's issues. Her main focus is how feminist views when wisely integrated, can help overcome the barriers and norms that stand in the way of gender equality in Muslim societies. In addition, the study will also try to identify effective solutions and approaches to promote gender reform in the context of an increasingly progressive Islam. Thus, this research will contribute to understanding and promoting gender issues in Islam and helping pave the way towards a more inclusive and equal Muslim society.

Several previous studies have examined the concept of feminism in progressive Islam. For example, Margot Badran's book (2013), "Feminism in Islam: Secular and Religious Convergences." Badran explores the development of feminist thought in the Muslim world and how feminism can be integrated with more inclusive Islamic beliefs. This work illustrates the importance of creating a space for discussion and reflection on gender roles in Islam. In addition, research by Amina Wadud (2013), a progressive Islamic scholar, such as her book "Inside the Gender Jihad: women's Reform in Islam," is also highly relevant. Wadud highlights the role of women in pushing for gender reform in Islam and how feminist thought plays a role in this effort.

In addition to these works, empirical studies examine the implementation of feminism in progressive Islam in various Muslim communities around the world (Liloia, 2022; Nurmila, 2020; Othman, 2006; Özkazanç-Pan, 2015; Stivens, 2013). Case studies like these provide concrete insights into the challenges and opportunities faced in integrating feminism into a more inclusive understanding of Islam. These studies and several other relevant literatures will form an important theoretical basis in this review. They provide an understanding of the debates, the complexity of the issues involved, and the latest developments in the field. Through this new approach, this study aims to develop a broader understanding of these issues, offering a deeper insight into the vital relevance of feminism in the gender reform movement in the context of progressive Islam. This effort is based on a drive to enrich discussions around these crucial issues to provide the conceptual breakthroughs needed to drive more inclusive and empowered change in society.

METHOD

This study is based on library research that combines approaches to literature analysis that are not only integrative and comprehensive but also inclusive of the diversity of information sources. To understand the evolution of the concept of feminism in the context of progressive Islam and its implications for gender change, this study conducts a careful study and a detailed synthesis of many relevant literary works. This approach aims to explore and combine the various perspectives in the varied literature to build a comprehensive and multi-dimensional foundation of understanding. Through an integrative literature analysis, the study seeks to present the entire spectrum of thought from different perspectives, theories, and interpretations in the discourse of feminism and Islam, focusing on the interconnections between the concepts. The main objective is to explore how feminism can go hand in hand with progressive Islamic teachings, as well as how this understanding influences and supports changes in gender constructs. This holistic approach is not only intended to provide a broader overview, but also to produce a more in-depth analysis of the relationship between feminism and progressive Islam and its impact on the process of gender reform. Hopefully, this study can provide a more detailed, complex, and comprehensive picture of the relevance and implications of feminism in efforts to encourage gender transformation in a society that recognizes the diversity of values and beliefs.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Concept of Gender Equality in Progressive Islam

In recent decades, there has been a shift in religious understanding among some Muslim groups in favor of gender equality. It reflects responses to increasingly complex social, economic, and political challenges around the world. Gender equality is not only a matter of women's rights, but also an attempt to build a more just and inclusive society, which includes the active participation of women in various aspects of life (Karimullah, 2022). In progressive Islam, the concept of gender equality reflects an attempt to re-read and formulate an understanding of the role and rights of women in Islam. One of the key aspects of this understanding is that the religion of Islam underlies the principles of equality among people, which includes both men and women. The Qur'an, the Holy Book of Islam, expressly states that men and women are true associates of each other (Q.S. Al-Hujurat, 49: 13). Therefore, in progressive Islam, the concept of gender equality is part of an effort to revive Islamic teachings that support the rights and dignity of women.

However, the journey towards gender equality in progressive Islam has not always been smooth sailing. There are different perspectives and approaches in interpreting Islam's sacred texts and translating them into more inclusive social practices. In addition, there are also various social, cultural, and political factors that influence the implementation of the concept of gender equality in the context of diverse Muslim societies. Gender equality in

progressive Islam also involves critically reviewing traditions and practices that may have become entrenched in Muslim culture and society (Bilge, 2010; Duderija, 2014). It includes a review of practices that discriminate against women, such as child marriage, polygamy, and the Prohibition of women from driving or traveling without a male companion. The concept of gender equality in progressive Islam encourages to reinterpret sacred texts to fit the values of equality and justice.

The concept of gender equality in progressive Islam also has a significant impact on the role of women in social, economic and political life. In many Muslim societies that adopt progressive thinking, women are increasingly encouraged to participate actively in a variety of fields. They get support to pursue education, work, and get involved in political life. This illustrates how the concept of gender equality in progressive Islam is not just a theoretical discourse, but also brings real changes in the daily lives of Muslim communities. However, the journey towards gender equality in progressive Islam has not always been smooth. There are differences of opinion and debate within the Muslim community about how this concept should be applied.

Some conservative groups still consider that progressive views on gender equality run counter to traditional Islamic values. This creates tension in society and illustrates the complexity of this journey. In addition, there are also challenges in changing mindsets and practices that have been rooted in culture and society for centuries. In many cases, the concept of gender equality in progressive Islam faces strong resistance from traditional practices that are still dominant. The process of reformulating a more inclusive understanding of Islam requires time and sustained effort.

The discussion of the concept of gender equality in progressive Islam also needs to pay attention to the important role of organizations and institutions that promote the gender equality agenda in this context. Women's activist groups, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions have played a central role in fighting for women's rights and supporting the development of progressive thought in Islam. They are often the main motor in bringing about social and political change in favor of gender equality.

One striking example is the role of Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), a global network focused on women's rights in the context of Islamic law and culture. WLUML has sought to raise awareness about gender issues in Islam and provide a platform for Muslim women to talk about their experiences (Balchin, 2002; Hamza, 2002). Such organizations support women in developing their understanding of a more inclusive Islam and support their struggle for gender rights and equality.

However, the challenges progressive groups face in Islam fighting for gender equality should not be ignored. They often face resistance from conservative groups that defend traditional views on gender roles in Islam. It can be rooted in a particular interpretation of sacred texts or in the understanding of a particular culture and tradition. Debates and internal conflicts within the Muslim community around gender equality often reflect the

complexity of this issue. Along with that, the impact of globalization and digitalization has broadened the range of debate around gender equality in Islam. Discussions and information can now easily spread around the world, which can shape the perception and opinion of the wider community. This can accelerate social change and affect the way people understand the concept of gender equality in Islam.

Discussion of the concept of gender equality in progressive Islam also needs to note that changes in religious thought and practice often require support from authorities and policymakers. For Muslim communities that support gender equality, there is hope that the government and related institutions will play a role in creating an environment that supports positive change. This includes replacing or amending laws and regulations that discriminate against women, as well as implementing policies that promote gender equality in various aspects of life. For example, some countries with majority Muslim populations have implemented legal reforms in an effort to improve women's rights. These include changes in family law, inheritance law, and protection against gender-based violence. Measures such as these reflect the importance of the interaction between progressive Islamic thought and legal change in Muslim societies.

However, legal change is not the only aspect to be considered in the quest towards gender equality in progressive Islam. Education also has an important role in changing the culture and attitudes of society towards gender issues. Inclusive education curricula and programs that promote gender equality can shape a more inclusive view and understanding of the role of women in Islam. In addition, media and Information Technology also play a significant role in shaping public perceptions of gender issues. The media can play a role in educating and raising public awareness of women's rights and portraying women as leading actors in various areas of life.

Gender equality in progressive Islam is not only a matter of women's rights, but also an important aspect of sustainable social and economic development (Bradshaw et al., 2017; Kostenko et al., 2016). When women have equal access to education, employment, and economic resources, they can be more active contributors to community development. Increasing women's participation in the labor market, for example, can increase a country's economic productivity and help reduce economic inequality. It also has the potential to help reduce poverty and improve the standard of living of the Muslim community as a whole.

When women have control over their reproductive decisions, this can also have a positive impact on the family and the development of children. Women who can make decisions related to their reproductive health can better plan their families and reduce high birth rates. It also allows them to focus on the education and development of their children, which in turn can bring about positive change in future generations.

Impact of Feminist Movements in Progressive Islam

The feminist movement emerged as a response to long-standing gender inequalities in the Islamic tradition, especially in the interpretation and implementation of religion. However, the impact of the feminist movement in progressive Islam was not only limited to a re-understanding of gender issues in religion, but it also created a wave of social, cultural, and political change in Muslim societies. The feminist movement in progressive Islam has promoted a rethinking of religious interpretations. In many cases, feminist groups have investigated Islam's sacred texts and tried to unearth the messages of gender equality contained within them. This creates a new understanding of Islam that is more inclusive and supports women's rights.

The concept of gender equality in progressive Islam aims to prove that Islam is inherently inclusive and fair to both sexes. In addition, feminist movements in progressive Islam have also impacted the role of women in Muslim societies. In many countries, Muslim women who support feminist movements have become active agents of change in various fields, including politics, business, the arts, and education. They have taken a more dominant role in policy formation and decision-making. This impact reinforces the role of women in social and political development in Muslim societies.

However, the journey towards gender equality in progressive Islam has also faced significant challenges. Conservative groups often have different views on gender roles in Islam and may regard these feminist movements as threatening traditional values. This created tensions within Muslim societies and often gave rise to internal conflicts. Another challenge facing feminist movements in progressive Islam is the implementation of progressive thinking in social and cultural practices rooted in society for centuries. Traditional practices that discriminate against women, such as child marriage, polygamy, and prohibiting women from driving or traveling without a male companion, are often difficult to change (Sugitanata & Karimullah, 2014).

In addition to changes in thinking and practice around gender issues, the feminist movement in progressive Islam has also created space for broader debates about democracy, human rights, and pluralism in Muslim societies. In seeking gender equality, activists often raise deeper questions about the nature of authoritarianism, rigid religious interpretations, and societal oppression. These discussions stimulate the community to consider individual rights and the underlying values of democracy and freedom in the context of Islam. In addition, feminist movements in progressive Islam have also shaped views on gender equality at a global level.

Muslim women activists often collaborate with international feminist movements to address global issues such as human trafficking, violence against women, and gender inequality in development. It reflects that gender issues are global issues that affect all societies, and international cooperation is needed to achieve positive change. However, the challenges facing feminist movements in progressive Islam remain complex. They often face resistance from conservative groups that defend traditional views on gender roles in Islam. Debates and

internal conflicts within the Muslim community around gender equality often reflect the complexity of this issue.

The impact of the feminist movement in progressive Islam can also be seen in its influence on social and economic changes in Muslim societies. When women have equal access to education, employment, and economic resources, this can bring about significant changes in economic development. Women who actively participate in the labor market not only increase economic productivity but also help reduce economic inequality between the sexes. This can ultimately help reduce poverty and improve the welfare of the Muslim community.

In addition, when women have more control over their reproductive decisions, this can also positively impact the family and the development of children (Sugitanata & Karimullah, 2023). Women who can make better decisions about when and how many children they will have can lead to more stable and healthy families. It also allows women to focus more on their children's education, which in turn can bring about positive changes in the development of future generations.

The impact of the feminist movement in progressive Islam can also be seen in how women began to take a more active role in political and governmental decision-making. Many Muslim women who support the feminist movement have been involved in politics and have held important positions in government. It creates space for women's voices to be heard in policymaking and champion issues that matter to them. However, changes toward gender equality in progressive Islam are often met with resistance from conservative groups who maintain traditional views on gender roles. Debates and internal conflicts within the Muslim community on issues of gender equality reflect the complexity of this journey. Efforts to overcome these challenges require a thoughtful and strategic approach.

In an attempt to measure the impact of the feminist movement in progressive Islam, it is also important to highlight its influence on education. This movement has prompted changes in the education system in many Muslim societies. Inclusive education curricula, which reflect the values of gender equality and address gender stereotypes, have become more common. It creates a more equitable and inclusive educational environment for children, promoting a better understanding of women's rights and gender equality. In addition, feminist movements in progressive Islam have helped combat the practice of child marriage and campaigned for women's education. Education is an important tool to empower women and help them reach their full potential. Changes in society's view of the importance of education for women create greater opportunities for women to access education and participate in social and economic development (Bayeh, 2016; Jayachandran, 2021).

The impact of feminist movements in progressive Islam can also be seen in changes in laws and regulations that discriminate against women. Several Muslim-majority countries have enacted legal reforms to eliminate gender inequality in family law, inheritance, and protection against gender-based violence. This reflects efforts to bring Islamic law more in line with the

principles of gender equality. However, feminist movements in progressive Islam often face serious challenges, especially from conservative groups that maintain traditional views on gender roles. Internal conflicts within Muslim societies surrounding issues of gender equality reflect the complexity of this journey.

The impact of the feminist movement in progressive Islam also includes changes in culture and social norms in Muslim societies. A deeper understanding of gender issues has created space for a change in society's views on the role of women and men in public and private life. This creates a more inclusive environment where women are valued as individuals with the same potential as men in various fields. It is important to remember that culture and social norms play an important role in shaping the attitudes and actions of individuals in society. The impact of feminist movements in progressive Islam in shaking down traditional norms that discriminate against women is an important step towards a more inclusive and equal society. Changes in culture also create more opportunities for women to take a more active role in social, economic, and political development.

The positive impact of the feminist movement in progressive Islam can also be seen in the change in the image of women in the media. The Media has an important role in shaping people's views on gender and the role of women in society. Feminist movements have contributed to an increase in the representation of strong, intelligent, and independent women in the media, which creates more inclusive narratives and supports a better understanding of women's rights. However, changes in culture and social norms often take longer to be accepted and internalized by society. When old traditions conflict with more inclusive views, the change process can be slow and faced with resistance from conservative groups. Therefore, a thoughtful and strategic approach is needed to overcome these obstacles. Despite the challenges, the movement continues strengthening women's rights and gender equality in Muslim societies. The hope is that the positive impact of this movement will continue to grow and create a more inclusive, just, and equal society in the future.

Challenges and Potential of Gender Reform

The challenges and potential of gender reform are two important aspects of gender equality in society. In the context of progressive Islam, the feminist movement has led to significant social change, but this journey has also been faced with various challenges that have influenced its progress. Understanding the challenges and potentials in gender reform is an important step to delineate the ongoing journey and view a more inclusive and equitable future (Gullo & Sperandio, 2020; Slaton, 2015).

One of the main challenges in gender reform is resistance from conservative groups that maintain traditional views on gender roles in Islam. This view often regards the feminist movement as threatening traditional and religious values. Internal conflicts within Muslim societies often reflect these

differences in views, and overcoming resistance from conservative groups is one of the main challenges in gender reform. In addition, profound social change takes a long time. The culture and social norms entrenched in society for centuries cannot change quickly. Education and a better understanding of gender issues play a key role in overcoming these barriers, but the journey to gender equality still requires patience and perseverance.

While there are many challenges in gender reform, there is also great potential for positive change. The feminist movement in progressive Islam has created momentum and space for change. They have successfully influenced Muslim social, political, and cultural developments. This potential is reflected in the increased participation of women in various fields, including politics, business, art, and education. This potential also includes legal system changes and policies supporting gender equality.

Gender reform also has the potential to improve the welfare of society as a whole. When women have equal access to education, employment, and economic resources, this can lead to more sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. Women who have more control over their reproductive decisions can also create more stable and healthy families, ultimately contributing to children's development. In addition, gender reform creates opportunities to embrace diversity and inclusivity in Muslim societies.

In the context of gender reform, it is important to note that the changes needed to achieve gender equality are not just limited to women. This change also requires the active involvement of men and their role in supporting gender equality. Men's involvement in feminist movements and gender equality is one of the great potentials that must be recognized. Men can serve as allies in the fight for gender equality by supporting women's rights, combating the toxicity of masculinity, and supporting women in reaching their full potential.

Education and awareness for men about gender issues and how they can address inequality is also important. By involving men in the gender equality movement, greater potential for change can be achieved. In addition, challenges in gender reform also include profound cultural changes. The patriarchal culture entrenched in society for centuries often results in gender inequality (Beltrán Tapia & Raftakis, 2022; Karimullah et al., 2023). Cultural change requires a long time and sustained effort. However, these changes also potentially create a more inclusive and equitable society.

The technological revolution has also opened up opportunities to document violations of women's rights and gender-based violence. Tools such as smartphones and social media allow individuals to share their stories, which can help stir public awareness of these issues. However, challenges in terms of security and privacy are often barriers for women who want to talk about their experiences. The potential for gender reform can also be seen in legal and policy advances. Many Muslim countries have enacted legal reforms favoring gender equality, including eliminating child marriage practices, protection against gender-based violence, and more equitable inheritance rights for women. This creates a strong legal foundation for positive change in society.

An approach that involves the whole community, especially youth and young people, also has great potential for gender reform. They are powerful agents of change and can shape future views on gender equality. Education and awareness among the younger generation about gender issues can bring long-term societal changes. However, remember that there is no one-size-fits-all approach for every society. Each society has a unique cultural, social, and political context, which requires strategies tailored to local needs and challenges.

It is important to delve deeper into the role of women in the gender reform process and the positive impact they bring. Women have often been pioneers and leaders in feminist movements within progressive Islam. They are powerful agents of change and have played an important role in building awareness about women's rights and gender equality. Women's empowerment in various fields, including politics, business, and education, is key to achieving gender equality. In Muslim societies, religion is often important in shaping an individual's identity and actions. Therefore, an approach that mixes progressive religious thought with feminist movements is an effective strategy for achieving gender equality. Many Muslim scholars and scholars have provided new views on gender issues in Islam based on sacred texts and Islamic traditions. Progressive understanding and integration of religious thought can bring about greater change in Muslim societies.

It is also important to note that gender reform is not only limited to the national level but also requires regional and international cooperation and influence. Many issues related to gender equality have a global dimension, and Muslim communities can learn from other countries' best practices and experiences. Cooperation between countries, exchange of knowledge, and international support can accelerate change in Muslim societies. In addition, gender reform entails changes in individual attitudes and behaviors. It includes combating the toxicity of masculinity and supporting profound changes in social norms. Education, dialogue, and awareness are important tools in changing individual attitudes and behaviors and shaping larger social changes.

Many countries have taken concrete steps to eliminate gender discrimination and improve women's rights. This creates a legal framework that allows for positive change in society. The elimination of the practice of child marriage, recognition of more equitable inheritance rights for women, and legal protection against gender-based violence are examples of legal changes favoring gender equality. In addition, the quota of women in political and leadership institutions is a step that some countries have taken to ensure fairer representation in decision-making.

However, consider that legal and policy changes are only the first step. Effective implementation and enforcement of the law are key to ensuring that women's rights are recognized and respected in daily practice. Therefore, close monitoring and evaluation are required to implement legal and policy changes properly. In addition to legal changes, seeking support from religious leaders and community leaders is also important. Many Muslim clerics and scholars

have provided new views on gender issues in Islam, and their support can help shape people's views (Ghafournia, 2017; Lussier & Fish, 2016). This creates an opportunity to blend progressive religious thought with the feminist movement, which can bring about greater societal change.

Gender reform in the context of progressive Islam also raises questions about how these changes can create a broader impact on society. One of the greatest potentials in gender reform is the potential to create a more inclusive and equitable society. When the rights of all individuals are recognized and respected, it creates the basis for a more harmonious and peaceful society. It is also important to note that changes in social norms and cultural values require ongoing commitment and concerted effort. It is a journey that requires hard work and patience in shaping people's views on gender and equality issues. These challenges can also be addressed through a human rights-based approach recognizing the importance of each individual's right to live without discrimination.

In continuing the discussion on gender reform, it is important to delve deeper into how Muslim women living in various social and cultural contexts experience these changes. Women in Muslim societies have diverse experiences depending on geography, social class, ethnicity, etc. Understanding these differences is key to designing relevant and effective strategies for achieving gender equality. Another challenge that must be addressed is the economic inequality women often experience. Women often have limited access to economic resources, educational opportunities, and Equal Employment. Encouraging women's economic empowerment is an important step in gender reform. This includes providing access to credit, skills training, and support for women-owned micro and small businesses.

Changes in political culture and leadership dynamics have played a crucial role in supporting the gender reform process. When women are actively involved in the political sphere, this not only becomes important but also encourages the importance of women's quotas in political institutions to ensure more equitable representation. However, it should be understood that women's participation in politics should not be considered an end in itself but rather a tool to achieve broader changes in the structure of society. Fighting for gender equality relies on women's involvement in the political sphere and recognizes its potential positive impact on forming a more inclusive, fair and equal society.

Rolling out gender reform is a collective struggle that requires continuity and long-term commitment to achieve meaningful change in society, especially in the context of Muslim societies. In addition to ensuring women's involvement in the political sphere, it is important to recognize that this agenda relies on changes in social norms, attitudes and practices beyond the formal political framework. In this regard, recognizing the strategic role of women's political participation is an important foundation in realizing a holistic transformation towards broader gender equality. Reforms aimed at leveling the political stage for women are an integral part of the process toward a society based on universal values of inclusivity, justice and equality.

CONCLUSION

An increasingly inclusive and progressive understanding of Islamic teachings has paved the way for more just and equitable social change. Clear evidence of the positive impact of the feminist movement in progressive Islam is manifested in the transformation of social norms and increased awareness of women's rights. Although challenges such as resistance from conservative groups are still a real thing, the huge potential for gender reform in Muslim societies remains wide open. Creating a more inclusive, equitable, and equal society in the future requires the active involvement of women, youth, religious leaders, and all walks of life in a collaborative effort. However, it is important to note that the limitations of this study lie in the limited scope of the literature analysis and the focus on certain aspects of the feminist movement in Islam. Therefore, there is room for more in-depth and detailed research, and cross-sector cooperation is crucial in building a holistic approach to stimulate broader and sustainable positive change in the struggle for gender equality in the context of progressive Islam.

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